

# Vancouver's **VitalSigns**<sup>®</sup> 2006

Our City's Check-up.



VANCOUVER  
FOUNDATION

# An Introduction from Vancouver Foundation

For the past 60 years Vancouver Foundation has been a philanthropic leader. Through this leadership, we have developed knowledge of the many issues affecting our city and surrounding region. This deep understanding comes from strong relationships with our donors, fund holders, grantees, and Committee members who help guide our grant making decisions. With *Vancouver's Vital Signs*, we hope to share this knowledge with decision-makers, communities, and the many organizations and citizens who work hard to make our city and region a better place to live.

This inaugural *Vancouver's Vital Signs* is a snapshot of the city's wellness and livability. We will be delighted to share our information and experience (now and in the future) with other community foundations and communities considering a similar project, as we broaden our scope.

*Vancouver's Vital Signs* is possible thanks to significant support and guidance from our Board, Advisory Committees, staff and members of *Vancouver's Vital Signs* Advisory Groups. These volunteers, and our other contributors, are listed with gratitude in the Acknowledgements section.

We hope *Vancouver's Vital Signs* will spark dialogue, discussion and possibly debate amongst people who care about civic issues and want to act upon them. We thank those of you who are so interested, and hope you find *Vancouver's Vital Signs* to be what we intend it to be: "holding up a mirror" to Vancouver and its region.

  
**Faye Wightman**  
 President & CEO



  
**Gerald McGavin**, CM, OBC, FCA  
 Chair



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# Highlights of *Vancouver's Vital Signs*

*Vancouver's Vital Signs* is a snapshot of the wellness and livability of both the city and the Lower Mainland region, as part of a national *Vital Signs* initiative of Community Foundations of Canada.

This report, and the more detailed online version ([www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca)), provide a comprehensive picture of facts, perceptions and opinions about Vancouver and what it is like to live here.

## Research Findings

Vancouver and Lower Mainland residents can be proud of where they live. In this report, we have examined 12 Key Areas that measure the livability of Vancouver. Specific indicators in each of those Areas speak for themselves: we have a growing and diverse cultural sector; we are good "recyclers"; our rates of volunteerism are high; we are healthier and more active than other Canadians.

But these strengths are not shared by all Vancouverites: we have a dramatic increase in homelessness; the impacts of substance use and mental illness are significant; there is a growing gap between rich and poor. Emissions into our air are increasing and newcomers face significant challenges in finding employment and learning opportunities.

## Grading and Priorities by Key Informants

Nearly 200 Vancouverites gave us their opinions on how well Vancouver does in the 12 Key Areas measured; in addition, they were asked to identify two top priorities that need to be addressed within each Key Area. (These opinions were provided to us before they saw the research described above).

These key informants gave Vancouver strong marks for diversity, being a 'livable city,' the overall employment/business environment, health and wellness, learning and education, arts and culture and the environment. Poor marks were given for housing, the gap between rich and poor, and the ease for newcomers in getting

started in our community. Priorities for action ranged from the specific (such as increasing the minimum wage, providing more ESL programs, reducing car usage, addressing the lack of child care spaces), to broader issues (more funding for the arts, more affordable housing, addressing substance use and addiction issues, and so on).

## "Quality of Life" Omnibus Survey

In partnership with Ipsos Reid, *Vancouver's Vital Signs* asked a random sample of 240 Vancouverites about their perceptions of the quality of life in Vancouver.

Nearly all of those surveyed (97%) rate the quality of life here as "good" or "very good." Has it improved over the past three years? It is an even split: 23% said "yes"; 22% said "no"; and half (52%) say that it has stayed the same. What contributes to this good overall quality of life? The top two mentions were "environment/natural setting" and "weather/mild climate." Of the most important issues to be addressed to improve overall quality of life, 17% of respondents said "poverty and homelessness." Other priority issues included transportation/traffic congestion (12%), and affordable housing (11%).

## What We Have Learned

Overall, many of us have a good quality of life, and most of us believe our quality of life is very good. There is awareness of – and general agreement upon – some of the key challenges and problems that we face: homelessness, poverty and the need for affordable housing, to name a few.

*Vancouver's Vital Signs* has been a valuable learning experience for Vancouver Foundation and will serve as an important reference point for our own work in the months and years to come.

# Our Sense of Place

## A City Within a Region

When we say and think “Vancouver”, what are we *really* talking about?

*Vancouver’s Vital Signs* provides a snapshot of a city that is part of a larger geographic reality; a city situated within a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), incorporating other municipalities.

Vancouver is also a member of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), made up of 21 member municipalities and one electoral area. As a result, Vancouver cannot be treated as an entity unto itself; we need to look at it within a *regional* context. For instance:

- Transit and transportation issues are often regional in nature; many of us live in one municipality and work, live and learn within another.
- Crime statistics for the City of Vancouver reflect “the core city phenomenon” – that is, certain types of crimes within a *regional area*, like the GVRD, tend to concentrate within the core city.
- Where we go to school, borrow library books, attend cultural events and sporting events all happen across a large metropolitan area.
- Vancouver’s environmental practices such as garbage collection and water management are connected to others across the region.
- With any significant change to a population in a relatively short period of time, there are accompanying social impacts, both positive and negative. Our increasingly diverse population has a profound impact on both the city and the region.

Increasingly, the issues of Vancouver are the issues of the region surrounding it – and vice versa. While *Vancouver’s Vital Signs* is an assessment of where we

stand in 12 Key Areas that influence our city’s well-being, they need to be seen and understood within the context of this region – and beyond.

## Geographic Reference

In this report, the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver CMA are referred to frequently in indicator findings. To interpret the findings, it is important to understand geographic references. The map below identifies the boundaries of the City and those of the larger census region known as the Vancouver CMA.



# Our Research Methodology

Vancouver Foundation has been diligent in its approach to compiling this first “check-up” on Vancouver’s quality of life. We have engaged academic, business, civic and expert leaders, who have provided input, data and commentary on the Key Areas reviewed in this report.

## A Multi-faceted Approach

The *Vancouver’s Vital Signs* project combined intelligence gathered from people, public opinion, expert commentary and hard data to create a living picture of Vancouver. The *Vancouver’s Vital Signs* team and Ipsos Reid, the research group retained to undertake research and grading, worked collaboratively with an impressive array of volunteer expert resources to produce this multi-faceted snapshot of Vancouver today.

Vancouver Foundation’s Board, Advisory Committees and staff participated in the development of this report. Advisory groups formed especially for this project helped set direction, support and guide indicator selection, provide access to data, review findings, and leverage awareness and engagement.

The project’s Expert Resource Group was particularly active, helping the project team and Ipsos Reid researchers assemble approximately 90 indicators under 12 Key Areas that relate directly to understanding quality of life. Ten of these Key Areas are being used by all five *Vital Signs* projects across Canada in 2006. Two are specific to Vancouver: *Livable City* and *Diversity as a Way of Life*.

## Primary Research

Primary research is information that comes directly from the source and is usually collected specifically for the particular needs of the research or purpose at hand. Primary research involves gathering information through interaction with other people and can be gathered through one-on-one interviews, focus groups, and surveys.

### “Quality of Life” Omnibus Survey

A telephone survey with a randomly-selected sample of 240 residents of the City of Vancouver, age 18 years or older, using Ipsos Reid’s BC Reid Express omnibus survey.

### “Pulse of Canada”

An online survey conducted by Ipsos Reid and CanWest Global with a randomly selected sample of 8,431 Canadians (including 597 residents of the Vancouver CMA) age 18 years or older.

### Personal Interviews

Personal interviews with members of the *Vancouver’s Vital Signs* Expert Resource Group, along with other individuals and organizations, were invaluable in providing customized data on a variety of topics.

## Key Informant Grading & Priority Setting

The final element of our research was an online grading exercise, involving nearly 200 individuals with knowledge of Vancouver issues. They were asked to assign a grade in response to the question, “How well are we doing?” in each Key Area and then invited to identify two priorities they felt required action in each Key Area. To arrive at the Citizen Grade, Ipsos Reid used the mode for each Key Area.

While the facts – or indicator results – speak for themselves, these grades and priorities offer additional context. They show how engaged and well-informed citizens believe we are doing in each area and what they think we need to do as a community to address the challenges that lie ahead. Interestingly, these perceptions don’t always reflect statistical evidence gained through secondary research, resulting in food for thought, debate, discussion and dialogue.

## Secondary Research

Secondary research examines data that has been collected for a different purpose, usually by a different organization. Secondary research was used extensively for *Vancouver’s Vital Signs*, and involved library, custom-run data, phone calls, and online searches.

Some of the challenges faced in collecting such data included finding up-to-date information, data that has not yet been collected, or data that is not available in a usable format, as well as public accessibility issues.

We have drawn on available data that is most current and relevant to each Key Area indicator. We have also made a point of distinguishing between the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and the City of Vancouver: these are important distinctions for our research, given the differences in geography, population and socio-economic factors.

Key sources of data can be found on page 33 of this report.

## The End Result

*Vancouver’s Vital Signs* offers a topical blend of facts and perceptions. We hope *Vital Signs* serves as a tool for information, discussion, debate and dialogue for those who are committed to community wellness, and to advancing the interests of all who live here.

# The Livable City

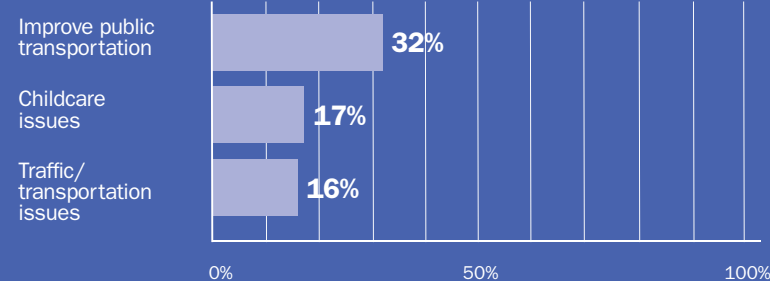
Vancouver is consistently rated one of the most livable cities in the world. Walkable neighbourhoods, connectivity through bikeways and walkways, housing diversity, accessibility for people with disabilities, appropriate density, and an overall sense of belonging are all features that make Vancouver a unique and desirable place to live. Vancouver has one of the largest ratios of green space, compared to other CMA's in Canada, and offers one of the country's longest continuous stretches of public access to the waterfront.



**Citizen Grade** Vancouver's grade when it comes to being a livable city, considering things like population density, number of heritage buildings, housing mix, pathways and trails, public transportation and availability of childcare ...

**B+**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of *Vancouver's Vital Signs* citizen grading panel ...



## Getting Around

While Vancouver residents are among the most physically active Canadians, they remain dependent on their cars. In the Vancouver CMA, 72.7% of all commuters drive private vehicles, an additional 7% are passengers, 11.5% take public transit, 6.5% cycle, 1.9% walk, and 0.4% use other means.

## Revitalizing Our Heritage

While some buildings maintain their original purpose (such as commercial shops in Gastown), many have been transformed for another use (such as old factories converted to artist live-work studios and loft apartments). Vancouver's Heritage Register lists 2,400 buildings and structures, streetscapes, landscape resources (parks and landscapes, trees, monuments, public works), and archaeological sites of architectural or heritage value.

## Housing Mix

The City of Vancouver has a diverse range of owned and rental housing, including 28% that are single detached homes. 22% are apartments with five or more storeys, and 34% are apartments with fewer than five storeys.



## Parks and Green Space

Stanley Park occupies over 400 hectares (1,000 acres) close to Vancouver's downtown core. Access to the water is highly prized and well used: more than half (58%) of the city's waterfront is public. The longest continuous stretch of public waterfront is 23 kilometres long, extending from CRAB Park at Portside to Kitsilano Beach Park.

## Population Density

In 2004, the City of Vancouver's population was estimated at 570,000, while the city's land area (excluding Stanley Park) was 110.8 sq km. This gives a population density of 5,145 people per sq km, which is higher than average compared to most major Canadian CMA's.

# Diversity as a Way of Life

Vancouver is really a collection of communities. Diversity gives us rewarding opportunities to live, learn, and work together, and to befriend one another with an openness towards beliefs, lifestyles, cultures and faiths. Overall, Vancouver is one of the most diverse cities in Canada, and offers a rich array of festivals and celebrations, cuisines and services.

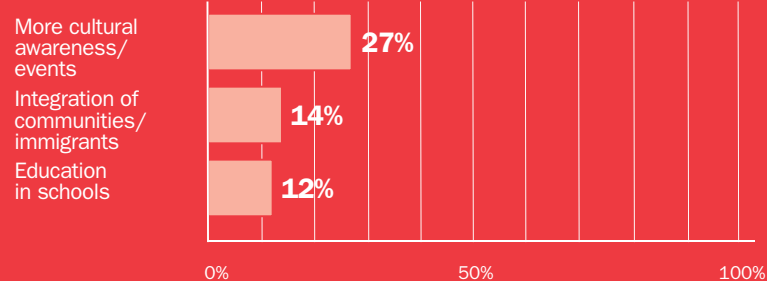


Photo courtesy of Vancouver Pride Society. Photo by Skyj Powers.

**Citizen Grade** Vancouver's grade when it comes to diversity, thinking about things like the level of ethno-cultural events, racial and ethnic diversity, levels of hate crimes, and acceptance of different cultures and lifestyles ...

**B+**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of *Vancouver's Vital Signs* citizen grading panel ...



## Celebrating Diversity

Over 50 cultural events are supported and sanctioned by the City of Vancouver, the largest number of cultural celebrations in Canada except Montréal and Toronto. Celebrations such as the Dragon Boat Races and the Burmese New Year Festival are examples of the many annual events that showcase the unique identity of Vancouver, and contribute to a sense of community among the city's diverse residents.



## Support for First Nations and Aboriginal People

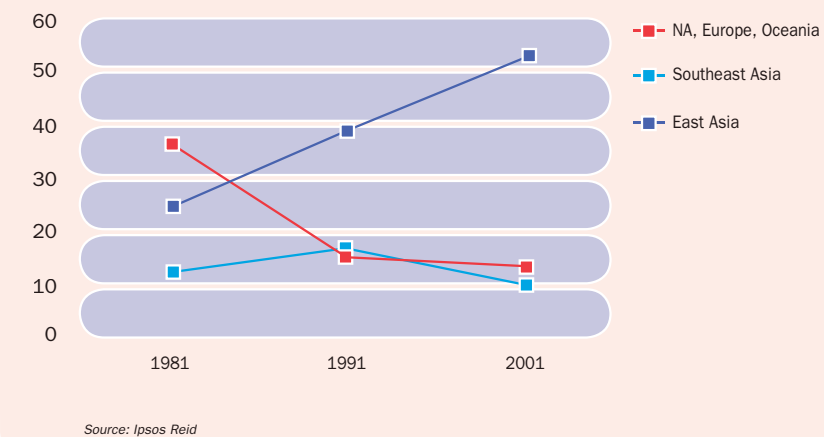
There are over 650 organizations and programs serving the First Nations and Aboriginal community in the Vancouver CMA. This is the highest rate of First Nations and Aboriginal programs per capita in the country (approximately one program for every 57 First Nations and Aboriginal peoples).

## New Citizenship Rates and Country of Origin

In 2005, more than 31,000 immigrants came to Vancouver. Those 31,000 newcomers to Vancouver made up 15% of the national total of all immigrants to Canada and 88% of those to British Columbia. New Vancouver CMA immigrants self-reported their ethnic origin (after English and Canadian), as Chinese (17%), Scottish (16%), and Irish (12%).

The number of visible minority neighbourhoods in Montréal, Toronto, and Vancouver increased from 6 to 254 between 1981 and 2001. The majority of these were Chinese neighbourhoods in Vancouver and Toronto (157), followed by South Asian neighbourhoods in the same cities.

## Composition of Recent Immigrants (%) 1981, 1991, 2001 (Vancouver)



## Languages Spoken at Home

In 2001, a total of 117,670 Vancouverites (21.6% of the city's total population) spoke only a non-official language at home. Another 129,605 individuals (22.4% of the population) spoke both an official language (English or French) plus a non-official language at home. Among these, 119,510 spoke English plus another language, while 665 spoke French plus another language.

The Vancouver CMA has a much higher percentage of its population that speaks *only* non-official languages at home than other CMA's (21.6% in Vancouver compared with 18.6% in Toronto, and 5.8% in Ottawa). Vancouver is ranked fifth among 12 surveyed cities in the percentage of residents who speak *both* an official language plus a non-official language at home (after Toronto, Peel, Ottawa, and York).

# Work

Vancouver's economy is thriving as the city and region prepare for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. All of this activity has increased the demand for skilled labour, creating shortages in some sectors. As the province's economic centre, Vancouver has enjoyed a boom. Yet our citizens have not all benefited equally from this economic activity.



## Labour Shortages

The Vancouver CMA continues to experience labour shortages. While 348,490 jobs existed in 2001, there were only 279,391 people in the labour force. It was the same in Greater Vancouver, where there were 1,007,105 jobs, but only 995,320 people in the labour force.

## Employment Rates

Vancouver's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has a current employment rate of 63.3%, one of the highest in the last 20 years. Previous highs occurred in 1989 (63.5%), and 1990 (64%).

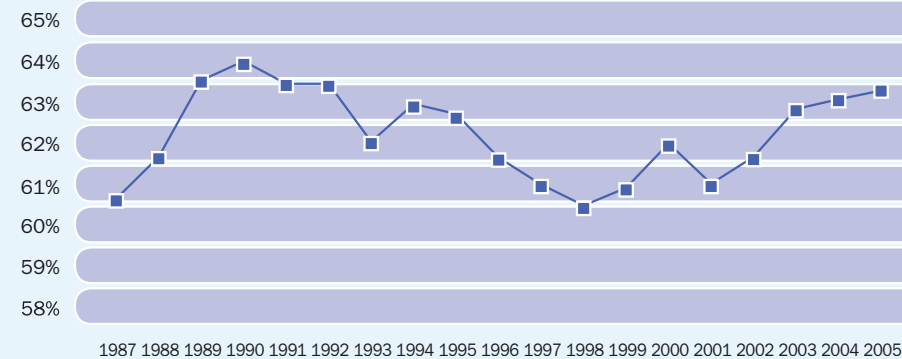
Who is working in this robust employment period? The highest employment rates are among 25-54 year olds (79.5%), and the lowest among those aged 65+ (8.7%).

Employment rates by age category are:

15 to 24 years: 54.4% | 55 to 64 years: 60.2%  
25 to 54 years: 79.5% | 65 years and over: 8.7%

Most employment in Vancouver (81%) is full-time, and about one-fifth (19%) is part-time.

## Employment Rates (%) for the Vancouver CMA



The 2005 employment rate for the Vancouver CMA stood at 63.3%. Vancouver's employment rate declined between 1990 and 1998 and has been steadily increasing ever since. It is now just shy of the highs hit in 1989 (63.5%) and 1990 (64%). The bulk (81%) of employment in Vancouver is full-time while about one-fifth (19%) of employment is part-time.

Source: Statistics Canada (2005)

## Household Income & Cost of Living

Vancouver is Canada's second most expensive city; only Toronto is more expensive. Using New York as a comparative city, giving it an index of 100:

Vancouver's cost of living is 81.2% of New York's  
Toronto's is 82.6% | Montréal's is 77.6%  
Calgary's is 79.3% | Ottawa's is 75.6%



## Average Earnings

Even though the Vancouver CMA employment rates are up, *real* income growth has been negative. Using 2004 constant dollars, between 1999 and 2004, average earnings per person actually *declined* by 4%. In 1999 average earnings stood at \$34,700, and by 2004 they had dropped to \$33,300.

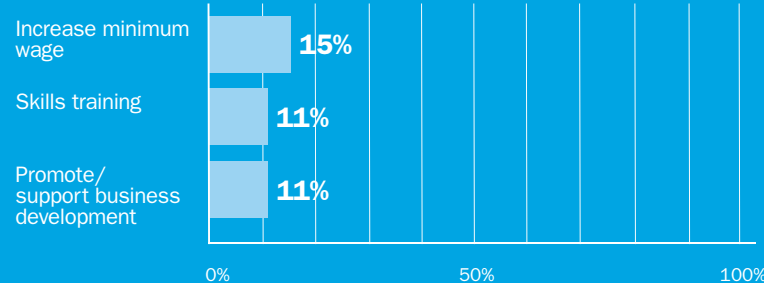
## Median Household Income Relative to Cost of Living

In 2004, the Vancouver CMA median annual household *income* was \$56,200. However, the median annual household *expenditure* in Vancouver was slightly higher, at \$56,868. Simply put, this means many households are spending more than they earn.

**Citizen Grade** Grade for Vancouver's overall employment/business environment, considering things like the unemployment rate, the job market, wages, skills availability, and the vibrancy of the business community ...

**B**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of *Vancouver's Vital Signs* citizen grading panel ...



# Getting Started

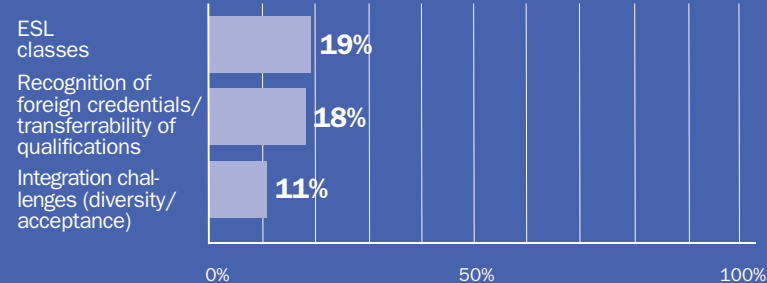
Vancouver is a bustling hub of migration activity, with some of the highest rates of migration in the country. A wide variety of support services and programs have evolved to support newcomers and recent immigrants. While Vancouver is one of the most multicultural and multilingual cities in Canada, securing meaningful employment can be a real challenge for newcomers.



**Citizen Grade** Vancouver's grade on ease of getting started in our community for new immigrants, considering things like the level of immigration, the availability of English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, level of unemployment for immigrants and the length of time it takes to find employment, and availability of information in more than one language ...

**C+**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of Vancouver's Vital Signs citizen grading panel ...



## Migration Shift

Many perceive Vancouver to be a key entry point to Canada for immigrants, and the data confirms this. Vancouver received 168,000 immigrants between 1996 and 2001. It is estimated that by 2017 more than half of Vancouver's population will comprise visible minorities.

People leave the Vancouver CMA at a lower rate than Toronto or Montréal CMA's. In total, 141,415 people left between 1996 and 2001. The net impact of all migration (including people who have moved within Canada or BC) is that the Vancouver CMA population increased by 147,590 between 1996 and 2001.

## Income

Although immigrants to Canada have traditionally started off with lower earnings than their Canadian-born counterparts, their earnings have generally caught up over time.

However, there is growing evidence that this pattern may be changing, and more recent newcomers have not fared as well. In their first years after arrival, earnings for males immigrating to Vancouver between 1995 and 1999 were less than 60% of comparable Canadian-born workers, indicating that they started off at a much lower relative level than earlier immigrants.

Low Income Rates Among Recent Immigrants Vancouver CMA, 1980-2000 (%)



Source: Statistics Canada



## Unemployment Rates for Immigrants

The proportion of new immigrants in Vancouver's labour market rose from 5.7% in 1991 to 7% in 2001. However, the labour market conditions for recent immigrants have not improved. In 2001, the employment rate for recent immigrants in Vancouver was 62.4%, up from 60.5% in 1996, but far below the rate of 69% in 1991.

The gap in Vancouver labour market conditions for recent immigrants compared to Canadian-born workers widened over the 1990's, especially for women. For men, the employment rate gap in 2001 was 13.2%, up from 10.1% in 1991. For women, this gap was 25.7% in 2001, almost double that of 1991.

## First Nations and Aboriginal People

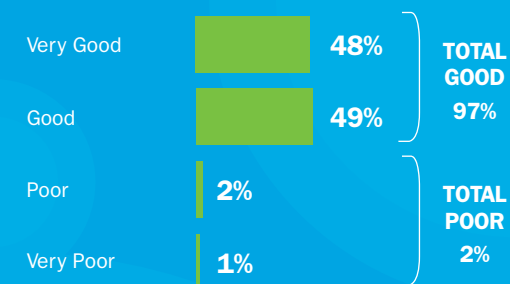
First Nations and Aboriginal people coming to Vancouver face significant challenges in finding employment. The employment rate among First Nations and Aboriginal people in Vancouver was 61.8% in 2001, compared with 79% in the non-First Nations and Aboriginal population.

# Public Opinion on Quality of Life Issues

In July and August 2006, the Vancouver Foundation commissioned Ipsos Reid Public Affairs to conduct a study to determine Vancouverites' perceptions of the quality of life in the City of Vancouver. The intent of the survey was to augment the findings of *Vancouver's Vital Signs* research by gauging residents' perception of Vancouver's quality of life.

## How good is our quality of life?

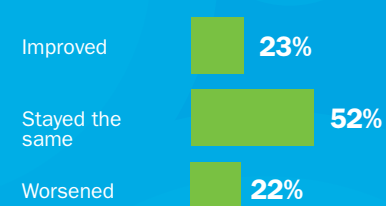
How would you rate the overall quality of life in the City of Vancouver today? Would you say it is...



The majority (97%) of residents rate the quality of life in Vancouver as "good" or "very good." Of those, slightly less than one-half (48%) rate it as "very good." This is on par with other major Canadian centres.

## Has our quality of life changed during the past three years?

Over the last three years do you think that the overall quality of life in Vancouver has...



Residents are evenly split when it comes to whether or not the quality of life in Vancouver has improved or worsened: one quarter (23%) say that the quality of life in Vancouver has "improved" over the last three years while 22% say that the quality of life has "worsened." In comparison, just over one-half (52%) say the quality of life has "stayed the same."

Compared to other cities, more residents feel that things have changed in the past three years, whether for the better or the worse.

## What contributes most to our quality of life?

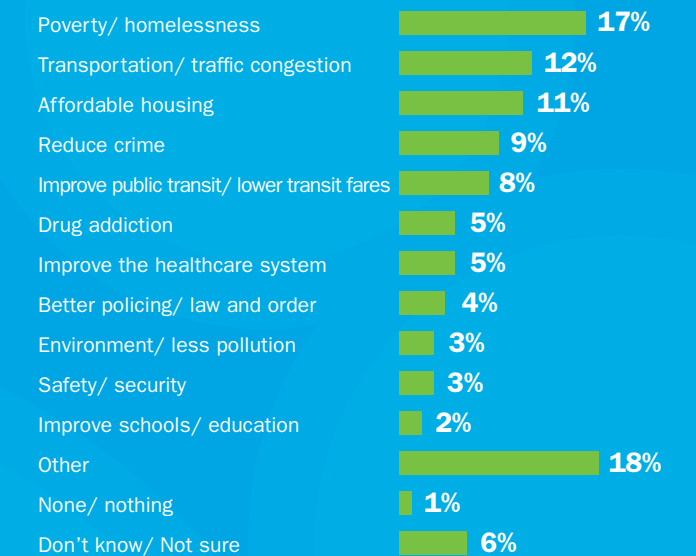
In your view, as a resident of Vancouver, what do you think contributes the most to a good overall quality of life in Vancouver?



When it comes to what respondents think contributes most to a good overall quality of life in Vancouver, 14% state "Environment/ natural setting," while 12% stated "Weather/ mild climate."

## What issues need to be addressed to improve our quality of life?

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



When it comes to the most important issue residents would like to see addressed to improve the overall quality of life in Vancouver, slightly less than one in five (17%) respond "Poverty and homelessness."

### Footnotes

This survey was conducted in two "waves." The first wave (127 respondents) was conducted between July 5 – 9, 2006; the second wave (113 respondents) was conducted from August 8 – 13, 2006.

A survey of this size is considered accurate to plus or minus 6.3 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.



# Gap Between Rich and Poor

For nearly two decades, the Canadian economy has experienced vibrant growth. However, the benefits of this growth have not been equally shared by all Canadians. Recent studies show that the gap between rich and poor is widening; in addition, it appears that wealthy people live longer, and are healthier at every stage of their lives.

Striking differences in income have caused “the wealth gap” to widen across Canada. Findings show the gap between rich and poor is growing larger and faster in Vancouver. Children and new immigrants – often our most vulnerable citizens – are the biggest victims of this trend.



## The Widening Gap Between Rich and Poor

Statistics show an alarming increase in the gap between rich and poor.

The wealth gap has been apparent for years: in 1990, for every dollar earned by those in the lowest 10%, people in the highest 10% earned \$6.08.

By 2000 the gap had grown, increasing by 40% from 1990. In 2000, 10% of Vancouver’s households had incomes below \$9,700, while 10% had incomes above \$97,800. This means that for every dollar the lowest-earning 10% received, the highest-earning 10% received \$10.08.

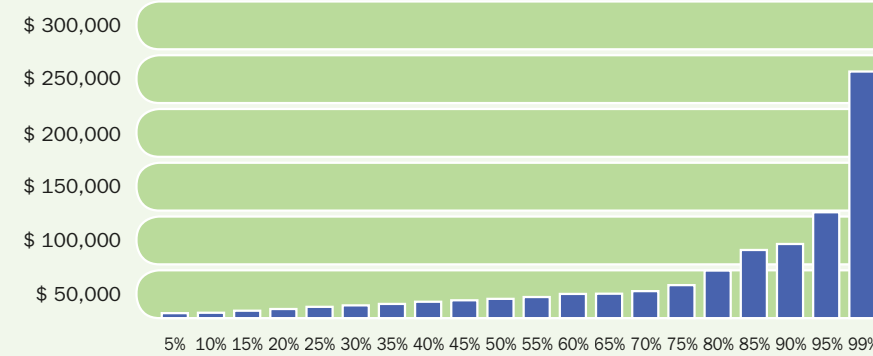
Between 1980 and 2000, the earnings of people in the lowest 10% fell 25%, while the earnings of those in the highest 10% experienced an increase of 5.3%. Vancouver had the greatest increase in the gap between high and low income earners among Canada’s three largest cities.

## The Low Income Population

The federal government uses a measurement called Low Income Cut-off (LICO) to define people who are living in “strained circumstances” – in other words, poverty. The concentration of low income households throughout Vancouver highlights the gap between rich and poor.

In 2004, there were 349,000 citizens under the LICO (after-tax) in Greater Vancouver, meaning that 17% of our citizens lived below the poverty line. Between 1980 and 2000, Vancouver had the greatest increase in LICO households of all 27 Census Metropolitan Areas in Canada.

## After-tax Income by Percentile (2000) Vancouver CMA



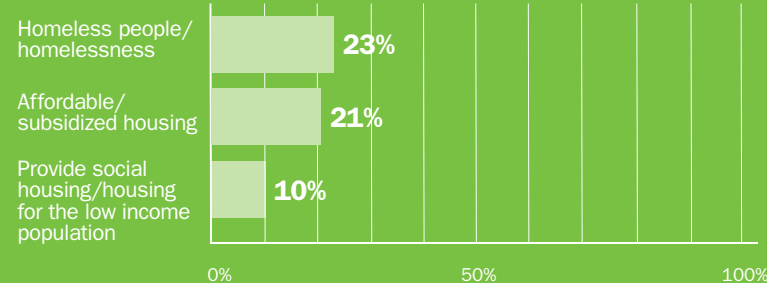
Source: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (2000)



**Citizen Grade** Vancouver’s grade when it comes to economic equality, considering things like income distribution, the number of residents below the poverty line, the number of homeless people, and the proportion of the population on a fixed income...

**C-**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of Vancouver’s Vital Signs citizen grading panel ...



## Immigrant Employment Opportunities

Virtually all of the increases in Vancouver’s low income population were concentrated in the communities of recent immigrants. In 2000, 37.2% of all recent immigrants were under the LICO; two decades earlier, only 16.3% lived below the poverty line.

## Children and Seniors Below Low Income Cut-off

In 2003, 20.2% of children lived below the LICO. In 2004, that percentage increased to 22.2%, representing 93,000 children age 18 or younger.

Meanwhile, 13.8% of seniors age 65 or older lived below LICO – 33,000 people in total – which is an improvement over the 16.9% living in poverty in 2003.

# Housing

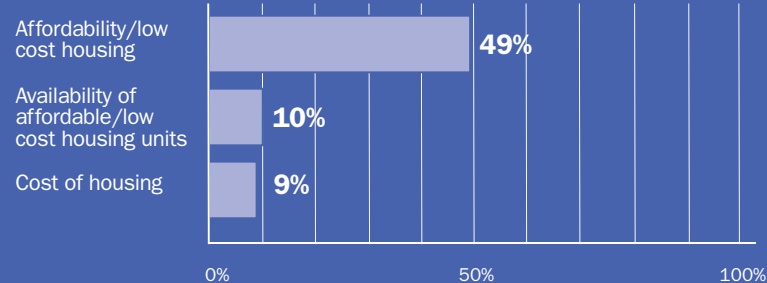
Vancouver writer and cultural commentator Douglas Coupland has observed that “real estate is Vancouver’s biggest sport.” Whether it is the dizzying highs of house prices, or the disheartening lows of homelessness, housing issues are a special preoccupation of those who live in Canada’s least affordable housing market.



**Citizen Grade** Grade for Vancouver when it comes to housing, considering things like cost of housing, housing affordability, vacancy rates, availability of low-cost housing and housing for people with special needs ...

**D+**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of *Vancouver’s Vital Signs* citizen grading panel ...



## Average House Prices

Vancouver area housing prices have been going up at double-digit rates. Between June 2005 and June 2006, the average house price in Vancouver East increased 22%, to \$459,685. In Vancouver West, during the same time period, the average house price increase was even steeper, up 25% to \$699,684.



## Home Ownership

Currently, 60.5% of residents in Vancouver own their own home. Home ownership rates in Vancouver are lower than the national average of 65.8%.

## Affordability

The typical measure for housing affordability is a maximum cost of 30% of a household’s total income. The Vancouver CMA has the highest percentage of homeowners (24%) in Canada who spend 30% or more of their income on housing. Toronto is second at 22%. Ottawa is the most affordable for owners, with only 12% spending 30% or more of their income on housing. Renting in Vancouver is also expensive relative to other CMA’s, with 43% of Vancouver’s renters facing affordability issues.

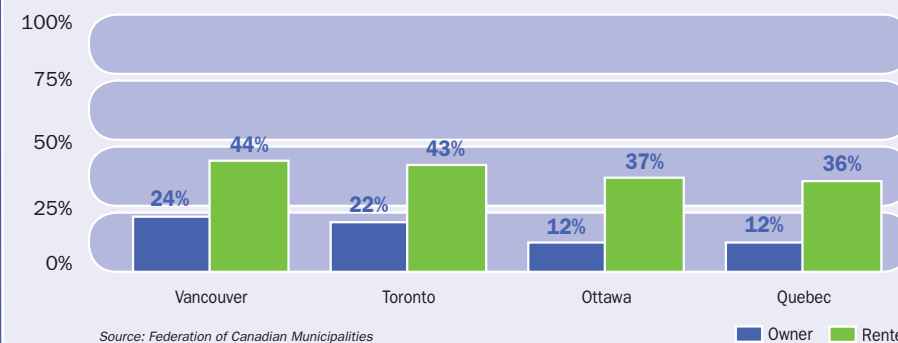
Another measure of affordability is the ratio of median house prices to median income. In the Vancouver CMA, the median house price is currently 6.6 times the median income, almost double the average for Canada’s major cities (3.6). A multiple of over 5.1 is considered “severely unaffordable.”

## Homelessness

There has been significant growth in the number of homeless counted in the City of Vancouver. Between 2002 and 2005 the number of homeless increased 106% from 628 to 1,291. In comparison, the homeless population in other areas of the GVRD grew by 81% from 2002 to 2005. Of the total estimated homeless population in the Greater Regional Vancouver District (GVRD), 63% live in Vancouver.

There are currently 702 shelter beds in the City of Vancouver. This means that, at any given time, approximately 46% of Vancouver’s homeless do not have access to shelters.

Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Household Income on Shelter Costs (2000)



# Safety

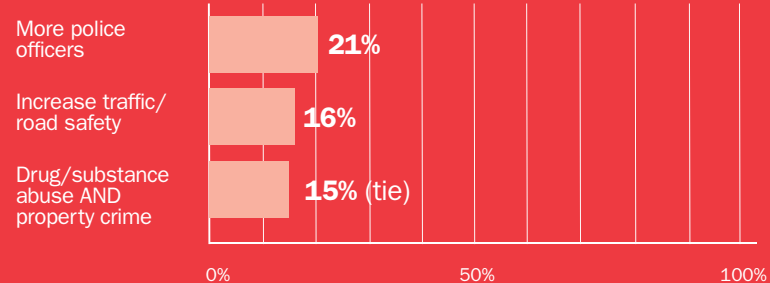
People cannot enjoy life if they feel their safety and security are at risk, and the citizens of Vancouver are no exception. While it is true that property crime has seen a drop in the number of specific incidents, violent crime has been steadily increasing.



**Citizen Grade** Vancouver's grade when it comes to safety, thinking about things like the level of violent crime and property crime, traffic deaths and level of policing ...

**B-**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of Vancouver's Vital Signs citizen grading panel ...



## Violent Crime

While violent crime incidents in the City of Vancouver increased 10.2% between 2002 and 2005, reported incidents *decreased* 37% for attempted murder, and 15.8% for robbery in 2005. There was a slight increase of 3.9% in sexual offences in 2005.

## Property Crime

Overall, the total number of property crime incidents in the City of Vancouver has decreased slightly since 2002, when 58,505 were reported (10,139 per 100,000 population). In 2005 there were 52,210 incidents (8,767 per 100,000). Fraud incidents, however, have increased by 17.2%.

## Homicide Rate

In 2005, there were 3.2 homicides per 100,000 population in the city of Vancouver. This is higher than the national homicide rate of 2.0 homicides per 100,000 and places Vancouver fifth within Canada's nine largest CMA's.

## Law Enforcement

In 2005, Vancouver CMA had 3,166 police officers, or 146 per 100,000 population. The Vancouver Police Department had 1,174 sworn police officers, or 197 per 100,000, based on Vancouver's 2005 population estimate of 595,534.



## Good Neighbours

As of August 2006, there are 517 active block watches in the City of Vancouver, up from 460 in 2005. Forty additional block watches will be added this year, bringing the 2006 total to 557.

## Perceptions of Safety

Vancouver CMA residents are less likely to feel safe than residents of Canada's other major urban centres.

34% of people in the Vancouver CMA agree with the statement: "On a day-to-day basis, I am very concerned that I or someone in my household will be a victim of crime." In comparison, 27% of Canadians agree.

71% agree with the statement: "I feel safe walking alone in my own neighbourhood after dark" compared to the national average of 76%.

63% agree that: "It's safe for kids to play in my neighbourhood with minimal supervision" compared to the national average of 79%. In fact, residents of Vancouver CMA are least likely of all major cities to agree their children are safe.

# Learning

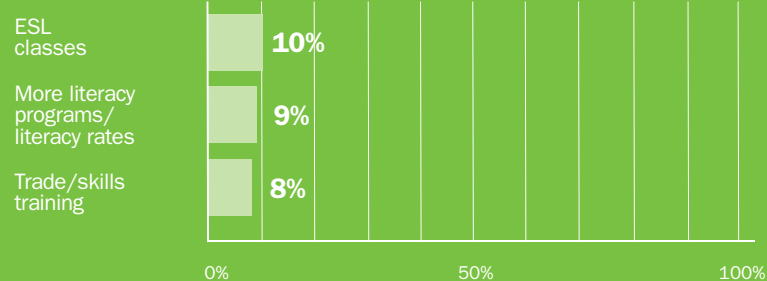
Vancouver is a major urban centre that offers a world-class education system. It also provides a host of life-long and continuous learning opportunities, including ESL classes like the one pictured below at Vancouver's Language Repair Shop. Overall, our level of educational attainment, proficiency scores, and skills learning are on a par with – and in some cases exceed – what is seen in the rest of the country.



**Citizen Grade** Vancouver's grade when it comes to learning and education, taking into account things like literacy, educational attainment, adult education, and the quality and availability of education ...

**B**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of Vancouver's Vital Signs citizen grading panel ...

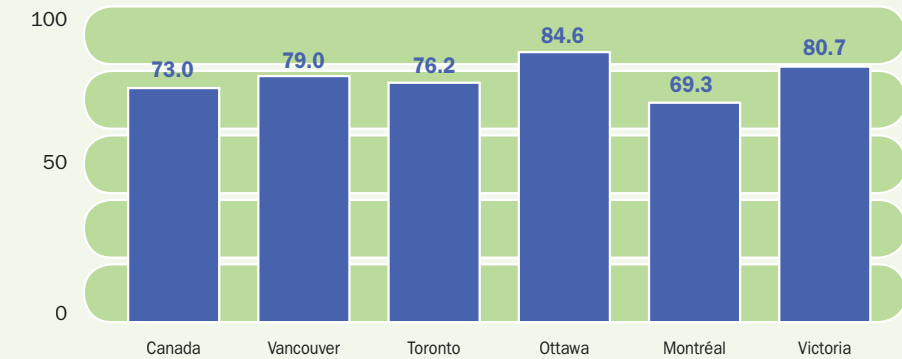


## Literacy

The Canadian Council on Learning has developed and uses a Composite Learning Index (CLI) to grade literacy levels. In 2006, Vancouver's population received a CLI score of 79.0. While higher than the national average of 73.0, Vancouver ranks third among the five cities participating in the 2006 *Vital Signs* initiative.

Ottawa	84.6	Toronto	76.2
Victoria	80.7	<b>Canada</b>	<b>73.0</b>
<b>Vancouver</b>	<b>79.0</b>	Montréal	69.3

## Composite Learning Index (CLI) Score



While higher than the national average, Vancouver's CLI score is second-lowest among the *Vital Signs* cities. Only Toronto gets a lower score.

Source: Canadian Council on Learning (2006)

## High School Completion

In 2004/05, 80% of all Vancouver public school students graduated from high school within six years (starting from Grade 8 enrollment). In 2001, 91% of Greater Vancouver students age 15 or older had completed Grade 9. This compares with 89.6% in 1996, and 88.8% in 1991, showing an improving trend. However, a 2006 study by University of British Columbia language and literacy Professor Lee Gunderson revealed that 40% of all immigrant students attending Vancouver high schools drop out prior to graduation.



## Education Levels

Most recent data reports that of all Vancouver residents age 20 or older, 40% have a university degree, and another 21% are college graduates. Trades certificates or diplomas are held by 7%, and 22% have an educational level of grade 9 to 13. Nine percent of the population have achieved less than a grade 9 education.

## Access to ESL

In Vancouver, English as a second language services are typically at 100% capacity, with waiting lists of one or two months. Vancouver has one public ESL program, 30 private ESL schools, and 11 not-for-profit ESL schools.

## Continuous Learning

There are currently 83 adult/continuing education programs offered by Vancouver post-secondary institutions, one of the highest scores out of all the Canadian CMA's. Additionally, there were 212,336 attendees of Vancouver library programs in 2005, an increase of more than 11% from 2004.

# Arts and Culture

The arts touch the spirit and nurture the soul, enriching the quality of life in any city. Vancouver's rich and varied arts and cultural communities thrive here. Data show that the Vancouver CMA has one of the highest proportions of its labour force employed in cultural occupations.



## Library Usage

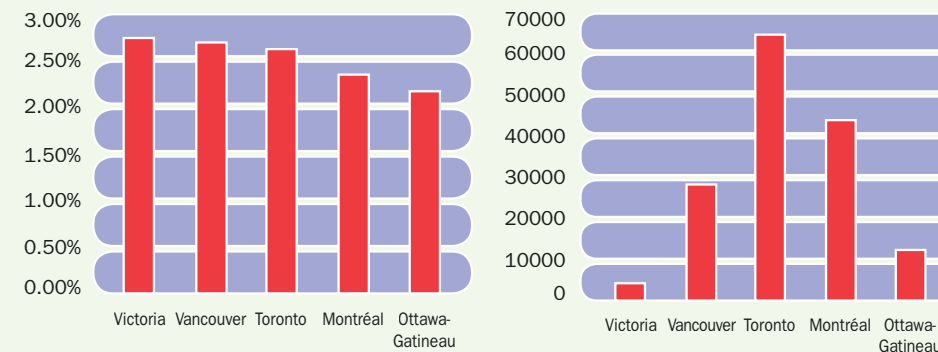
In 2005, almost 10 million books and materials were circulated across the Vancouver Public Library system. Library visits in 2005 exceeded 6.6 million, and more than 3.5 million visits were made to the library's website. Of all patrons with Vancouver addresses, 51% used their library card in 2003, 43% in 2004 and 32% in 2005.

## Culture Workers

In 2001, the two metropolitan areas with the highest proportion of their total labour force employed in cultural occupations in Canada were both in British Columbia: Victoria and Vancouver. In both areas, 2.7% of the work force was employed in cultural occupations – more than one and a half times the national average of 1.75%. This represents approximately 28,000 cultural workers in the Vancouver CMA.

In addition, the growth in the arts labour force between 1991 and 2001 in the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area was over four times the growth in the overall labour force. Although the growth rate in the arts in the Vancouver CMA was impressive, increasing 57% between 1991 and 2001, its growth is less than other Canadian cities, ranking 23rd among other 92 large Canadian cities.

Percentage and Number of Labour Force in Cultural Occupations by CMA 2001



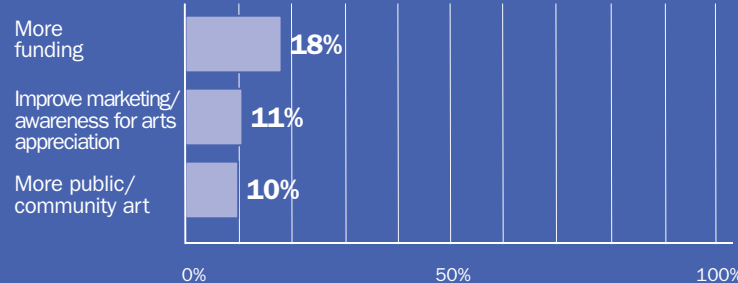
Source: Statistics Canada



**Citizen Grade** Vancouver's grade for the arts and culture environment, considering things like attendance at arts and cultural events, the number of arts and cultural activities, amount of public art, and economic impact of arts and cultural activities (not including the movie industry) ...

**B**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of *Vancouver's Vital Signs* citizen grading panel ...



## Institutional Funding

The City of Vancouver spends \$16 per person on arts and cultural initiatives. In 2005, the City awarded \$8.75 million through 13 grant programs to some 150 non-profit arts and cultural organizations, compared to \$7.291 million in cultural grants in 2004.

## Cultural Spending

Residents in the Vancouver CMA spent \$75 million on live performing arts in 2003. Vancouver CMA residents' cultural spending (including home entertainment, books and other reading materials, arts supplies and instruments, art works, movie tickets, photographic equipment and supplies, and live performing arts) in 2003 was \$810 per person, making Vancouver the seventh-ranked among 15 Canadian metropolitan areas. Of cultural spending by all British Columbians, 54% (or \$1.7 billion) was spent in the Vancouver CMA.

## Event Attendance

In 2004, attendance at performances, screenings, exhibitions, festivals, and special events in Vancouver totalled more than 3 million.

# Belonging and Leadership

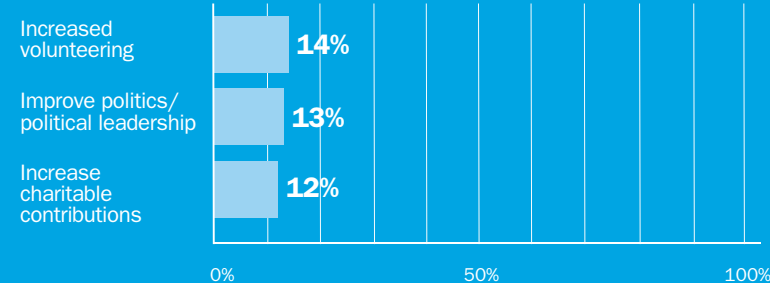
Most people have a deep need to feel that they belong: to a culture, to a community, to a cause. Vancouver is a better community because of citizens who put their energies toward civic responsibility, respect for others, social well-being and volunteerism.



**Citizen Grade** Grade for Vancouver as a community of citizens who are civically and socially engaged, considering things like the level of charitable donations, volunteerism, voter turnout and forums for public consultation ...

**B-**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of *Vancouver's Vital Signs* citizen grading panel ...



## Charitable Donations

With 24% of tax filers in the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) claiming charitable donations on their tax returns, Vancouver ranks second to last amongst Canada's five largest CMA's and is about the same as the national average of 25%. However, at \$300 per capita, the median size of those gifts is second only to Toronto, where the median donation is \$320, and is significantly higher than the national average of 25%. The total value of Vancouver CMA donations claimed in 2004 was more than \$540 million.



## Voter Turnout

Like the rest of the country, Vancouver is experiencing a long-term decline in voter turnout. The voter turnout for the 2005 City of Vancouver election was 32%, down from a voter turnout rate of 49.9% for the 2002 municipal election.

However, more residents of the City of Vancouver voted during the last provincial election (2005), which achieved a voter turnout rate of 55.5%. Although high, this is still lower than the voter turnout rate in the Vancouver CMA as a whole (59.8%).

Voter turnout rates for Vancouver are highest for federal elections. For the 2006 federal election, the voter turnout rate in the Vancouver CMA was 60%. This is still below the national average of 65%. Voter turnout rates for federal elections have shown a declining trend since 1993:

- In the 1993 federal election there was a 66% turnout (national average 70%)
- In the 1997 federal election there was a 64% turnout (national average 67%)
- In the 2000 federal election there was a 59% turnout (national average 64%)
- In the 2004 federal election there was a 60% turnout (national average 61%)

## Volunteering

More than 700,000 individuals – 43% of Greater Vancouver residents age 15 years and over – volunteered their time in 2005. Volunteers averaged 193 hours per year, for a total of 135 million hours of volunteering.

## Local Government Responsiveness

When asked to grade the performance of their local government in terms of its responsiveness to residents' needs, 37% of residents across the Vancouver CMA, gave their municipality an "A" or "B" rating. Another 42% gave them a "C" grade, 15% gave a "D", and only 6% gave their municipality an "F." Compared to other major CMA's, only Victoria has a higher proportion of residents who rate their municipal government an "A" or "B" (49%).

## Corporate Philanthropy

In 2006, 411 Vancouver-based organizations gave to the United Way, totaling \$5.6 million in donations. As well, 841 corporations ran employee campaigns, involving a total of 320,000 employees and resulting in total contributions of \$18.5 million. Overall, 22 out of the 70 corporate members of the Canadian Businesses for Social Responsibility (or 31%) are Vancouver-based, one of the highest rates in the country.

# Health and Wellness

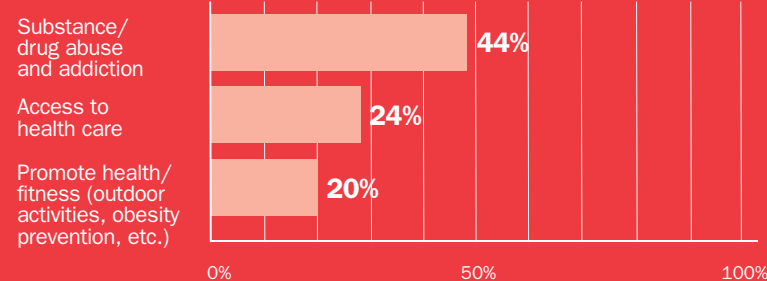
Vancouver has some of the country's highest rates of physical activity, fewest incidences of low birth rates, and the country's longest average life expectancies. So when it comes to healthy living, Vancouver is clearly the place to be. While substance use, mental health and other issues present complex challenges, Vancouver has been a leading proponent of harm reduction and pioneered Canada's first safe injection site.



**Citizen Grade** Vancouver's grade on the health and wellness of its citizens, thinking of things like life expectancy, level of physical activity, access to healthcare, substance abuse, and levels of disease ...

**B**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of *Vancouver's Vital Signs* citizen grading panel ...



## Low Birth Weight Rate

Low birth weight is an important indicator of the quality and presence of pre-natal care and general health of newborns. It is also a key predictor of infant health, survival, and development. Babies with a lower birth weight are more likely to have disabilities, birth defects, and other health issues. The low birth weight rate in Vancouver stands at 5.4%, which is slightly lower than the national average of 5.6%.



## Mortality Rates

Vancouverites may expect to live almost two years longer than the average Canadian. The average life expectancy in Vancouver is 81.1 years, compared to the national average of 79.4 years. Mortality rates differ across sub-populations such as First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.

## Rates of Physical Activity

Vancouver is one of the most physically active communities in Canada, second only to Victoria. In Vancouver, 62.3% of those age 12 and older are physically active; nationally, only 51% of the same age group is active.

## Access to Health Care Services

The 2005/06 data for the Vancouver CMA show the median wait for a patient to have surgery is 4.3 weeks. This is an improvement from 2003/04, when the median wait time was 5.0 weeks. A community's population of physicians is another good indicator of access to health care services. Data from 2004 show the Vancouver CMA had 164 general and family practitioners per 100,000 population. In comparison, for each 100,000 population, Toronto has about 140 practitioners, Montréal has 122, British Columbia has 108, and Canada as a whole has 97.

## Drug Use

Approximately 4,700 injection drug users live in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, and 12,000 in the Greater Vancouver area. In 2003, there were 82 drug-induced deaths in Greater Vancouver. Encouragingly, Vancouver and Cordova Detox Centres had 4,521 admissions to their Withdrawal Management Program in the same year.

# Environment

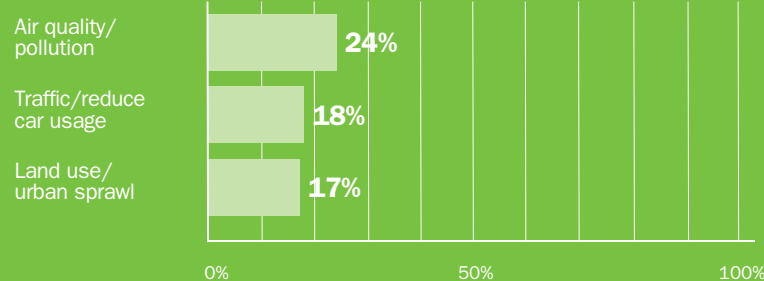
When former French President François Mitterrand came to Vancouver for the first time, he was so awestruck by its beauty, he called it “the Rio de Janeiro of the North.” Millions of visitors and residents would agree with him. How are we taking care of this beautiful environment? One way is through innovative “green building” practices like the rooftop plantings seen below. While Vancouverites are relatively good at residential recycling, we also have high water consumption and solid waste levels.



**Citizen Grade** Vancouver’s grade when it comes to the environment, thinking about things like air and water quality, waste production, water consumption, green space, recycling and energy use ...

**B**

**Priorities** Top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years, in the opinion of *Vancouver’s Vital Signs* citizen grading panel ...



## Water Consumption

In 2004, the Greater Vancouver Water District supplied an average of 1.19 billion litres of water per day to member municipalities, with a summer peak day consumption of 1.87 billion litres. While measures such as sprinkling regulations have helped stabilize peak day use, average annual consumption for the Vancouver CMA has increased approximately 1.4% per year since 1993.

Average daily water consumption in the City of Vancouver was 360 million litres per day in 2004, and is expected to increase to 440 million litres per day by 2030 due to population growth. Vancouver’s average residential water use is estimated at 323 litres per person per day. Although close to the average for the region, this level of consumption is high compared to other North American cities.

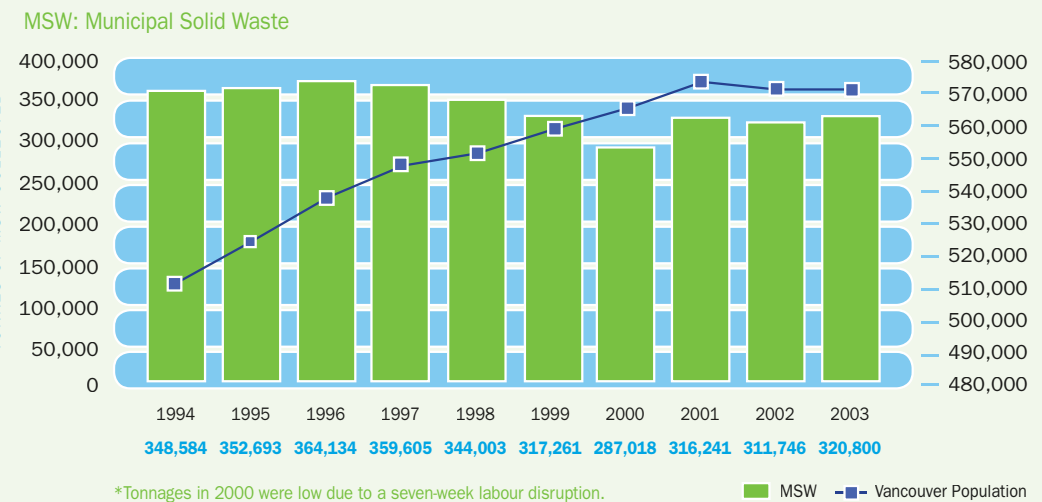
## Air Quality/Smog Alert Days

The City of Vancouver has not had a smog alert day for 32 years.

Total air emissions were about 600,000 tonnes per year from 1986 to 1990. In 1991, this figure dropped to approximately 580,000 tonnes, and continued to decrease through the 1990’s, hitting an all-time low of 510,000 tonnes in 2000. In 2001, however, total air emissions climbed close to 512,000 tonnes, and have continued to increase, reaching 525,000 tonnes in 2005.

This will continue over the next few years as the increasing number of automobiles in the GVRD begin to outweigh improvements in emissions technology.

## Vancouver Total MSW Annual Tonnages and Population Growth



Source: City of Vancouver



The Vancouver Sun/Glenn Baglo

## Waste Production Per Capita

The annual volume of Vancouver municipal solid waste between 1994 and 2004 decreased by about 80 kg per person. This includes solid waste from residential and commercial sources at the Vancouver Landfill and GVRD facilities. There were 348,752 total tonnes of solid waste in 2004, or about 0.60 tonnes (600 kg) per person.

## Recycling Rates

Vancouver’s residential recycling rate is high: 49.2% of household recyclables are actually recycled, more than double the rate (21%) in 1996. Vancouver’s current rate is significantly higher than other Canadian metropolitan areas (25.1% in Waterloo, 19.2% in Peel, 16.5% in Quebec, and 13.1% in Winnipeg), giving it the top ranking among the seven cities where data is available. A total of 28,184 tonnes were recycled by Vancouver households in 2002.



# Glossary of Terms

## Aboriginal

Used with census data. Refers to a person of aboriginal ancestry or who identifies as aboriginal; i.e., North American Indian, Métis or Inuit or of mixed aboriginal or aboriginal and non-aboriginal ancestry.

## Average

The number obtained by adding several numbers together and dividing the sum by the number of quantities (also known as the 'mean').

## Census

A survey that collects data from all the members of a population, whether it is individuals or businesses. The most common use of the term "census" is the population Census of Canada which is taken at five-year intervals which counts persons and households and a wide variety of characteristics.

## Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)

A CMA is a metropolitan statistical area's geographic delineation, an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a census metropolitan area, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000. To form a census agglomeration, the urban core must have a population of at least 10,000.

## City

A Canadian municipality of high rank, usually determined by population but varying by province.

## Constant Dollars Income

Income data for one or more previous years, calculated to reflect the increase or decrease in the cost of living over the intervening period. Constant Dollars Income refers to the presentation of income statistics from two or more censuses in terms of the value of the dollar in one of those censuses. It is reported for a population 15 years of age and over with income, excluding institutional residents.

## First Nations

First Nations is a term of ethnicity used in Canada. It refers to indigenous peoples of North America located in what is now Canada, and their descendants, who are not Inuit or Métis.

## GVRD (Greater Vancouver Regional District)

The GVRD is a partnership of 21 municipalities and one electoral area that make up the metropolitan area of Greater Vancouver.

## Immigrant Population

Refers to people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

## Low Income Cut-offs (LICO's)

Income levels at which families or unattached individuals spend 20% more than average on food, shelter and clothing. Measures of low income known as Low Income Cut-offs (LICO's) were first introduced in Canada in 1968 based on 1961 census income data and 1959 family expenditure patterns. Since 1992, these cut-offs have been updated yearly by changes in the Consumer Price Index.

## Median

The midpoint in a series of numbers; half the data values are above the median, and half are below.

## Mode

The most frequent value in a distribution, or a data sample that occurs most often in the collection, e.g. the mode of the sample [1, 3, 6, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 12, 12, 17] is 6.

# Acknowledgements

Vancouver Foundation would like to recognize the Toronto Community Foundation for originating and developing the *Vital Signs*® concept. The willingness of this foundation to share its model and its years of experience is greatly appreciated.

We are also appreciative of the role that Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) has played in supporting a coordinated national *Vital Signs* initiative. CFC has played a pivotal role in facilitating discussions among the five participating 2006 *Vital Signs* projects.

## Principal Data Contributors

Data for *Vancouver's Vital Signs* has come from a broad spectrum of sources, all of which are posted in the comprehensive version of the report at [www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca).

Key sources of information were:

- BC Stats
- Canadian Institute of Health Information
- City of Vancouver
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Government of British Columbia
- Government of Canada
- Greater Vancouver Regional District
- Royal Bank of Canada
- RVu (Regional Vancouver Urban Observatory)
- Statistics Canada (including publicly available data and custom data runs, with special thanks to Derek Adams)
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Vancouver Police Department (with special thanks to Sgt. Adam Palmer)
- Vancouver Public Library

## Community Engagement and Support

This project would not have been possible without the active support and involvement of literally hundreds of individuals and major organizations here in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

### Vancouver's Vital Signs Leadership Advisory Group

Bruce Dewar, CEO, 2010 Legacies Now

Ida Goodreau, President & CEO, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

Chris Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, Vancouver School Board

Diana Maughan, President, Ronin Management Inc

Michael McKnight, President & CEO, United Way of the Lower Mainland

Dave Mowat, President & CEO, Vancity

Dr. Daniel F. Muzyka, Dean, Sauder School of Business University of British Columbia

Heather Redfern, Executive Director, The Greater Vancouver Alliance for Arts and Culture

Judy Rogers, City Manager, City of Vancouver

Dennis Skulsky, Past Publisher, Pacific Newspaper Group Inc.

Bob Wallace, Executive Officer, Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver

### Vancouver's Vital Signs Expert Resource Group

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Paul Whitney, Vancouver Public Library

### Vancouver's Vital Signs Affiliates Group

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Lesli Boldt, Vancouver Public Library

Catherine Clement, City of Vancouver

Eileen Day, Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver

Leslie Dyson, Vancouver School Board

Theresa Gebrail, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

Anna Grimes, Vancouver Board of Trade

Karen McDonald, 2010 Legacies Now

Jamie Pitblado, Pacific Newspaper Group Inc.

### Key Area Grading Participants

The nearly 200 participants in the online grading of Key Areas and priorities included:

- Vancouver Foundation Board of Directors and staff
- Members of Vancouver Foundation's Advisory Committees
- *Vancouver's Vital Signs* Advisory Group members
- Staff from the various civic organizations listed above; and
- Recent graduates of Leadership Vancouver.

### Vancouver's Vital Signs Sponsors

**Vancity**

**THE VANCOUVER SUN**  
SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST

# Vancouver's Vital Signs Project Team

## Vancouver Foundation

*Vancouver's Vital Signs* involved members of Vancouver Foundation's Board, Advisory Committees and staff.

**Project Director** Barbara Grantham  
**Project Manager** Judy Baldwin  
**Communications** John Morton, Andrea Majoroki

## Research by Ipsos Reid

## Design by Malahat Group

## Vancouver Foundation Board

Gerald McGavin, CM, OBC, FCA, Chair  
Chief Justice Donald Brenner, Vice-Chair  
David Black  
Ursula Botz  
John Dustan  
Robert Fairweather  
Dr. Vera Frinton  
John C. Kerr, CM, OBC, LL.D  
Diana Maughan  
Derral Moriyama  
Floyd Murphy, CLU, CH.F.C  
Madame Justice Lynn Smith  
Faye Wightman, President & CEO

# About Vancouver Foundation

In the 1940's, Vancouverite Alice MacKay left \$1,000 in her will to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens. Through her generosity, this visionary woman inspired W.J. VanDusen and other community leaders of the day and, in the process, sparked one of Canada's greatest philanthropic success stories.

More than 60 years have passed since then and Vancouver Foundation has grown to become the largest community foundation in Canada. Thousands of donors from all walks of life have entrusted their charitable

dreams to Vancouver Foundation. Guided by expert advisors, interest from donor gifts is distributed to hundreds of non-profit organizations each year. Important community initiatives ranging from medical research to salmon habitat restoration, from youth-driven projects to crisis centres benefit from their funding.

Today, Vancouver Foundation continues to draw inspiration from our founders' vision as we work to make positive, lasting impacts in communities across British Columbia.

# Building on Vancouver's Vital Signs Project

*Vancouver's Vital Signs* is a new endeavour for Vancouver Foundation as a philanthropic leader. The process of developing *Vital Signs* has, for us, forged new relationships and deepened our understanding and knowledge of community issues. It enhances the unique role Vancouver Foundation can play as a knowledge resource in this community — for donors, government, other funders, agencies and the non-profit sector, as well as the community at large. Equally important, *Vancouver's Vital Signs* provides the entire community with access to this knowledge.

With this first edition of *Vancouver's Vital Signs*, we have decided to "start small" and evaluate our

experience before considerations are given to broadening our scope. This considerable undertaking is a reflection of our first, best effort.

*Vancouver's Vital Signs* will inform and guide our own work as a funder, partner, convenor, innovator and leader in the months ahead. It provides an important tool for us to engage donors (and potential donors), given the "vital" information it provides about community issues, priorities and needs. We plan to engage community and civic organizations in dialogue and discussion about the findings outlined here, and how at least some of these issues can be addressed in order to improve the quality of life for us all.



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## **Vancouver Foundation, 2016**

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