

CENTRAL OKANAGAN'S

VitalSigns[®]

2011



— CENTRAL OKANAGAN —
FOUNDATION
empowering generations to give.

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CENTRAL OKANAGAN'S

VitalSigns®

We are pleased to share the 2011 Central Okanagan's VitalSigns® report. Vital Signs® is a program of Community Foundations of Canada. As part of our leadership role, community foundations across our country strive to be community catalysts committed to growing legacies and enhancing the quality of life in our communities.

In this, our second VitalSigns® report, we look forward to building community knowledge and promoting awareness about our community's strengths through the publication of scientifically valid and credible data, as well as by measuring the perceptions of community members throughout our region. Through this awareness our foundation, our donors and other funders have developed a deeper understanding of the many issues facing our community, as well as the tremendous strengths of our community. This in turn helps guide the work of charitable organizations, generate discussions, inform policy change, focus community leadership activities, and encourage philanthropy in the Central Okanagan.

We hope you enjoy our 2011 Central Okanagan VitalSigns® report and that it encourages you to take action at whatever level you can. Alone we can go fast... but together we can go far.

Central Okanagan Foundation

The Central Okanagan Foundation is a public foundation created by and for the people of our community. We work with private donors, service clubs, businesses, and charitable organizations to stimulate charitable giving, establish permanent endowment funds, and support initiatives that make an ongoing difference in our community and beyond.

For more information about the Central Okanagan Foundation or the Central Okanagan VitalSigns® report go to, www.centralokanaganfoundation.org

Methodology

Collecting the Data

Data was collected from a variety of national, provincial and local sources. This ensures the indicators are accurate and comprehensive. Data was provided by SPARC BC (Social Planning and Research Council of BC) as well as Community Foundations of Canada, who retained the Center for the Study of Living Standards to undertake national research, and provide additional expertise. The sources and links are included in the online version of this VitalSigns® report.

Community Opinionnaire

Thank you to the many Central Okanagan residents who took the time to participate in our opinionnaire. Hundreds of Central Okanagan residents signed up to be graders, assigning grades to the 11 key issue areas. The community grading is a nonscientific voluntary way to participate in VitalSigns® by expressing opinions and establishing priorities for action.

Grading

The issue areas used in the Central Okanagan VitalSigns® report have been graded using a report card scale of A, B,C,D, and F.

A: Very good: stay the course

B: Good: but some improvements could be made

C: Fair: Suggest additional effort be made

D: Poor: Substantial additional work is required

F: Fail: immediate action is crucial

How you can use VitalSigns®

READ: Find out about our community by reading VitalSigns®. See where the gaps are, what assets we have and identify the trends.

DISCUSS: Reading the report is the first step, but we can't keep the knowledge to ourselves. Talk about the issues that are most important to you with your neighbours, co-workers, family and friends.

LEARN: Pick out the issues in the report that you feel strongest about and learn more. Research on the internet, call local agencies, and take the time to understand as much of the issues as possible.

REFLECT: No asset or issue exists in isolation; all have an impact on each other. Your support of an issue creates new possibilities throughout our community.

ACT: Advocate, initiate, and participate. There are plenty of things we can do in our own lives to affect change, and plenty more that we can do and/or speak up about. Here, in this report, you will find small, tangible things that we all can do as individuals and families to make a difference.

SHARE: Help spread the word. Give a copy of **Central Okanagan's Vital Signs®** to your neighbours and help them get involved.

A Canadian Initiative with an Okanagan Focus

In 2009 when our first VitalSigns® Report was released it was greeted with both enthusiasm and optimism. Seeing our second report come together in 2011 has been a source of pride and continued commitment to becoming catalysts for change. How better to focus our efforts and create dialogue than to constantly ask ourselves where are we now, and how far are we from where we want to be?

While we are privileged to live in one of the most beautiful places in the country, we still have challenges in many areas. In the coming years we look forward to moving the needle on some of our most pressing concerns, while recognizing the importance of identifying areas in which we are doing well and taking the time to celebrate our successes. Our thanks to our VitalSigns® Project Coordinator, Cheryl Miller and Assistant Project Coordinator, Jessica Goerzen and their team of volunteers for putting together a realistic and provocative snap shot of our community.

As you read through the second edition of Central Okanagan's VitalSigns® we hope you are motivated to learn, question, and even to take action.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Central Okanagan Foundation and all the not-for-profit groups, volunteers, and donors who make our community a better place to live... we hope you enjoy Vital Signs® 2011.

Leanne Hammond Komori, Executive Director

Louise Elliott, Board Chair





Learning

Opportunities to acquire knowledge are important throughout our lives. Levels of learning are shaped by our home environment, our education system, and other institutions such as libraries, child care facilities, workplaces and community centres.

Community Grade

B-

Community members report general satisfaction with the educational opportunities available in the Central Okanagan. The biggest barrier to accessing these opportunities is affordability. Community citizen graders also saw a need for more educational programs for at-risk youth.

45.0%

The proportion of grade 3 Aboriginal students at risk in terms of literacy in the Central Okanagan has declined by 45.0%. Rates dropped from 29.0% in 2008, to 20.0% in 2009 and 16.0% in 2010.

Source: School District 23, Superintendents Mid-Year Report on Achievement 2010/2011

Link:
<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/PDF/Superintendent's%20Report%20on%20Achievement%202010%20Final.pdf>

16.3%

In 2010, 16.3% of the Central Okanagan population (15 years and over) had not completed high school. This is 1.2% lower than the provincial average and 19.2% lower than the national average.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey by special request, program A050705.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/IV-3-a.pdf>

79

In 2010 Central Okanagan's score on the Composite Learning Index (CLI)* was 79. This was 5.3 % higher than the national average. The CLI* is Canada's annual measure of progress in lifelong learning.

Source: Canadian Council on Learning. CLI Scores, 2006-2010 by special request for CMAs and CAs

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/IV-4.pdf>

Did you know...

A safe, inspirational and relaxed learning environment is available to those 50 years and better at **SLR Society for Learning in Retirement** where Lifelong learning is the mainstay. A wide range of programs from book clubs, writers' groups, pottery, politics, travel, painting, photography, astronomy, geography, geology, and more are offered for a nominal fee in three terms from September to June. View the programs on the website at www.slrkelowna.ca

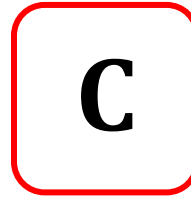
***CLI:** The CLI is Canada's annual measure of progress in lifelong learning. It is based on a combination of statistical indicators that reflect the many ways Canadians learn, whether in school, in the home, at work or within the community.

Getting Started

In thinking about the different transitions that we make through our lives, "getting started" can apply to different aspects of community life. This may include measures focusing on giving children and youth the best possible start in life, as well as creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for newcomers to our communities.

Community graders rated availability of affordable and accessible child care as the highest priority for Getting Started. The need for more after school programs for youth was also ranked high.

Community Grade



13.7%

In 2010, the youth (15-24 years old) unemployment rate in our CMA* was 13.7%. This was below the national rate of 14.8% and the provincial rate of 13.8%.

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. Special request.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/VI-4-b-i.pdf>

15.4%

Child care spaces increased 15.4% between 2008 and 2010. Availability grew from 3368 spaces in 2008 to 3886 spaces in 2010.

Source: Kelowna Childcare Society 2010/2011 Annual Report
Link: no link available

22.9%

In 2010, 22.9% of Central Okanagan children scored "vulnerable" on at least one scale of development on the EDI.** This rate is up compared to 20.0% in 2009, yet down from 27.0% in 2008.

Source: Early Development Instrument, School District 23, EDI Community Summary, 2010.

Link:
www.earlylearning.ubc.ca

3579

From 2001 to 2010, the Central Okanagan region gained 3579 people due to net international migration.*** In one year alone, between 2009 and 2010, we gained a total of 653 people due to net international migration.

Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Migration Estimates by Census Division/Census Metropolitan Area. Cansim Table 111-0029.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/VI-1-c.pdf>

How the Foundation is helping...

In direct response to the 2004/05-2006/07 EDI data in the 2009 VitalSigns® report **The Central Okanagan Foundation** joined with the **United Way's Success By 6** initiative to form a unique partnership of foundations, business and government to foster mutually beneficial funding partnerships for high impact early development projects in the Central Okanagan.

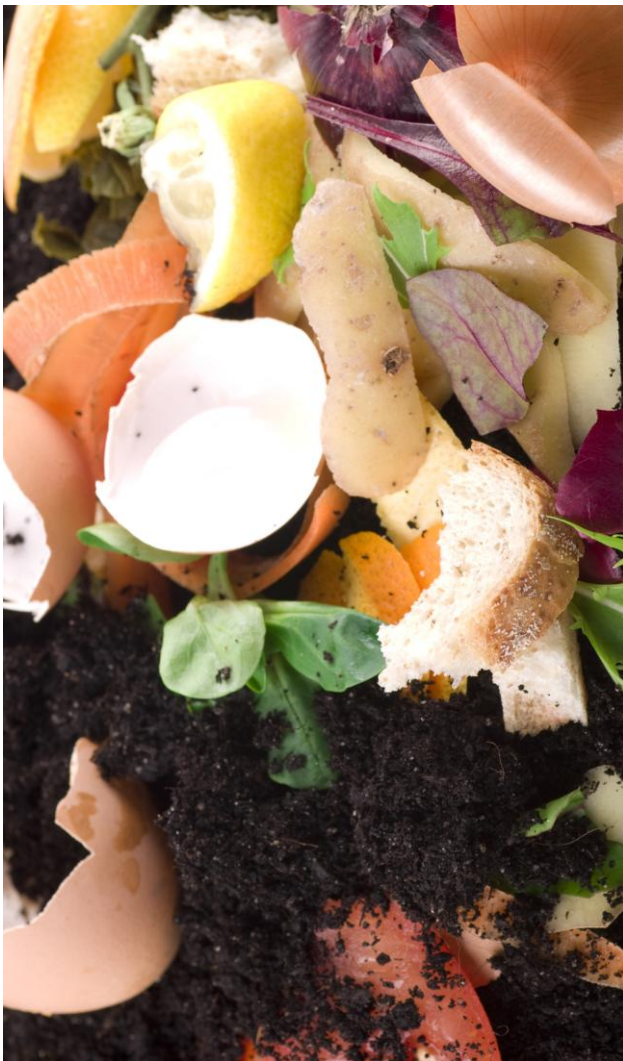
***Our CMA:** Refers to the Kelowna CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) which includes Kelowna, Lake Country, Peachland and West Kelowna

****EDI:** The Early Development Instrument (EDI) monitors the state of B.C children at kindergarten entry and gathers information on their development in five key areas including language, cognitive, social, emotional and physical health.

*****Net Migration:** Net migration rate is the difference of immigrants and emigrants of an area in a period of time.

Did You Know...

Okanagan College, School District No.23 and the Economic Development Commission are partnering again to organize the 17th Annual Young Entrepreneur Program (YEP) Dragon's Den Edition for 2011. The YEP has a proud tradition of developing young business professionals. The Young Entrepreneur Program creates an opportunity for middle school and secondary school student to develop their business and entrepreneur skills. For more information visit, <http://www.investkelowna.com>

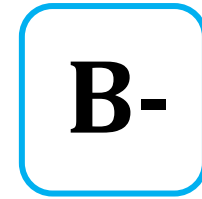


Environment

The Central Okanagan is known for its unique and sought after physical environment. In looking at the environment it is important to consider measures to help build resilience, as well as address issues related to climate change including measures which support conservation and adaptation.

The community grader discussion regarding the environment was focused on conserving the things that make the Central Okanagan beautiful. Community members expressed the importance to conserve our water as well as improve curbside recycling and implementing curbside compost pickup.

Community Grade



44.0%

In 2009, 44.0% of all households in the Central Okanagan reported composting their kitchen waste. This is higher than the provincial rate of 42.0%.

Source: Calculated by the CSLS using a micro-data file based on the Households and the Environment Survey (HES) by Statistics Canada.

Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/VIII-5.pdf>

50.0%

In 2011, 50.0% of all curbside waste (including recycling and yard waste) collected in the Central Okanagan was diverted from the landfill.

Source: Central Okanagan Regional District, Waste Reduction, Peter Rotheisler, personal communication, 2011

675

In 2010, the average amount of water that Okanagan residents use per person, per day is 675 liters. This is more than twice the Canadian average.

Source: Okanagan Basin Water Board, 2011

Link: <http://www.obwb.ca/wsd/water-usage/residential-water-use>

Did you know...

The most recent survey done by the **Regional District of Central Okanagan** found 37% of the residential garbage currently sent to the landfill is recyclable.

Source: Regional District of Central Okanagan, "Recycling: What to Recycle"

Link: http://www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/waste/waste_recy_bluebaq.aspx

How you can help...

Before heading to the garbage, consider if it is recyclable. Check out, www.regionaldistrict.com for a list of recyclable materials.

The BC SCRAP-IT® Program is a voluntary early retirement vehicle program that provides incentives to help British Columbians replace higher polluting vehicles with cleaner forms of transportation. The program is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to lower exhaust pollutants across the province. All scrapped vehicles and their components are permanently and properly recycled. For more information on this great initiative go to, www.scrapit.ca

Health & Wellness

One's general health status can play a role in one's overall sense of vitality and well-being. Health can include both physical and mental health as well as healthy lifestyle choices.

Central Okanagan community graders prioritized access to mental health services as the primary need in the "Health and Wellness" topic area. In addition, community members are concerned about access to affordable local foods.

Community Grade

B-

48.0%

In the Okanagan Health Service Delivery Area the obesity rate for the population aged 18 and over rose from 12.3% in 2009, to 18.2% in 2010. This mirrors the national rate of 18.1% but is significantly higher than the 2010 provincial rate of 13.3%

Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2005-2010 : CANSIM table 105-0501

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/III-3.pdf>

22.9%

In 2010, 22.9% of the population in the Okanagan Health Service Delivery Area (aged 12 and over) reported they experience "quite a lot of stress" on most days. This is up from 21.5% in 2009. It is also above the 2010 provincial level of 22.8% but below the national level of 23.5%.

Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), CANSIM table105-0501.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/III-14.pdf>

66.9%

In 2010, 66.9% respondents in the Okanagan Health Service Delivery Area rated their mental health as "excellent" or "very good." This is below the national rate of 73.9% and below the provincial rate of 71.6%.

Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), CANSIM table105-0501.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/III-7.pdf>

11.6%

In the Okanagan Health Service Delivery Area, 11.6% of respondents aged 12 and over in 2010 reported that they did not have a regular MD. This is well below the provincial and national numbers for respondents without a regular MD.

Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), CANSIM table105-0501.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/III-10.pdf>



How the Foundation is helping...

The **Central Okanagan Foundation** granted to the **John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan** to assist with the costs to build a garden at Bedford Place, a supportive recovery home for men.

Did you know...

In 2010, our local Substance Use Services with Community Integrated Services (Interior Health Authority) received 949 referrals and as of December 31, 2010 had 1520 clients currently receiving wellness services.

Did you know...

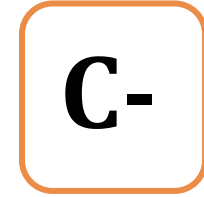
There are eleven community gardens in the Central Okanagan. The **Central Okanagan Foundation** has granted to the Michaelbrook and Winfield **Community Gardens**. Community gardens are a key element in making cities socially and environmentally sustainable. Community gardens contribute to the well-being of our community by stimulating social interaction, encouraging self-reliance, providing nutritious food, reducing family food budgets, reducing crime, preserving green space and creating an opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education.



Housing

Access to stable and affordable housing plays an important role in contributing to making our community vibrant, as well as in providing families and individuals with a sense of security and stability. Key housing related measures include affordability, equity and housing diversity, with access to affordable housing playing a central role in contributing to complete communities.

Community Grade



Community graders expressed strong concerns about affordability and access to housing in the Central Okanagan. More specifically, community members focused on the need for subsidized housing for women and the elderly.

110.3%

In 2010, the vacancy rate in our CMA was 3.9%, up from 3.6% in 2009. In 2011, the vacancy rate shot up to 8.2%, a 110.3% increase from 2010. These figures represent the rental vacancy rates for 2-bedroom rental townhouse and apartment units.

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, "Housing Market Information: Rental Market Statistics."
Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/V-3.pdf>

38

In 2010, Kelowna was ranked the 38th most expensive place to live world-wide. Other Canadian cities considered "severely unaffordable" were Vancouver rated 1, Victoria 8, Abbotsford 25 and Toronto 57. The five most affordable Canadian cities were Thunderbay and Windsor, ON, Moncton, NB, Saguenay, QC, and St. John, NL.

Source: 6th Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey: 2010
Link: <http://www.fcpp.org/publication.php/3153>

1489

In Kelowna there was an estimated 1489 individuals who met the hidden homeless criteria in 2011. Comparatively, Kamloops had an estimate of 1167 individuals who met the hidden homelessness criteria in 2011. Hidden homelessness refers to individuals who temporarily live with relatives, friends, neighbours or strangers and are "hidden" because they do not access homeless supports and services.

Source: SPARC BC, Hidden Homeless Survey "Knowledge for Action Research Report," 2011
Link: <http://www.sparc.bc.ca/resources-and-publications/category/45-affordable-housing-a-homelessness>

Did you know...

In 2010, twenty-six Central Okanagan supportive and recovery homes provided safe accommodation for 551 men & women seeking abstinence from alcohol and/or other drugs as well as healthier living. Twenty-six recovery homes, some of which include **Kelowna's Gospel Mission** recovery programs, **John Howard Society**, **Crossroads**, **NOW Canada**, **Karis**, **Freedom's Door**, **Ozanam** and **Teen Challenge**.

Did you know...

In 2011 two new apartment complexes opened offering affordable subsidized housing.

Apple Valley Senior's Housing, **Society of Hope** offers independent living for seniors 55 years and older. One half of the units rent at market rates, while the other half rent related to income. For more information go to, www.societyofhope.org

Tutt Street Place, **New Opportunities for Women (NOW) Canada** provides 39 larger family-type units of affordable, supportive housing for women, and women with children who are homeless, may be at risk of homelessness or who have a proven financial need. For more information go to, www.nowcanada.ca

Arts & Culture

The Central Okanagan recognizes the importance of Arts and Culture in crafting our unique identity, and ability to support tourism and economic development. While participation in the arts is high, the strength of the industry in terms of professional opportunities requires development.

Affordability is the top priority for accessing arts and cultural events. Secondly, community members would like to see our unique cultural heritage expressed in our public art and cultural events.

Community Grade

B-

43.0%

In 2010, 43.0% of people reported attending at least one theatrical performance in our CMA in the last year. In the same year, 13.0% attended at least one symphonic or classical music concert and 27.0% attended a cultural festival.

Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey on Time Use, 2010.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/VII-3.pdf>

10.5%

In 2010, there were 1700 employed in cultural industries compared to 1900 in 2009. This is a decrease of 10.5% of individuals employed in cultural industries in the Central Okanagan.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Special Request, program A060804.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/VII-2-b.pdf>

55.3%

Arts and Cultural groups in the Central Okanagan experienced a drop in provincial gaming grant support from \$513,733 in 2009 to \$229,832 in 2011. This represents a significant drop of 55.3% in support.

Source: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Gaming Information and Services, 2009, 2010, 2011

Link:
<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/reports/index.htm#six>



How the Foundation is helping...

The **Central Okanagan Foundation** granted the **Kelowna Ballet Society** for the "Falcon's Trumpet," a partnership and special initiative between Ballet Kelowna, Okanagan Symphony Orchestra and Creative Studies program at UBCO.

Did you know...

June 21st is National Aboriginal Day. Join the **Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society** in the Central Okanagan celebration featuring various activities for the entire family including native crafts for sale, live entertainment and traditional food.



Gap Between Rich & Poor

Our ability to be engaged in all aspects of community life is central to our overall quality of life and well-being in the Central Okanagan. This includes meaningful employment, the availability of secure work as well as a living wage. For some members of our community, these opportunities may be more constrained as some groups fall further behind.

Community Grade

D

Many community graders think that the gap between the rich and poor is growing. Central Okanagan community members expressed a need for a higher minimum wage, improved employment opportunities and affordable housing.

22.2%

Based on the LIM* the pre-tax child poverty rate in our CMA was 22.2% in 2009. This rate of child poverty is 11.5% lower than the provincial average of 25.1% and 4.3% lower than the national average of 23.2%.

Source: Small Area Administrative Data, (Tax Data), 2000-2009. (LIM)

Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/I-3-a.pdf>.

6.3%

Based on the LIM* the 2009 pre-tax elderly poverty rate in our CMA was 6.3%. This is roughly half the provincial and national rates of 12.2% and 12.9% respectively.

Source: Small Area Administrative Data, (Tax Data), 2000-2009. (LIM)

Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/I-4-a.pdf>.

2.0%

In 2009, the median annual income of families in our CMA was \$67,070. This was a decrease of 2.0% from \$68,430 in 2008 and 2.0% lower than the national level of \$68,410 and 0.6% higher than the provincial level of \$66,700.

Source: Statistics Canada, Provinces and CMA data from CANSIM Table 111-0009, based on tax data. CA data from Statistics Canada special request.

Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/XI-8-b.pdf>

17.9%

Based on the LIM* 17.9% of our CMA residents were living in poverty in 2009. This is lower than both the provincial poverty rate of 22.5% and national poverty rate of 21.5%.

Source: Small Area Administrative Data, (Tax Data), 2000-2009. (LIM)

Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/I-2-a.pdf>

Did you know...

British Columbia's minimum wage will increase in three stages to \$10.25 by May 1, 2012; the training wage was eliminated, providing more support for B.C workers and families in every region of the province.

***LIM:** The Low income Measures (LIMs) are published by Statistics Canada, and are based on family size and a percentage of median adjusted family income. Families with incomes below these levels are considered to be living in low income.

Did you know...

In 2011 the living wage for the Central Okanagan was calculated at \$16.98 per hour. Comparatively, the living wage for Kamloops is \$17.27 per hour, and \$18.03 in Victoria.

"The living wage is calculated for a two parent family with two children aged four and seven. Each parent would need to earn \$16.98 an hour to pay for necessities and support the healthy development of their children. It also allows them to participate in the social life of their community while allowing some funds to upgrade their training, skills and education."

-Christene Walsh, Social Development Coordinator at Regional District of Central Okanagan

Safety

How safe we feel in our community can affect our overall quality of life. One's sense of safety and security can be influenced by many different factors. Building a strong sense of safety and security is central to our success in creating a strong, vibrant and livable community.

The main safety concerns for our community graders in the Central Okanagan are drug related and organized crime. Enforcement of traffic laws also scored high.

Community Grade

B-

8.9%

In 2010, there was an 8.9% increase in persons charged with Criminal Code traffic violations. Rates went from 593 per 100 000 in 2009, to 646 per 100 000 in 2010. 57.5% above the national average (410 per 100 000) and 44.6% higher than the provincial rate. (447 per 100 000)

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Cansim Table 252-0051

Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt/2011/II-3.pdf>.

1701

In 2010, there were 1701 reported cases of violence in relationships in our CMA an increase from 1537 reported cases in 2009. In 2010, Statistics Canada took a one-day snapshot of women's shelters across Canada and found that 60.0% of women chose not to tell police about their abuse.

Source: a) Personal communication with Corporal Amanda Jones, RCMP, 2011 b) The Vancouver Sun, "Most women who seek shelter from partners don't tell police: StatsCan" 2011

Link: <http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Most+women+seek+shelter+from+partner+s+tell+police+StatsCan/5068734/story.html>

8.4%

In 2010, the overall crime rate in the Central Okanagan was 101.9 offenders per 1000 persons, down 8.4% from 111.2 offenders per 1000 persons in 2009.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Cansim Table 252-0051

9.3%

In 2009, 873 drug crimes were reported within the Central Okanagan, a 9.0% decrease (-90 offences) from the 963 reported in 2008.

Source: Central Okanagan Regional Profile 2009
Link: http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/police_services/regionalprofiles/docs/centralokanagan.pdf



How the Foundation is helping...

The **Central Okanagan Foundation** granted to the **Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society** Sexual Assault Counselling Centre for costs associated with the "Beginnings for Women" program. The program was developed with the overall goal of restoring security and quality of life for women who have experienced sexual abuse.

Did you know...

The **Kelowna and District Safety Council Society** promotes safety awareness and accident prevention within Kelowna and the surrounding communities. The Society educates the public about a variety of safety issues and cooperates with other like-minded organizations in an effort to reduce accidents and injuries. For more information, visit www.kdsc.bc.ca

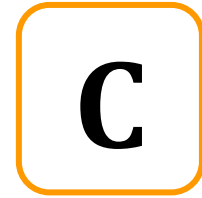


Getting Around

The ability to get around is central to our quality of life. It impacts our work, the flow of goods, and the experiences of tourists visiting our area. Our chosen modes of transportation also have a significant impact on the environment.

Generally community graders of the Central Okanagan are excited about the creation of more bike paths, making us a more sustainable and healthy community! There were concerns that our public transit system is not affordable for low-income families.

Community Grade



90.0%

There is concern about growing congestion with over 120, 000 registered vehicles in the Central Okanagan. In 2007, 90.0% of our CMA residents commuted to work by car.

Source: RDCO, Regional Growth Strategy Background and Issues Report, May 2011

Link: Currently not online

4.4%

On an average weekday from September to December in 2010, there were approximately 16, 053 riders on Kelowna Regional Transit (includes Kelowna, West Kelowna and Lake Country). This is a 4.4% increase from September to December in 2009 (15,382).

Source: Personal communication with Gerald Benjamin, Monitoring Analyst, BC Transit. 2011

1384

Over 1300 cyclists took part in Bike to Work week in 2011. The total amount of Kilometers travelled throughout Bike to Work week in the Central Okanagan was 61 008.87 Km.

Source: Kelowna and Central Okanagan Bike to Work Week, Bike to Work Week 2011: May 30 – June 5 2011

Link: <http://www.biketowork.ca/node/8323/results>

How the Foundation is helping...

The **Central Okanagan Foundation** granted The **UBC Design Centre for Sustainability** for a project to support the District of Peachland in their goal of engaging the community in generating a sustainable concept plan for Downtown Peachland. The plan integrated a full spectrum of sustainability issues, including: health, heritage, culture, youth, elders, and environment (including public transit).

Did you know...

RapidBus phases 2 and 3 are currently underway in the Central Okanagan. Enhancements include: the extension of RapidBus to West Kelowna, new or upgraded exchanges at Rutland, Pandosy TownCentre, Downtown Kelowna and two in West Kelowna. Also, six new RapidBus stations in West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation

Family Travel...

Youth aged 12 and younger ride FREE anytime when travelling with their parent or guardian, who is 19 years or older. Up to four youth can travel with one adult. The adult simply pays the fare using a monthly pass, DayPASS, ProPASS, U-PASS or BC Bus Pass.

Belonging & Leadership

Belonging and leadership refers to the types of relationships that exist between people in their community that contribute to a sense of trust, collaboration and inclusion and that help to build a strong sense of belonging in our community.

Community graders commented that there is a need to strengthen our community's cohesion. Graders commented on the need for more inclusive services for newcomers, persons with disabilities and engaging youth to vote.

Community Grade

C+

60.3%

The voter turnout in the Central Okanagan for the 2011 Federal Election was 60.3% of the population. This is 2.6% higher than the turnout to the 2008 Federal election.

Source: Elections Canada, 2008 and 2011

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/X-3.pdf>

73.1%

In 2010, in the Okanagan Health Service Delivery Area, 73.1% of people 12 years and over reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. This is higher than the 2009 level of 66.5%. It is also higher than the national average of 65.4% and the provincial average of 69.7%.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), Cansim Table 105-0501.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/X-5.pdf>

46.0%

46.0% of the Canadian population, 15 and over volunteered for charitable and nonprofit organizations in 2007. This is almost 12.7 million Canadians.

Source: Statistics Canada, "Caring Canadian, Involved Canadians," 2007

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/X-2.pdf>

22.0%

In 2009, 22.0% of tax filers declared charitable donations in our CMA. This is lower than in 2008 (23.7%). It is also lower than the national average of 23.1% but above the provincial average of 21.7%.

Source: Statistics Canada. Cansim Table 111-0001. CA data obtained by special request.

Link:
<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/X-1.pdf>



How the Foundation is helping...

Recognizing the need for both volunteer support and reliable funding within the not for profit sector, the **Central Okanagan Foundation** is an annual funder of the **Okanagan Volunteer Opportunities Fair** coordinated by the Community Information and Volunteer Centre, a program of Kelowna Community Resources, <http://www.kcr.ca/>

Did you know...

There are a variety of organizations that offer services and programs to out of country newcomers including specialized employment services, translations, advocacy, special events, English lessons, and support with general integration to our Canadian Culture. For a list of available resources contact **Kelowna Community Resources** at 250.763.8008 or visit <http://www.kelowna.ciocc.ca/>

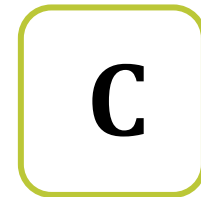
Work

The quality and nature of employment opportunities can contribute to the overall sense of vitality and well-being in our community. The measures and indicators set out in this section can refer to the extent to which individuals in your community have access to meaningful employment opportunities that can contribute to a high quality of life as well as the quality and nature of the work.



The main theme identified in the community graders comments about “Work” was a need for expanding employment opportunities in the Central Okanagan.

Community Grade



64.4%

The employment rate in our CMA in 2010 was 64.4%. This was 2.8% higher than the national rate of 61.6% and 3.9% higher than the provincial rate of 60.5%.

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. Monthly data: Cansim tables 282-0116 (CMA data) and 282-0054

Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/IX-1-a-i.pdf>

1.6%

The proportion of total workers that were involuntary part-time in our Kelowna CMA was 1.6% in 2010. The proportion is below both the national and provincial averages.

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey programme A050921, special request.

Link: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/rpt2011/IX-5.pdf>

1,027,400

The projected job openings in British Columbia over the next 10 years is 1,027,400 . Close to two-thirds of job openings (676,400) will be due to replacement demand as a result of retiring workers and deaths.

Source: BC Labour Market Outlook, 2010-2011

Link: <http://www.workbc.ca/docs/BCLMOutlook.pdf>

Did you know...

Volunteerism plays an essential role in our community both in terms of performing unpaid work as well as giving people a sense of belonging and social cohesion. A total of 12.5 million Canadians or 46.1% of the population aged 15 and over volunteered almost 2.1 billion hours in 2007- the equivalent of 1.1 million full-time jobs. The average number of volunteer hours per person was 166. According to CSGVP, fewer British Columbians (46.6%) volunteer than most provinces. More specifically, the Central Okanagan volunteer on average spends 72 hours per year volunteering.

Source: Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), Kelowna Community Resources, “The Growing Impact of the Nonprofit Sector: A Report for the Central Okanagan.”

Link: http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/files/giving/en/csgvp_highlights_2007.pdf

Acknowledgements

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The Bridge Youth and Family Services

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District of Lake Country

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VitalSigns®

VitalSigns® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and shares opportunities for action in at least ten areas critical to quality of life. *VitalSigns®* is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.



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