

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## BUILDING VITAL COMMUNITIES

A vital community is one where everyone has opportunities to feel they belong. When we feel we belong, we're more likely to take on responsibility, participate in problem-solving, and build strong social networks. This is why **Sense of Belonging** was chosen as this year's national theme for Vital Signs.

Together we can build a community where we all have a stake, where we all have a voice, and where we all belong.



## REFUGEES

**Refugee:** A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

### SYRIAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE SETTLED IN LETHBRIDGE FROM APRIL 1, 2015 TO MARCH 31, 2016:

● Male: **104** ● Female: **88** ● Adults: **80** ● Children: **112**

LOCAL	GLOBAL
<p><b>822</b> Clients served by Lethbridge Family Services in 2015/16</p> <p><b>703</b> of these were refugees</p> <p><b>Top 3 Countries of Origin:</b></p> <p>1 <b>BHUTAN</b> (267) 2 <b>SYRIA</b> (183) 3 <b>NEPAL</b> (114)</p>	<p><b>65 million</b> people displaced in 2015</p> <p>This is a <b>10%</b> increase from 2014</p>



00:01

**24** People displaced per minute in 2015

## WHAT IS VITAL SIGNS?

Vital Signs is an annual community check-up in six key areas and is an important part of our work. It allows us to present important topics in southwestern Alberta and to support the charities working in those areas.



## WOMEN AND THE VOTE

2016 celebrates **100 years of women's right to vote** in Alberta. Voting is one of the most fundamental aspects of civic engagement.

**APRIL 19, 1916** Albertan women win the right to vote!



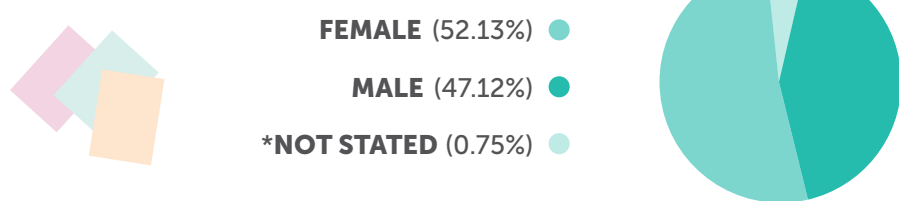
### DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta was the 3rd province to gain suffrage, after Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

● In Alberta, women generally vote **3 to 4%** more than men.

### Voter Participation in Southwestern Alberta Electoral Divisions

2015 Provincial General Election:



## HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS



### GRANT GIVEN TO

Lethbridge Family Services - Immigrant Services

### USED FOR

Housing, bikes, and shoes for Syrian refugee families

Receiving a bike has made me feel welcome and has made getting around the city more convenient. Instead of having to wait for a bus I can now just cycle to the places I need to go and get things done a lot faster. I have been able to use the bike to explore beautiful places around Lethbridge that I would not normally have access to. The bike gives me freedom!

**-Muhammed Masini, Syrian refugee**



## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS)

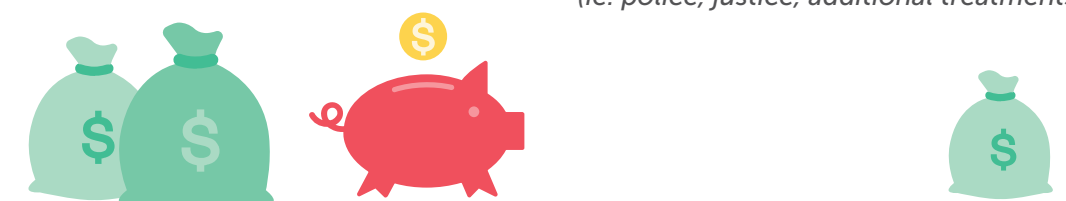
What is FCSS? It was established to develop, support, and fund preventive social services.

### SOUTHWESTERN ALBERTA FCSS PROGRAMS:

- Barons-Eureka-Warner
- Cardston
- Cowley
- Crowsnest Pass
- Fort Macleod
- Granum
- Lethbridge
- Magrath
- Pincher Creek (M.D.)
- Pincher Creek (Town)

- **80/20:** FCSS is funded through a partnership between the Government of Alberta (80%) and local municipalities/Métis settlements (20%).
- **99%** of Alberta's population is reached by FCSS. Less than **3,750** Albertans reside in a community that does not have access to these services.

**\$1** In preventive services = **\$7** Return in avoided costs  
(ie. police, justice, additional treatments)



# LIVING STANDARDS

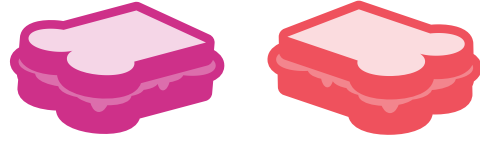
## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

### Streets Alive Mission

Streets Alive Mission runs 13 supportive programs for marginalized populations and low income or homeless individuals.

TWO OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE:

#### 1 Takin' it to the Streets



A bus that provides sandwiches, coffee, and other food.

**22,905** Sandwiches distributed (January 1 - July 31, 2016)

50,000 sandwiches were handed out in 2015

#### 2 P.I.N. (Persons in Need) Bank

Gently used clothing and small household items are provided free of cost to people in need.

**31** Average number of people served daily

9,296 items given in 2015



### Social Housing in Action (SHIA)

An initiative of the City of Lethbridge that works with many community organizations and partners to "Bring Lethbridge Home." In 2015-16 their coordinated efforts housed 152 individuals.

Individuals who were housed in 2015-16 reported that their day-to-day life was impacted by one or more significant issue or condition:

- **11.2%** reported living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- **18.4%** reported being released from a correctional facility
- **8.6%** reported being released from a mental health facility
- **9.2%** reported being released from a health facility
- **11.2%** reported being released from a residential treatment facility

## FOOD BANKS

Food bank usage was up marginally across Canada in 2015, but the picture in Alberta was a stark contrast, with an increase of more than **23%** over 2014. According to national HungerCount statistics, Alberta experienced the highest jump nationally with a record **67,443** people accessing a food bank during the month of March. The national increase in food bank use was just **1.3%**.



### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, 16 food banks in southwestern Alberta served:

**5,049**  
People  
(up 14% from 2014)

**40%**  
Of those were Youth

### 2015 Regional Food Bank Statistics

A snapshot of some of the food banks within our region:

LOCATION	HAMPERS	TO ADULTS	TO CHILDREN
Claresholm	1,000	800	200
Coaldale	506	Not Available	555
Lethbridge	7,046	10,078	6,513
Interfaith	7,531	10,590	7,635
Nanton	374	122	59
Pincher Creek	Not Available	1,791	1,639
Taber	2,075	3,768	2,291
Vauxhall	37	71	82
Vulcan	268	489	273

### YWCA: Hidden Treasures

Hidden Treasures is a YWCA program that provides gently used clothing and household items for women once they are ready to leave the shelter. (The number of women helped is limited to the number of donations that the program receives.)

**688** Women helped (April 2014 to March 2015)

**579** Women helped (April 2015 to March 2016)



### Project Connect

Project Connect is a biannual event hosted by the City of Lethbridge and Social Housing in Action to help end homelessness by providing free services and supports to those in need. Services available range from hair-cuts to health care and counselling to housing support.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED GUESTS PER SEASON FOLLOWING THE 2009 LAUNCH OF PROJECT CONNECT:



Spring 2009	136	Spring 2012	217
Fall 2009	208	Fall 2012	281
Spring 2010	275	Fall 2013	254
Fall 2010	288	Fall 2014	357
Spring 2011	220	Spring 2015	244
Fall 2011	254	Fall 2015	390
		Spring 2016	341



### DID YOU KNOW?

Project Connect collectively has 200 volunteers, agencies, and sponsors each year.

### Ready, Set, Go Fair

A program that helps kids in need get ready for school. Community agencies and service providers offer everything from haircuts and family photos to running shoes and backpacks stocked with school supplies.

LETHBRIDGE: Invitation Only

**400**  
Total invites issued in 2013

**1,160**  
Total invites issued in 2015

**750**  
Total invites issued in 2014

**1,150**  
Total invites issued in 2016

FORT MACLEOD: No Invitation Necessary

Children and families participating from 2013 - 2016

- 450 in 2013
- 500 in 2014
- 600 in 2015
- 600 in 2016



## HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

**GRANT GIVEN TO**  
Lethbridge Food Bank  
**USED FOR**  
Major Renovation Project

The much needed renovations at the food bank allows for multiple service counters, which makes coming in better because it is more discreet and now there is privacy.

-Lethbridge Food Bank client



# WOMEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Alberta has the highest rates of interpersonal violence of any province in Canada. In the last five years, nearly **75,000** Albertans have reported violence by a spouse or partner.

## 1 Harbour House (Lethbridge)

### ADMISSIONS:

- 596 women and children from 2015 – 2016
- 4,475 women and children from 2009 – 2016



### NOT ENOUGH BEDS:

- 1,949 women and children were turned away in 2015
- 1,218 women and children were turned away in 2014



## 2 Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter

### ADMISSIONS:

- 103 women and 82 children from 2014 – 2015



### DID YOU KNOW?

Lack of shelter space is a serious issue. On one day last year 234 Canadian women's shelters had to turn away 305 women and children, nearly three-quarters of those seeking shelter that day.



## 3 Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge

### ADMISSIONS:

- 184 women and 224 children in 2015
- The number for children is up from 90 in 2014



### DID YOU KNOW?

The 2016 federal budget promised \$89.9 million over two years to create or renovate 3,000 spaces across Canada.



## 4 Safe Haven Women's Shelter (Taber)

### ADMISSIONS:

- 139 women and 84 children in 2013
- 180 women and 127 children in 2014
- 204 women and 131 children in 2015



### NOT ENOUGH BEDS:

- 107 women and 25 children were turned away in 2013
- 107 women and 52 children were turned away in 2014
- 97 women and 94 children were turned away in 2015



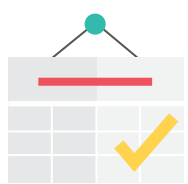
# RURAL TRANSPORTATION

## Pincher Creek Care Bears Society

The Pincher Creek Care Bears Society is a non-profit group that is funded by the Town and MD of Pincher Creek and by public donations. The Society provides transportation for passengers to Calgary and Lethbridge for medical appointments.

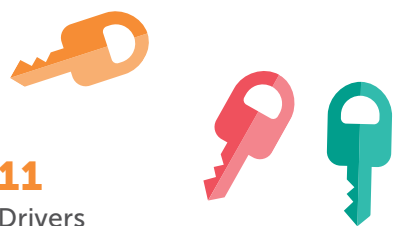
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Years in operation



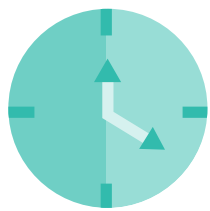
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Drivers



3,065

Volunteer Hours



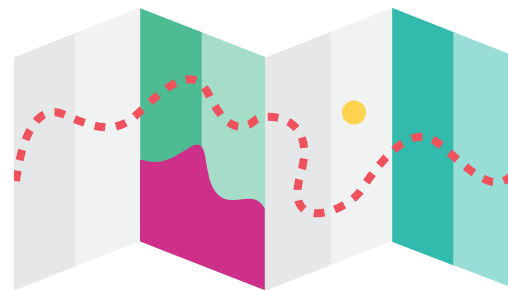
326

Out of town trips



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Pincher Creek Care Bears Society has funded the transportation of people with medical needs a total distance of 80,853km.



## HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

### GRANT GIVEN TO

Claresholm and District Transportation Society

### USED FOR

Van for service expansion into Vulcan area



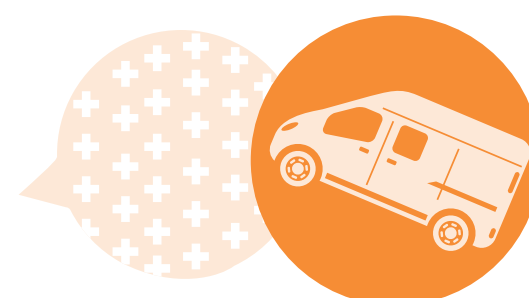
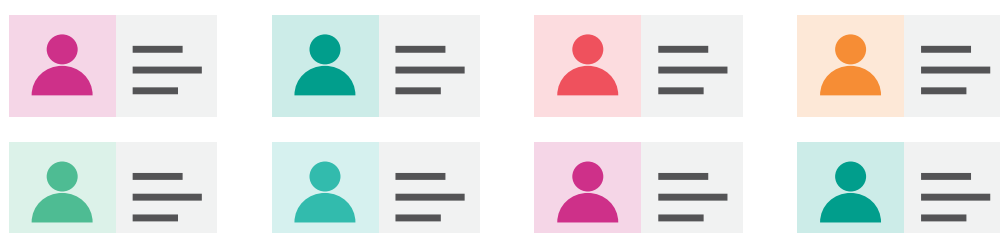
Being a single senior and not having any family nearby, the service and kindness the society provides is outstanding. Anyone who is lying in a hospital bed and contemplating how they are going to get to a medical appointment is experiencing a frightening/daunting task! You are not only physically injured, you are emotionally fragile. Having used the services of the Transportation Society some eight times, I have always been the recipient of prompt and courteous service.

-Claresholm and District Transportation Society passenger

## Claresholm and District Transportation Society

The Claresholm and District Transportation Society provides affordable and accessible transportation for seniors and those with disabilities. In January 2015, it expanded service to include Vulcan, making 100 trips in the first 12 months and averaging 10 trips a month in 2016.

8 Paid drivers and their vehicles help transport those in need



# ENVIRONMENT

## BEES

What's all the buzz about? Bees provide an essential ecosystem service by pollinating crops, gardens, and wildflowers.

Two bee species are used to pollinate hybrid canola seed production fields in southwestern Alberta:






- 1 EUROPEAN HONEY BEE** 
- 2 ALFALFA LEAF CUTTING BEE** 

**300** Different kinds of bees can be found in Alberta  
(109 of which occur in southwestern Alberta)



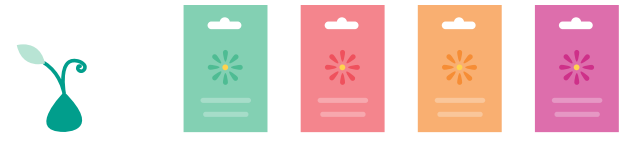
Every year, roughly **70,000** honey bee colonies are transported within and into our region, making it the largest pollination market in Canada.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Within Alberta, there are nearly **300,000** honey bee colonies – over 40% of the colonies in Canada.

- 1 OUT OF 3** Bites of food that we eat is made possible by pollinators like honey bees 
- 80,000** Kilometers a hive of honey bees travel for one pound of honey 
- 225,000** Approximate number of flowers visited by one hive each day 
- 12,000** Beats per minute of each of the honey bee's four wings 
- 24** Km/h flight speed of an average honey bee 

## Buzzing Gardens

A partnership formed to support honey bee health by making sure that hives all over Canada are within flying distance to a wide variety of flowers. The program provides you with everything you need to plant your own pollinator garden.



**35,000** Seed packets distributed in the first year of the program  
(Enough to plant 175,000 square feet of pollinator-friendly gardens)

SIGN UP FOR YOUR PACKET AT [BEESMATTER.CA](http://BEESMATTER.CA)

## EMISSIONS



An operating vehicle emits a range of gases from its tailpipe into the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>), the principal greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

### ONE SMALL CHANGE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

If Canadian motorists avoided idling for just three minutes every day of the year, CO<sup>2</sup> emissions could be reduced by **1.4 million tonnes** annually. This would be equal to saving **630 million litres** of fuel and equivalent to taking **320,000 cars** off of the road for the entire year.

### TRANSPORT CO<sup>2</sup> EMISSIONS PER 1,000 KM:

- **Large Car/Truck** = 85.8 kg (with 3 people)
- **Small Car** = 42.5 kg (with 3 people)
- **Hybrid Car** (eg. Toyota Prius) = 25 kg (with 3 people)
- **Bus** = 30 kg
- **Bike** = 0 kg
- **Walking** = 0 kg



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
There are over 83km of bikable trails in the Crowsnest Pass. Hop on your bike and enjoy the ride!

# LIFELONG LEARNING

## HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

- Alberta consistently ranks among the lowest high school completion rates in the country.

**\$1.3 BILLION**  
The annual cost of high-school dropouts to Canada's social and criminal justice systems

### 2014/2015 HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE IN ALBERTA

**76.5%** 

## Students Participating Actively in Realizing Connections (SPARC)

This initiative gives students ages **17 to 20** in the six southwestern Alberta school divisions opportunities to explore future career pathways. It is run in partnership with the Chinook Regional Foundation for Career Transitions and 5th on 5th Youth Services.



### THE PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN EARLY 2016:

- Served 100 youth with individualized training, educational, experiential, and employment opportunities.
- Hopes to help a minimum of 200 additional students over the next two years.



## HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

**GRANT GIVEN TO**  
Chinook Regional Foundation for Career Transitions and 5th on 5th Youth Services

**USED FOR**  
Students Participating Actively in Realizing Connections (SPARC) Program

I have really enjoyed all of the help from all of the staff. This program has helped me with my confidence and to know what I want to do for a career.  
**-Jason D., SPARC Student**

Project SPARC is offering our youth a sense of hope that they too will enjoy the many benefits that come from purposefully building a career and a life.  
**-Judy Stolk-Ingram, Executive Director, Chinook Regional Foundation for Career Transitions**



## WATER

No matter where you are in the world, water is one of our most precious resources. In southwestern Alberta, nearly all water comes from the **Oldman Watershed**. By taking measures to maintain the health of our watershed, everyone in our region benefits.

### Wheels out of Water

Motorized recreation is a popular pastime for many outdoor enthusiasts. However, by not travelling with the environment in mind, motorized vehicles can cause significant lasting damage to the landscape, including:

- Loss of vegetation
- Soil compaction, contamination, and erosion
- Transfer of weeds
- Water contamination
- Start of a wildfire
- Wildlife disruption

### 2015 STUDY: ALBERTAN'S VALUES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD RECREATION AND WILDERNESS

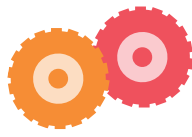
**76%**

Participated in some sort of outdoor recreation last year



**6%**

Used off-road motorized vehicles



**86%**

Preferred non-motorized outdoor recreation over motorized



**88.4%**

Felt it was important that more land be set aside and left as wilderness where human activities are minimal

(6.4% did not feel it was important)



### Engaging Recreationists



A project led by Oldman Watershed Council designed to reduce threats to our headwaters through engaging and educating Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) users and campers.



**1,300**

OHV Users engaged in face-to-face conversation about watershed health

## HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS



### GRANT GIVEN TO

Oldman Watershed Council (OWC)

### USED FOR

Watershed Educational Videos

The great achievement of the film project is people finding common ground in a shared need and value: clean, clear, plentiful drinking water for generations to come.

-Shannon Frank, Executive Director, OWC



### Prairie Urban Gardens

Water usage within Lethbridge increases by up to **50%** in the summer due to lawn-watering. Sprinklers use **1,000 litres** of water per hour!



### DID YOU KNOW?

Xeriscaping is a landscaping method that utilizes native and drought-tolerant plants, combined with water-conserving techniques, mulch, and efficient irrigation.

A xeriscape demonstration garden was planted in Fort Macleod's Centennial Park in 2015.



### WHAT'S THE BENEFIT?

Prairie Urban Gardens use less water and little to no pesticides and fertilizers. This protects water quality.

**8,200**

Amount of water (in litres) houses with xeriscaping save annually

## INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Often people with disabilities are less connected through naturally formed relationships than they are with people who are paid to be in their life, such as staff and support agencies.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Natural supports are the support and assistance that naturally flows from relationships developed in ordinary environments, such as family, school, work, and community. These supports enhance the quality and security of life for people with disabilities and lessen the reliance on formally funded services.

### 1 Lethbridge Association for Community Living (LACL)

**220**

Individuals/Families served annually



#### Beyond Graduation Program (Began 2009): Over 250 families helped

Helps families envision what a good life could look like for their loved one with a developmental disability after high school. Families come away with tools and a workbook clearly defining six steps to planning the future of their family member.

#### Family Managed Resource Centre (Began 2013): Approximately 50 to 60 families helped

FMRC connects families to the formal and informal supports needed for their loved one. It allows families to advertise through a database for home and community support assistance, enhancing compatibility of these supports.

### 2 McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association

**OVER 1,000**

Individuals served annually



#### Youth HUB (Began 2014): 484 successful intakes since January 2015

Assists youth ages 13 to 24 in accessing the resources needed to secure housing.

#### Transition to Independence Program (Began 2014): Supplies housing for 40 youth at a time

In collaboration with Child and Family Services, TIP supports youth ages 16 to 24 in transitioning to independent living. Support is provided for a minimum of one year with the goal of the youth gaining the skills and community connections to maintain their tenancy independently.

### 3 Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association (SAIPA)

**1,300**

Individuals served annually



#### Workshops (Began 2001): Accessed 672 times Jan 1 – July 31, 2016

Workshops focus on development of independence, as well as life and self-determination skills. These workshops are offered throughout the year and include: Healthy Relationships, Self-Esteem, Risk Taking, Rights, and more.

#### South Region Self-Advocacy Network (Began 2001): Accessed 542 times from Jan 1 – July 31, 2016

Provides support to a group of self-advocates who work for community change, equal opportunities, and inclusion to benefit those that are marginalized, stigmatized, or excluded. Some of these efforts include: initiatives around inclusive university programming, community based dance groups for all abilities, social change through art, and political advocacy.

## HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS



### GRANT GIVEN TO

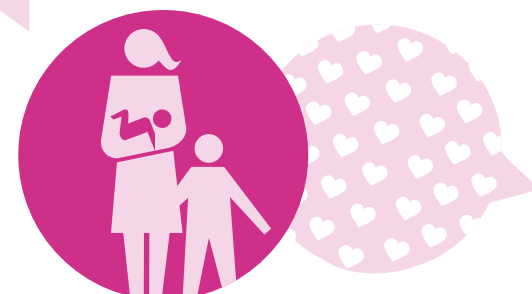
Lethbridge Association for Community Living (LACL)

### USED FOR

Family Managed Resource Centre

The resources in the centre helped us customize our supports for our son and helped us to plan a good life for him. They also help us support our plan and to capitalize on opportunities, both planned and spontaneous.

-Parent of a young man with a developmental disability

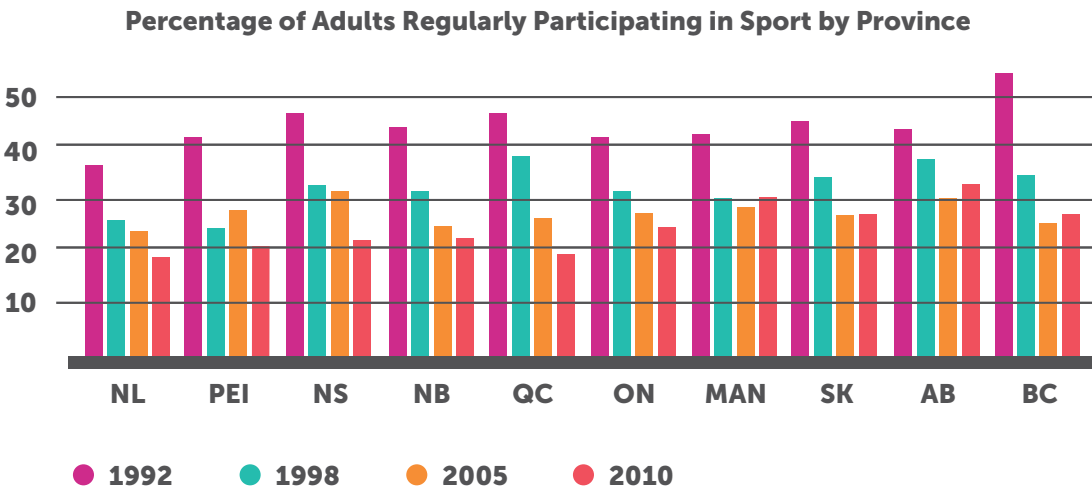


# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## PHYSICAL HEALTH

### Sport and Belonging in Canada

**Definition of sport:** all forms of physical activity that contribute to physical fitness, mental well-being, and social interaction, such as play, recreation, organized or competitive sport, and indigenous sport and games.



More than **half of all Canadians** are involved in community-level sport as spectators, participants, volunteers, coaches, or officials.

- In 2010, **7.2 million or 26%** of people age 15+ participated regularly in sport – down 17% from 1992. That's **7/10 Canadians** ages 15+ who do NOT participate in sport.
- 3 out of 4** children and youth ages 5 to 17 are active in sport, but participation rates peak at ages 10 to 13 and then decline steadily and dramatically with age.
- In 2010, approximately **1 in 3 men** and **1 in 6 women** regularly participated in sport. While the gender gap narrowed between 1998 - 2005 it grew again to 19% in 2010.

### Lethbridge Sport Council (LSC)

Supports the enhancement and development of sport within Lethbridge.

#### IN 2015 LSC WORKED WITH:

- 65** Local sport and recreation organizations
- 50** Community organizations
- 16** Local event organizing committees
- 28** Local businesses



#### DID YOU KNOW?

85% of Canadians agree that sport participation builds stronger communities. Communities with less than 1,000 residents have higher participation rates in sport.

### Cost of Sport

Canadian families spend an average of **\$953 annually** for one child to play in organized sport with families in Alberta spending the most (**\$1,428 annually/child**). **1 in 3 children** in Canada can't participate in organized sport due to cost.

In 2015, KidSport helped **581 children** in southwestern Alberta participate in sport:



- Claresholm: 57**
- Lethbridge and Taber: 387**
- Crowsnest Pass: 24**
- Pincher Creek: 30**
- Vulcan County: 39**
- Mountain View: 44**

**Top 3 Sports** subsidized by KidSport in Alberta in 2015:

- 1** SOCCER
- 2** HOCKEY
- 3** GYMNASTICS



## ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

**Blood Tribe Diabetes Walk:** Hosted in 2016 by the Blood Tribe Department of Health, the walk raises awareness about diabetes in the Aboriginal population.

**100+** Participants at the 2016 awareness walk



- There are **11 million Canadians** with diabetes, affecting approximately 1 in 14 Albertans.
- Diabetes in Aboriginal communities is **3 to 5 times higher** than in the non-Aboriginal population.

**Vulcan Tinman Triathlon:** The Town of Vulcan has declared the first Saturday of June "National Health & Fitness Day." The Tinman Triathlon held on this day puts a high emphasis on participation and a low emphasis on competition.

**\$250,000** Raised by the triathlon for Vulcan town and county programs

- The first 10 years of the race averaged **200 competitors** annually. It has now been running for 27 years, and had **950 participants** in 2016.

### Participation in Sport in Southern Alberta

The Southern Alberta Summer Games is a multi-sport event, created by the Southern Alberta Recreation Association (SARA). The first Games were held in Pincher Creek in 1970 with **1,200 competitors** ranging from 6 to 80 years of age.

**THE 1980 CLARESHOLM GAMES HAD THE HIGHEST ATTENDANCE WITH 4,700 ATHLETES COMPETING.**

- 2014: 2,262
- 2015: 2,184
- 2016: 2,512

UNDER 18		18 AND OVER	
2015: 1,609	2016: 1,894	2015: 575	2016: 618

**Top 3** Regional representations in 2016:

- 1** LETHBRIDGE (607)
- 2** TABER (287)
- 3** WARNER COUNTY (248)

## HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

**GRANT GIVEN TO**  
Barons and Carmangay Schools

**USED FOR**  
Skates and helmets for students

Skating is an often taken for granted opportunity by many Canadians, one many of our students never would have experienced. For the first time in our schools' history we will be able to experience skating as a whole group this winter. Our students are so excited. This is an opportunity they have been asking about for years and finally it is now a reality.

-Fred Jack, Principal, Barons and Carmangay Schools



## MENTAL HEALTH

**1 IN 5** Canadians experience a form of mental illness at some point in their life

- Nearly **4,000** Canadians die by suicide each year, averaging almost **11 suicides** per day.
- From January to June 2014, there were **252 suicides in Alberta**. During the same period in 2015, there were 327 (a **30% increase** in suicides year to year).



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Young Canadians ages 15 to 24 are more likely to experience mental illness and/or substance use disorders than any other age group.

- In 2012, suicide accounted for **17% of deaths** among youth ages 10 to 14, **28% among youth** ages 15 to 19, and **25% among young adults** ages 20 to 24.

### Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)

CMHA has been providing mental health education, advocacy, and services to Lethbridge and surrounding community for **51 years**. Over the past 5 years CMHA has seen an increase in service requests, as well as an expansion of services. In 2015 the CMHA helped with:

- 54,110** information/referrals
- 4,169** crisis service interventions
- 338** calls for information
- 2,296** crisis follow-ups

The two most utilized programs of CMHA are:

- 1** CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM
- 2** DISTRESS LINE

### A new program to combat the stigma of mental health:

CMHA in partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada has launched a new program to help youth in our community reduce the stigma surrounding mental health illness.

**MAY 2015, FIRST YOUTH ANTI-STIGMA SUMMIT ATTENDED BY:**

Schools	7	Students	105
Teachers	27	Facilitators	18



# CULTURAL LIFE

## Southern Alberta Art Gallery (SAAG)



### DID YOU KNOW?

The SAAG turns 40 this year! In 2015 there were 11 contemporary exhibitions organized and/or curated by SAAG and presented in Lethbridge.

#### 19 TOTAL ARTISTS:



- **781:** Number of Arts Education and Learning activities (2015)
- **29,368:** Attendance at Arts Education and Learning activities (2015)



## University of Lethbridge Art Gallery

The University of Lethbridge Art Gallery houses over **14,400 world class objects**. There are two galleries (the Main Gallery and the Helen Christou Gallery), as well as the Papokan Sculpture Park, located on the University of Lethbridge's campus.

## Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park

Located in the Milk River valley, Writing-on-Stone is home to the largest concentration of **First Nation petroglyphs** (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock paintings) on the great plains of North America.

#### 2015 ATTENDANCE:

- **15,537:** Total Visitor Centre attendance
- **2,975:** Rock Art Tour program
- **1,035:** Writing-on-Stone 101 program
- **1,320:** School Tours program



### DID YOU KNOW?

The traditional Blackfoot name for Writing-on-Stone is Áísinaí'pi, meaning "it is pictured." It is one of the most sacred places for the Blackfoot; therefore Park management honours the tradition of the First Nations peoples by working regularly with a trusted advisory group of Blackfoot elders.

## Hillcrest Mine Disaster

The Hillcrest Mine Disaster on June 19, 1914 remains the greatest loss of life in a Canadian mine with 189 dead.



#### Other disasters in that same period include:

- Frank Slide: April 29, 1903 | **90 dead**
- Bellevue Mine Disaster: December 9, 1910 | **31 dead**



## HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

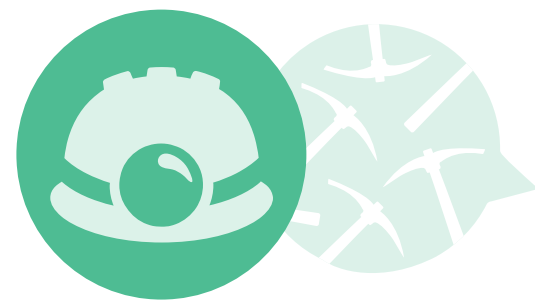


**GRANT GIVEN TO**  
Hillcrest Mine Disaster Committee

**USED FOR**  
Centennial Memorial Project

The Hillcrest Mine Disaster Memorial Park was an exciting project that allowed us to both continue the commemoration of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster, but also recognize the centennial of that tragic event and how it is still important to the Crowsnest Pass today. The Park tells some fascinating stories about Crowsnest heritage while also being a beautiful area to be enjoyed by all.

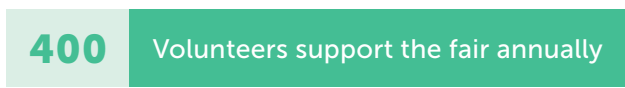
**-Chris Matthews, Chair, Hillcrest Mine Disaster Committee**



## South Country Fair

### A 3 DAY, CAMPING STYLE, OLD-WORLD, OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL!

2016 marks the **30th anniversary** of the South Country Fair. What began as a camping weekend for several local folk clubs has morphed into an annual event designed to expand cultural horizons by providing the opportunity to experience a diversity of music, spoken word, and performance art.



- **39** Artists (on average) attend from around the world.

Artists come from Alberta and Canada but also Scotland, Ireland, England, France, Spain, India, Bulgaria, Germany, Norway, Ghana, Burundi, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Buryatia (Russia/Mongolia), and the USA

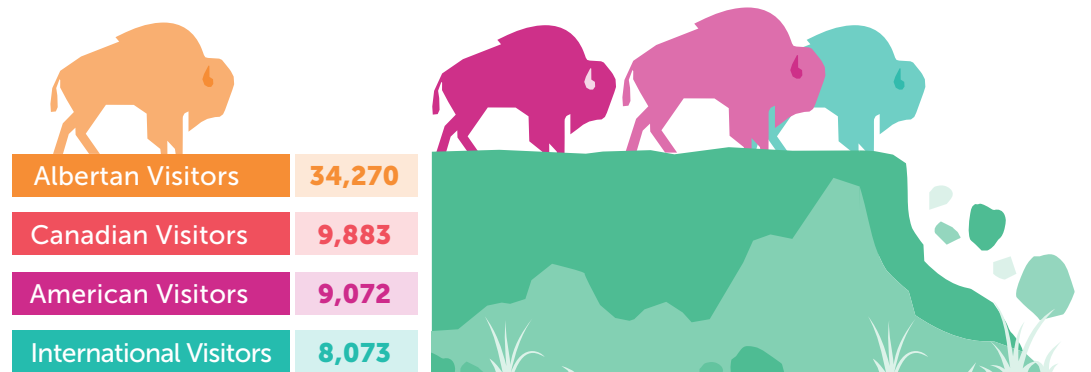
- For the last three years **over 2,000 people** have attended the fair annually.



## Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump

In 1981, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump as a **World Heritage Site**. Other world heritage monuments include the Egyptian pyramids, Stonehenge, and the Galapagos Islands.

#### 61,298 TOTAL VISITORS FROM APRIL 1, 2015 TO MARCH 31, 2016



## Southern Alberta Ethnic Association

The goal of the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association is to share the increasing diversity of our community with our region and to eliminate racism and foster open communication.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Groups range from the German Canadian Association to Mexicanos Sin Fronteras to the Afro Canadian Association.

#### 17 SOCIAL EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN 2015 INCLUDING:

- Monthly culture night dinner
- Festival Latino
- Oktoberfest

The publication of this Vital Signs report is generously supported by the following sponsors:



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ATB Financial is the largest Alberta-based financial institution with 5,000 team members helping more than 697,000 customers in 242 Alberta communities. Like our clients, we're Albertans. We work beside them and with them in their communities, and we root for their success because it's our success, too.

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The Community Foundation extends its appreciation to all of the organizations and individuals who contributed information to this year's report:

- 5th on 5th Youth Services
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
- Alberta Education
- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Alberta Human Services  
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- Bees Matter
- Blackfoot Canadian Cultural Society
- Blood Tribe Communications Department
- Blood Tribe Department of Health
- Butte Emergency Food Bank
- Canadian Council on Social Development
- Canadian Diabetes Association
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Mental Health Association  
(Alberta South)
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Chinook Regional Foundation for Career Transitions
- City of Lethbridge
- Claresholm and District Transportation Society
- Claresholm Food Bank
- Coaldale Food Bank
- Community Foundations of Canada  
(Sport & Belonging Report)
- Elections Canada
- Environment Lethbridge
- Food Banks Canada HungerCount 2015
- Fort Macleod Kids First Family Centre
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
- Hillcrest Mines Disaster Memorial Committee
- Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge
- Kevin Van Tighem
- KidSport Alberta
- Lethbridge Association for Community Living
- Lethbridge Family Services  
(Immigrant Services)
- Lethbridge Food Bank
- Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank
- McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association
- Mental Health Commission of Canada
- Nanton Food Bank
- Oldman Watershed Council
- Pincher Creek Care Bears Society
- Pincher Creek Food Bank
- Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter
- Prairie Conservation Forum
- Ready, Set, Go Organizing Committee Lethbridge
- Safe Haven Women's Shelter
- Social Housing in Action
- South Country Fair
- Southern Alberta Art Gallery
- Southern Alberta Ethnic Association
- Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association
- Southern Alberta Recreation Association
- Statistics Canada
- Status of Women Canada
- Streets Alive Mission
- Taber Food Bank
- Trailforks
- United Riders of the Crowsnest Pass
- University of Alberta
- University of Lethbridge Art Gallery
- University of Lethbridge Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education
- Vauxhall and Area Food Bank
- Vulcan Regional Food Bank
- Vulcan Tinman Sport Association
- Writing on Stone Provincial Park
- YWCA Lethbridge and District



## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LETHBRIDGE + SOUTHWESTERN ALBERTA

### ABOUT US

**VISION**  
Communities flourish through generosity.

**MISSION**  
The Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta provides an effective, flexible method for caring and generous individuals of all means to connect to worthy causes in southwestern Alberta.

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA

Thank you to Community Foundations of Canada. Special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept and Community Foundations of Canada for supporting a coordinated national Vital Signs initiative. For more information visit: [www.vitalsignscanada.ca](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca)

