

VICTORIA'S

Vital Signs®

GREATER VICTORIA'S 2025 ANNUAL CHECK-UP



What's Next for Victoria's Vital Signs

A retrospective on 20 impactful years!



Survey results

Things to Celebrate & Most Important Issues



Explore data on Quality of Life in the Region



Then & Now

See how Greater Victoria has
changed over the past 20 years.



VICTORIA FOUNDATION

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER®

A message from the Victoria Foundation's CEO

This year marks a milestone for Victoria's Vital Signs. For 20 years, this remarkable, data-driven checkup has been tracking the pulse of the capital region, through 12 interconnected areas vital to our collective wellbeing. Vital Signs has identified the region's major concerns, supported action on solutions, and has truly become part of the Victoria Foundation's DNA. We integrate it into everything we do.

When this initiative came to life in 2006, we had no idea of the influence on our community it would grow to have. Today, Vital Signs is used by organizations, governments, businesses, schools, and the general public. It's helped amplify the importance of philanthropy and garnered support from all over the region. In the two decades since the first Vital Signs, the Foundation's annual granting increased from \$3.8 million to more than \$33 million last year! To learn more about the impact of Vital Signs and milestones over the years, be sure to read our feature article online at victoriavitalsigns.ca.

Thank you to every supporter who shares a vision for a prosperous capital region we call home. It has been an honour to watch Vital Signs and the community evolve together.



SANDRA RICHARDSON
Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Foundation

We would like to express our gratitude to the many businesses that have embraced the opportunity to help create a vibrant, caring community for all, specifically the sponsors whose generosity makes production and promotion of this report possible.

Our thanks also go to all the individuals and organizations that helped to create this report, including those that provided data, took our survey, or helped guide and support the project, including our board and staff at the Victoria Foundation.

with thanks

EVENT SPONSOR



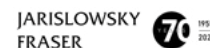
DIGITAL SPONSOR



FOOD AND BEVERAGE SPONSOR



ISSUE AREA SPONSORS



VENUE SUPPORTER



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



A message from our Presenting Sponsor

Congratulations to the Victoria Foundation on your 20th year of Victoria's Vital Signs report. Coast Capital is proud to be your partner in this work and in the resulting conversations that the report inspires. Two decades of listening, learning, and sparking action for the community to come together has helped shape a stronger, more connected community. Since the first report 20 years ago, our region has seen tremendous change: a growing population, deepening conversations on equity and inclusion, evolving climate realities, and innovative responses to complex social challenges. Throughout it all, Vital Signs has offered a clear, community-driven snapshot of life in Greater Victoria. Grounded in data and informed by thousands of voices, the report has brought the community together to improve wellbeing for all.

We are excited to continue to collaborate on building a better future together.



TANYA SMITH
Senior Manager, Social Purpose
Ecosystems, Coast Capital

PRESENTING SPONSOR **coastcapital**



VitalSigns.

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

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ABOUT THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION

OUR VISION: A VIBRANT, CARING COMMUNITY FOR ALL

Established in 1936, the Victoria Foundation is Canada's second oldest community foundation and sixth largest of over 200 nation-wide. We manage charitable gifts from donors whose generosity allows us to create permanent, income-earning funds. The proceeds from these funds are then distributed as grants for charitable or educational purposes. To date, the Victoria Foundation has invested more than \$373 million in people, projects, and charitable organizations that strengthen communities in BC and throughout Canada.

WHAT IS VITAL SIGNS?

MEASURING WELLBEING, CREATING CHANGE

Victoria's Vital Signs is an annual community check-up that measures the vitality of our region, identifies concerns, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. The Victoria Foundation produces the report to connect philanthropy to community needs and opportunities. This is the 20th consecutive year the report has been published. Special thanks to the Toronto Foundation and Community Foundations of Canada for supporting the national Vital Signs initiative. For more information, visit communityfoundations.ca/vitalsigns.

INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND HISTORY

The capital region is home to a rich diversity of Indigenous peoples and cultures. Based on the 2021 Census, there were an estimated 20,195 individuals in the Capital Regional District Census Division who identified as First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuk (Inuit). We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen-speaking people of the Songhees and x̱w̱sepsəm (Esquimalt) Nations on whose traditional lands our offices are located.

VITAL COMMUNITY NETWORK

The following community experts have kindly joined us to help guide Vital Signs and its engagement throughout the region. We thank them for their generosity and support. **Andrea Carey**, Inclusion Incorporated; **Bhupinder Dulkhu**, Victoria Foundation Gadsden Initiative; **Shelley Cook**, Community Social Planning Council; **Chris Gilpin**, CRD Arts and Culture Support Service; **Dallas Gislason**, South Island Prosperity Partnership; **Julia O'Quinn**, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society; **Del Manak**, Victoria Police Department; **Meghan Mergaert**, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria; **Jodi Mucha & Vanessa Manuel**, BC Healthy Communities; **Julie Potter**, University of Victoria; **Keith Wells**, Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission and **Bruce Williams**, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

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How to read the report

Letter Grades

The letter grades assigned to each issue area are from the citizen survey and refer only to the issue areas. See Page 38 of this report for more information on the citizen survey and the methodology used.

Regional Data

We curate secondary data from established national, provincial, and local data sources, including Statistics Canada, Province of British Columbia, and the Capital Regional District. Our emphasis is on reporting population-level or system-level data and robust data at the cohort and/or organizational level.



Photo and Caption

The Victoria Foundation takes an active role in addressing issues of concern in our community. Often, these issues come to light as the result of survey findings and regional data. These photos and captions profile organizations that are Victoria Foundation grant recipients.

Community in Focus

These short stories about local organizations and initiatives complement the data and help animate the issue areas.

Then & Now

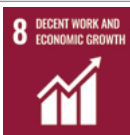
This section includes a mix of data from our first Vital Signs report (2006), data trends for select indicators, and brief overviews of sectors and initiatives to show how quality of life in the region has changed over the past 20 years.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent the world's collective vision for a thriving and sustainable planet. Canada is one of 193 countries participating in this United Nations initiative. The SDGs are universal and apply to all people and communities everywhere. Within the 17 SDGs, there are 169 targets. Canada has signed on to achieving these goals at home and abroad. At the community level, the SDGs are an opportunity to focus and coordinate collective efforts to address problems beyond the community scale, such as climate change, which can only be addressed if communities and cities unite in common action.

Visit globalgoals.org for more details.

Find these icons on pages 6–37 to learn how the SDGs relate to the Vital Signs key issues areas.

SDG	PAGE	SUMMARY	SDG	PAGE	SUMMARY
	35	GOAL 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere.		14, 16, 24, 26, 32, 34, 35, 36	GOAL 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries.
	34	GOAL 2 End hunger, achieve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture.		6, 14, 15, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 32, 36, 37	GOAL 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
	16, 22, 24, 25, 32, 34, 36	GOAL 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.		21	GOAL 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
	14, 15, 20, 22, 28, 29, 30	GOAL 4 Ensure equitable, quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities.		21	GOAL 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
	16, 31, 35	GOAL 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.		6, 21	GOAL 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources.
	21	GOAL 6 Ensure availability and sustainability of water and sanitation for all.		6, 20	GOAL 15 Protect and promote terrestrial ecosystems, forests, land, and biodiversity.
	N/A	GOAL 7 Ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.		16, 17, 30, 31	GOAL 16 Promote peaceful societies, accountable institutions, and access to justice for all.
	6, 15, 18, 19, 23, 28, 35	GOAL 8 Promote sustained, inclusive economic growth, full employment, and decent work for all.		N/A	GOAL 17 Strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development.
	19	GOAL 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.	 THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development		

Best Things & Most Important Issues

in Greater Victoria

What are the **best things** about Greater Victoria?

According to this year's survey, these are the region's **14 best things**, ranked by the percentage of respondents who selected them.

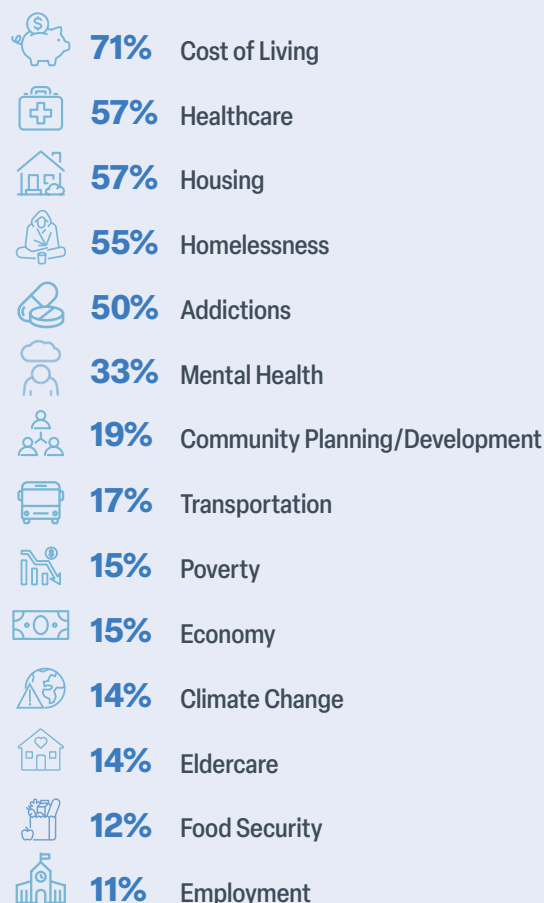


THE BEST THING about Greater Victoria, the natural environment, is the focus of **SDG #14, Life Below Water**, which speaks to conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development, and **SDG #15, Life on Land**, which looks to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.



What are the **most important issues** facing Greater Victoria today?

According to this year's survey, these are the region's top **14 issues**, ranked by the percentage of respondents who selected them.



THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE facing Greater Victoria, cost of living, is particularly embodied in **SDG #8, Decent Work and Economic Growth**, which promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all, and **SDG #11, Sustainable Cities and Communities**, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



Quality of Life in Greater Victoria

Vital Signs citizen survey participants were asked a range of questions about their quality of life.

When asked to rate their overall quality of life, the average grade was:

B

TOP 5 THINGS TO ADDRESS

to make Greater Victoria an even better place to live



27% SOCIAL ISSUES

(including mental health, homelessness, etc.)



26% AFFORDABLE HOUSING / MORE RENTAL OPTIONS



16% IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

(including better connection to the mainland, buses, etc.)



15% BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

(including dental, detox centres, etc.)



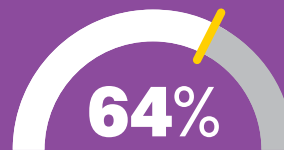
14% IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

(including open drug use, street disorder, etc.)

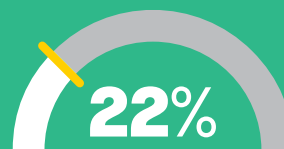
See the full survey responses at
victoriafoundation.bc.ca/vital-signs



70% of respondents said they are likely to still be living and/or working in Greater Victoria 10 years from now.



64% of respondents said they are satisfied with their work and home life balance.



22% of respondents rate their access to physical healthcare in a timely manner as good or excellent.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Greater Victoria

When asked to rate diversity, equity, and inclusion in Greater Victoria, the overall grade was:

B

According to the 2025 Vital Signs citizen survey, the top three issues to focus on in the region when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion are:

① **70%** Provide supports for people experiencing mental health problems, addictions, and homelessness

Those more likely to give diversity, equity, and inclusion a grade of B or higher include:

② **67%** Provide affordable housing/ more rental opportunities

59% Men

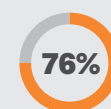
③ **46%** Provide equal opportunities to all citizens

59% Living in Victoria up to 5 years

55% Higher incomes \$80K+

54% No children in household

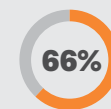
Overall, Greater Victorians feel accepted in their neighbourhood, for who they are, and in the city, town, or district they live in. Those who are white, and those with an annual household income over \$55,000 are more likely to feel this way.



76% of respondents feel accepted in the neighbourhood they live in.



72% of respondents feel accepted for who they are.



66% of respondents feel free and open to express ideas, opinions, and beliefs.



What's Next for Victoria's Vital Signs





A retrospective on 20 impactful years!

When Victoria's Vital Signs was first published in 2006, few people could predict the significance this "annual check-up" would grow to have in identifying the community's pressing issues. Nor could they have guessed the wide-scale change it would catalyze in the capital region—from a food security network to physical literacy initiatives, and more.

Since its first edition, Vital Signs has become a steadfast watchdog for all areas of community wellbeing. It turns complicated statistics into easy-to-use information. It spotlights the work of courageous organizations who create lasting impact in our community. It's relied upon by all kinds of civic leaders and the public for a deeper understanding of how Greater Victorians perceive their daily lives.

Vital Signs also brought the Victoria Foundation into focus as a hub for the region's philanthropy, setting the bar for a new kind of engagement across Canada between the people who care, the causes that matter, and the community foundations that serve them.

Visit victoriavitalsigns.ca/featurearticle to look back on the evolution of Victoria's Vital Signs, its major milestones, and a forecast for the future.

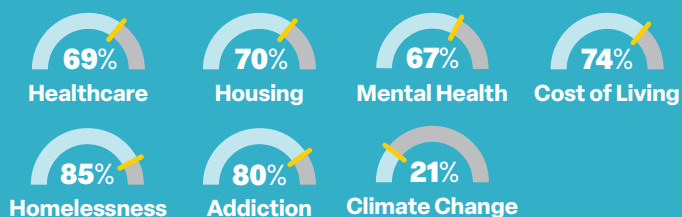


Vital Signs Issue Area Grades Through the Years

Key Issue Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Quality of Life*	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B	B	B+	B	B	B
Arts and Culture	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B	B	B	B	B	B
Belonging and Engagement	B-	B-	B	B-	B-	B-	B-	B	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	B-	B-	B-	B-	B
Economy	C+	C+	C+	C+	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+	C+
Environmental Sustainability	B-	B	B	B-	B	B	B	B-	B-	B-	B	B	B
Getting Started	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-	D+	D+	C	C	C	C+
Health and Wellness	B	B	B	B-	B-	B-	B-	B	B-	C+	B-	C+	C+
Housing	C	C	C	C-	C-	C-	C-	D+	D+	F	D	D-	D
Learning	B+	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B+	B+	B	B	B
Safety	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+
Sports and Recreation	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B	B+	B+	B	B+	B+
Standard of Living	B	C+	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+	B	B-	B-	B-	C+	C+
Transportation	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+	B-	B	C+	C+	C+	C+

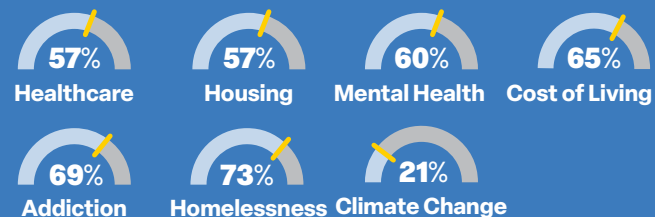
We asked Greater Victoria residents how satisfied they are with the progress made in the region on specific issues over the time they have lived here.

Percentage of survey respondents that are dissatisfied:



We also asked Greater Victoria residents if they agree the region is heading in the right direction to improve on specific issues.

Percentage of survey respondents that disagree:



*Quality of Life is an overall metric, independent of the grades assigned to individual issue areas. It is defined as the general well-being of individuals and societies and encompasses the 12 issue areas.

**Starting in 2022, the Victoria Foundation began asking specific questions and grading for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, separate from the Belonging and Engagement issue area.

Explore the 20th Anniversary Edition of Victoria's Vital Signs online



The online report is dynamic, engaging, and easy to navigate on all devices! We hope you enjoy this enhanced online reading experience.

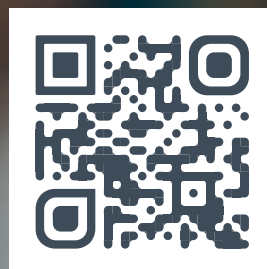
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**SOUTH ISLAND
PROSPERITY
PARTNERSHIP**

We transform potential into prosperity



A Village of 100

IF GREATER VICTORIA WAS A VILLAGE OF 100 PEOPLE: THEN & NOW

When we first published Vital Signs in 2006, the region's population was 345,000. Today, it stands at 460,000 people, a 33% increase.

In that time, we've experienced worsening climate impacts, including prolonged drought, heat domes, wildfires, and atmospheric rivers. We've seen technology transform more aspects of our lives, while social media has radically altered how we perceive and interact with each other and the world.

We've witnessed growing income inequality, wealth concentration, and the financialization of housing, fearing for those left behind. We've watched the rise of geopolitical instability, conflicts, and humanitarian crises, fearing for loved ones and homelands.

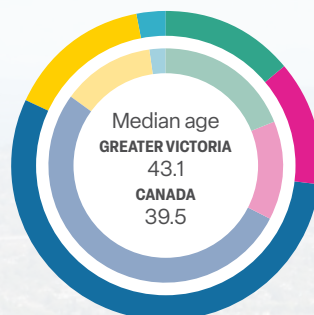
We've lived through the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and 2008 financial crisis that ravaged our families, communities, and economies, and tested our faith in each other and our governments. We've navigated the post-pandemic recovery, enduring supply chain disruptions, inflation, and high interest rates.

We've been doing the necessary work of reconciliation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples, and upholding Indigenous rights and title. We've been looking hard at ourselves and our systems to confront racism and discrimination.

Through it all, we've strengthened the bonds that connect us and built a resilient quality of life.

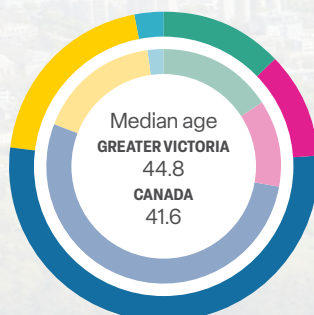


AGE (2006)



Age	GV	Canada
0-14	14	18
15-24	13	13
25-64	55	50
65-84	15	12
85+	3	2

2021



Age	GV	Canada
0-14	13	16
15-24	11	12
25-64	53	53
65-84	20	17
85+	3	2



GENDER (2006)

Victoria



Canada



2021

Victoria



Canada



Note: Men+ includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons. "Women+" includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons. In 2006, the Census provided sex-only categories: male and female. For our purposes, these have been renamed men+ and women+.



MARITAL STATUS (2006)

Victoria



Canada



2021

Victoria



Canada



● Single (never married) ● Common-law ● Married
● Divorced ● Widowed

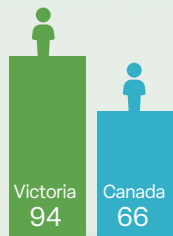
*Does not add up to 100 due to rounding and exclusion of "separated"

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, CENSUS PROFILE, 2006 AND 2021 CENSUS OF POPULATION, VICTORIA CMA AND CANADA



LANGUAGES (2006)

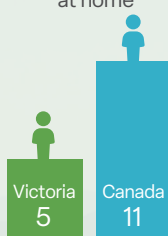
Speak English most often at home



Have knowledge of both official languages



Non-English/French spoken most often at home

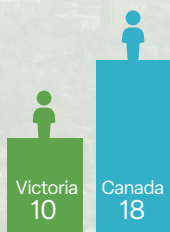


2021

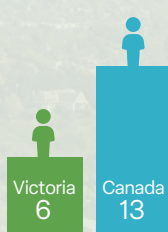
Speak English most often at home



Have knowledge of both official languages



Non-English/French spoken most often at home



OTHER DEMOGRAPHICS (2006)

Low Income



Employed



Post-secondary Education



Living Alone*



Renter



One-parent Families



2021

Low Income



Employed



Post-secondary Education



Living Alone*



Renter



One-parent Families



*Defined as one-person household



INCOME (2006)

Median individual income*

\$28,541
Victoria

\$25,615
Canada

Median household income**

\$53,310
Victoria

\$53,634
Canada

2021

Median individual income*

\$45,600
Victoria

\$41,200
Canada

Median household income**

\$85,000
Victoria

\$84,000
Canada

*Median total income for income recipients (15 years and over), before tax, 2005 and 2020

**Median household income, before tax, 2005 and 2020



INDIGENOUS IDENTITY (2006)

3 Victoria

4 Canada

2021

5 Victoria

5 Canada



IMMIGRANT (2006)

19 Victoria

20 Canada

2021

19 Victoria

23 Canada



VISIBLE MINORITY (2006)

10 Victoria

16 Canada

2021

17 Victoria

27 Canada

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VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

ARTS & CULTURE

Carrying music forward

Now celebrating its 40th season, the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra (GVYO) offers musicians aged 13 to 28 outstanding classical training. Auditioned members grow through discipline, commitment, and love of music. “When they play, everything else disappears,” says Board member Evelyn Higgins. “You can feel the passion.”

GVYO fosters mentorship as younger members look up to older peers during weekly rehearsals. The education is holistic—orchestra members learn how to play together, lead, support, and be part of something greater.

GVYO has also always offered bursaries with no barriers. “We give them a space where they are safe, seen, and surrounded by others who are just as passionate,” says Music Director Yariv Aloni.

With consistent membership of 60 to 65 musicians for four decades, GVYO cultivates a lifelong appreciation of the arts, providing an opportunity for young musicians to find and interact with a community that supports their musical development.

With concerts, school workshops, a strong board, and outreach to hundreds of students annually, GVYO enriches the lives of young talent and nurtures them to be the next generation of performing artists in the region.



LIBRARY USE

In 2024, the **Greater Victoria Public Library** (GVPL) reported the following visits, circulation and engagement across its 12 branches in the region:



3.5M Total Visits
1.8M in-person

23,000
New Cardholders
16% of total cardholders
as of December 31, 2024

180,000
Public Computer
Logins

6.3M
Total Circulation
3.7M physical items,
2.6M digital items

35,000
Total Program
Participation

SOURCE: GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

GVPL rankings in 2023 (most recent year of data) among 42 reporting urban library systems in Canada:

2nd for total circulation
per capita

8th for in-person visits
per capita

14th for total number of
cardholders per capita

SOURCE: CANADIAN URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL

The **Vancouver Island Regional Library** (VIRL) serves Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and the Central Coast. It operates 39 branches, including two in the capital region: Sidney/North Saanich and Sooke.

In 2024, the two capital region branches combined recorded:

359,000 Total Circulation

233,000 Physical Items

126,000 Digital Items

17,600 Total Cardholders (17% new applicants)

36% of Sidney/North
Saanich residents
have a library card

41% of Sooke
residents have
a library card

11,550
people attended
free events

In 2024, Sidney/North Saanich's Teen Advisory Group organized free library card drives at Parkland Secondary and North Saanich Middle School and gathered Period Promise campaign donations to keep the library's washrooms stocked with free period products. The Sooke branch launched a volunteer-run home delivery service for Ayre Manor, a local seniors' housing complex, providing welcome access to library materials and social connection for homebound residents.

SOURCE: VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

ARTS FUNDING



Regional Funding in 2024

Record high funds distributed by Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts and Culture Support Service:

\$2.73M to **101** local not-for-profit
arts organizations of whom 15 were first-time
recipients.

9,500 arts events and performances
activated by CRD grant recipients in the
region with over 1,150,000 audience members,
participants and attendees, of which 76%
were in-person and 24% online.

5,580 arts workers were employed
by grant recipients, including **4,600** artists
and **980** arts workers.

SOURCE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Federal Funding in 2023/24

Funds awarded by the Canada Council for
the Arts:

\$5.1M to **120** recipients in
the **Victoria CMA**,

including **71** individuals (27%), **6** groups,
(2%) and **43** arts organizations (71%).

Grants ranged from \$1,250 to \$670,000

\$19,584 average grant received by
individuals

\$83,766 average arts organization grant

\$48.4M (16% of grants awarded
in Canada) to **1,257** artists, groups, and
organizations in **91** communities in BC.

SOURCE: CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

EMPLOYMENT IN
THE ARTS

SDG
8

Approximately

12,300 people

worked in arts, culture, recreation
and sports occupations, except
management, in Greater Victoria
in 2024.

↑ continuing a 5-year upward trend
and double the number since 2020

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

THEN & NOW

CULTURAL WORKERS

Between 2006 and 2022 in
Greater Victoria

↑ **44%** increase
in arts and select cultural workers

one of the highest growth rates in
Canada, and well above the **25%**
increase in cultural workers across all
census metropolitan areas for the
same period.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

A Sacred Legacy: Tam Kung Temple

Designated a national historic site
in 2025, the Tam Kung Temple in
Victoria stands as a rare and enduring
symbol of Chinese Canadian
heritage. Established in the 1860's
and relocated to the top floor of
the Yen Wo Society Building at 1713
Government Street, the temple has
served as a spiritual and cultural
hub for the Hakka community on
Vancouver Island for over a century.

Inside, a wooden statue of the
sea deity Tam Kung sits beneath a
skylight, surrounded by embroidered
silk banners, incense censers, and
intricately carved altars. Remarkably,
the temple has remained in use
through changing times, even
surviving a fire in 1980. Today, it is
Victoria's only active Chinese temple.

SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

BELONGING & ENGAGEMENT

VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE



The perfect fit! Supporting barriered youth through gender-affirming apparel

Clothing that fits properly helps you feel like you. For barriered gender-diverse youth, feeling safe and affirmed in their body is where belonging begins. With makeshift solutions like ACE bandages or multiple sports bras, many compromise their wellbeing out of necessity, risking physical health and personal safety.

The Victoria Foundation's grant to Island Sexual Health supports the Wear & Care program, offering free or pay-what-you-can apparel, health education, safety guidance for compression wear, care instructions, proper sizing support, and resources centred on bodily autonomy and informed decision-making. Currently, 80% of fittings are for youth aged 11 to 21. The 10 to 15 weekly fittings are with a trans adult, often the first the youth has met. Half attend with someone they trust. Inventory includes binders (chest compression), gaffs (underwear that creates a smoother appearance in the pelvic area), and hypoallergenic sports tape (for tucking or binding).

"Many youth don't have supportive parents. Island Sexual Health becomes their safe place and resource hub," explains Syd G, the Maturation Educator & Gender-Affirming Apparel Coordinator. One youth shares, "I thought this would be hard, but it turned into a really meaningful and affirming moment in my transition."

This program is also funded by a Fund for Gender Equality grant. The Fund for Gender Equality is supported by a collaboration between Community Foundations of Canada and the Equality Fund, with support from the Government of Canada.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

In South Vancouver Island, youth, aged 12-19 years, in 2023

94% had at least one close friend in their school or community, although they were less likely to have three or more of these friends than before the COVID-19 pandemic (**70%** vs. **82%** in 2018).

There were no changes in how many online friends they had whom they had never met in person (**33%** in 2023, including **14%** who had three or more such friends).

75% had at least one adult in their neighbourhood or community (outside of their family and school) who they felt cared about them, similar to youth throughout BC.

Youth were more likely than those in 2018 to have an adult to turn to when they had a serious problem: **75%** had an adult inside their family they could turn to (vs. **71%** in 2018), **37%** had one outside their family (vs. **31%**), and **28%** had both (vs. **21%**).

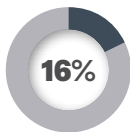
SOURCE: MCCREARY CENTRE SOCIETY

CHARITABLE GIVING

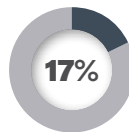
Tax filers who made charitable donations in 2023



GREATER VICTORIA
↓ down from 21% in 2022



BRITISH COLUMBIA



CANADA

2023 median donation in Greater Victoria



\$540

- ↑ up from \$520 in 2022
- ↓ below BC median (\$570) in 2023
- ↑ well above the national median donation (\$390) in 2023

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

Giving Attitudes and Behaviours of Multicultural Canadians

Major findings of Imagine Canada's 2024 Multicultural Charitable Giving Study include:

66% of multicultural Canadians view the charitable sector positively

80% donated to charitable causes in the previous year, making an average contribution of **\$795**; **60%** expressed a desire to donate more in the future

57% would be more likely to donate more if they were asked more often or knew where to give

Primary drivers for giving are showing compassion (**83%**), doing the right thing (**81%**), and belief in the cause (**81%**); personal incentives (**52%**) or recognition (**37%**) are less important

74% support teaching children about philanthropy

76% who have been in Canada 5-10 years donate regularly, compared to **40%** who have been in Canada for less than three years

SOURCE: IMAGINE CANADA

THEN & NOW

From our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2004, 30% of Greater Victoria tax filers made charitable donations and the median donation was \$290.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

SENSE OF BELONGING

In 2021/22, South Vancouver Island population who felt a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging to their local community :

Population aged 12 years and older

62% ↓ down from **72%** in 2019/20

Victoria CMA

68%

British Columbia

67%

Canada

Youth aged 12-17 years

71% ↓ down from **84%** in 2019/20

Victoria CMA

79%

British Columbia

80%

Canada

Seniors aged 65 years and older

80% ↓ down from **83%** in 2019/20

Victoria CMA

76%

British Columbia

72%

Canada

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

POLICE-REPORTED HATE CRIMES

SDG 16

In 2024, there were

80

police-reported hate crimes in the Victoria CMA, a rate of **18** per 100,000 population

↑ up from the region's 2023 rate (**12**)

↑ above the rate for BC (**12**) in 2024

↑ above the rates across all CMAs (**14**) in 2024

The region's hate crime rate rose from

8.5 (35 incidents) per 100,000 population in 2020.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Uplifting Indigenous Self-determination

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to formalize government-to-government relationships and commit to working together on key priorities with the WJOLELP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), xw'sepsəm (Kosapsam), and STAUTW's (Tsawout) Nations.

The MOUs will foster a more inclusive approach to regional government with new processes for respectful and reciprocal government-to-government decision-making. The MOUs will promote deeper understanding and respect for each other's governance structures, cultural values, and perspectives.

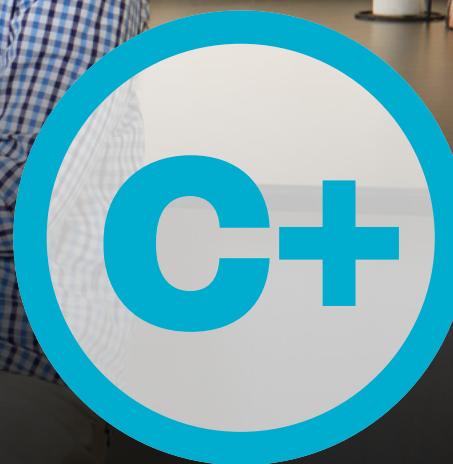
CRD and Nation staff will meet regularly to support ongoing communication and implementation of shared workplans to address priorities in the MOUs. Leadership and elected representatives will hold annual government-to-government meetings. These connections will foster stronger relationships, build trust, and ensure all parties remain aligned in their shared goals and stated commitments.

SOURCE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT



ECONOMY

VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE



Welcome home — and to a new business life

Communities thrive when newcomers are welcomed into a diverse economy, where their expertise drives growth, expands opportunity, and strengthens us all. Immigrant and refugee entrepreneurs are significant economic drivers. Statistics Canada reports that one in three business owners with paid staff is an immigrant, officially defined as “a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently.” Yet many newcomers face barriers to connection and success. The Chamber created the New to Canada Program to support and welcome newcomer entrepreneurs who follow the immigrant or Permanent Resident status process.

“The reality is we have a diverse business community, and, as the region’s voice of business, we want to represent that diversity,” said the Chamber’s CEO John Wilson. “The Chamber is committed to learning from history. We acknowledge that diversity in our business community helps our economy. We benefit from fresh ideas and energy that people new to Canada want to share with us.” This year, 14 participants in the New to Canada Program received two years of Chamber membership and business development support.

Partially sponsored by the Victoria Foundation, the New to Canada Program recognizes the value newcomers bring, while also investing in their future as our neighbours, friends, and colleagues. This program is also funded through sponsorship from Air Canada, the Victoria Airport Authority, and Western Design + Build.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

SDG 8

Unemployment rate among people, aged 15 and over, in 2024

4%

GREATER VICTORIA
similar to 2023

6%

BRITISH COLUMBIA

6%

CANADA

The unemployment rate among women in the region in 2024 was 4% on par with the rate for men (4%).

% Population (15 years +) who are unemployed

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	9.7	7.5	5.3	5.4	6.3
BC	9.1	6.6	4.6	5.2	5.6
Victoria CMA	7.8	4.9	3.8	3.7	3.9

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

EMPLOYMENT RATE

SDG 8

Employment rate among people, aged 15 and over, in 2024

↑ 64%

GREATER VICTORIA
up from 61% in 2023

62%

BRITISH COLUMBIA

61%

CANADA

The employment rate among women in the region in 2024 was 62%, lower than the rate for men (66%).

% Population (15 years +) who are employed

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	58.1	60.5	62.0	62.2	61.3
BC	58.6	61.6	62.5	62.4	61.6
Victoria CMA	58.9	60.2	60.8	61.4	64.0

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

HOTEL ROOMS

Greater Victoria average rates in 2024 compared to 2023

↑ 75%

OCCUPANCY RATE
up from 70%

↑ \$261

DAILY ROOM RATE
up from \$247

↑ \$196

REVENUE PER AVAILABLE ROOM

up from \$173, a measure of a hotel's ability to fill its available rooms at an average price

The Victoria Conference Centre recorded a 12% increase in delegate days in 2024, with just over 94,000 days compared to 84,000 in 2023.

SOURCE: CHEMISTRY CONSULTING GROUP

AIR AND FERRY PASSENGER VOLUME

SDG 9

BC Ferries reported increases in 2024 compared to 2023

↑ 2%
PASSENGER TRAFFIC

↑ 2%
VEHICLE TRAFFIC

↑ 1%
BUS TRAFFIC
Tsawwassen — Swartz Bay

Victoria International Airport reported increases in 2024 compared to 2023

↑ 7%
FLIGHT PASSENGER VOLUME

↑ 1.9M
TOTAL PASSENGERS
up from 1.7M

SOURCE: CHEMISTRY CONSULTING GROUP

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM SECTOR

The region's tourism industry is a significant driver of employment and economic growth locally and for the provincial economy.

Total in-person visits to Greater Victoria in 2023

5 MILLION VISITS — 3.7 million domestic visitors
926,500 U.S. visitors
352,000 overseas visitors

These visitors spent over \$1.9 billion in the region, with domestic visitors spending close to \$1.2 billion and U.S. and overseas visitors spending \$488 million and \$270 million, respectively. The average spend per person-visit was \$390, including overnight, same-day non-cruise, and cruise visitors (passengers and crew members).

Total visitor spending in 2023 supported roughly 25,000 jobs, \$1.1 billion in wages, \$2 billion in GDP, and \$3.5 billion in economic output across the province. It also generated an estimated \$510 million in tax revenue, with 45% going to the federal government, 49% to the provincial government, and 6% to the region's municipal governments.

SOURCE: DESTINATION GREATER VICTORIA

THEN & NOW

Growth of the Tech Sector

Technology is Greater Victoria's #1 industry. In 2013, the tech sector created \$4 billion in economic impact and employed about 15,000 people. By 2023, it had generated \$7.9 billion, including \$5.9 billion in annual revenue, and employed over 20,000 people across 1170 tech firms. Given the sector's remarkable growth over the past decade, it will have no problem reaching \$10 billion by 2030, the target set by the Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology and Entrepreneurship Council.

SOURCE: VICTORIA INNOVATION, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

B.C.'s Most Economically Resilient Cities

In 2025, local municipalities dominated BC Business magazine's annual ranking of B.C.'s Most Economically Resilient Cities, similar to the 2024 results.

Sidney took first place, followed by Langford and Central Saanich, with Saanich (#6), Victoria (#8), and Sooke (#12) rounding out the top 15 of 50 ranked municipalities.

The magazine looked at 50 BC cities of 10,000+ residents, scoring them on nine criteria: population growth, household financial vulnerability, residents' sense of belonging, rental vacancies, housing sales, housing starts, job creation, unemployment, and economic diversity.

The capital region fares well in the rankings given the public sector's outsized share of BC's job market. Vancouver Island continues to attract workers leaving high-priced urban centres for lifestyle and cost-of-living reasons.

SOURCE: BC BUSINESS



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

B

Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary: A living classroom

Just six kilometres from downtown Victoria, Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary has been connecting community and ecology since 1975. This vibrant urban wetland and Garry Oak ecosystem recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, a testament to decades of environmental stewardship and education.

Swan Lake is a place of learning and connection. With programming that weaves together Indigenous knowledge, intergenerational learning, and a variety of neurological and cultural perspectives, the sanctuary creates space for people of all ages to deepen their relationship with the natural world. Staff and volunteers work to ensure that Swan Lake is a revered and protected space for the wildlife who inhabit the trees and waters—and for the people who seek peace here.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Cara Gibson, the sanctuary continues to evolve in how it approaches conservation and education. “No one person is the knower,” says Cara. “I love the many lenses people bring to understanding the world around them. Looking at life from many different perspectives is so much richer.”

With a dedicated team and a flourishing network of community support, Swan Lake remains a vital green space for environmental education, ecological restoration, and quiet moments in nature...right in the heart of the city.



SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

SDG
12

Solid waste disposal rate (kilograms per person)

CRD 2024 **338**CRD 2023 **382**CRD TARGET BY 2031 **250**BC 2022 **479**BC LONG TERM TARGET **350**

SOURCE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

SDG
13

Estimated annual GHG emissions in capital region, 2022

1.86 MILLION TONNES OF CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT (tCO₂e) **4.2%** TOTAL PER CAPITA GHG EMISSIONS

On an absolute basis, this is a **7% decline** from the 2007 base year emissions and a decline of **25% on a per capita basis**. In 2022, on-road transportation accounted for **42%** of GHG emissions, the largest share of total emissions in the region, followed by commercial and institutional buildings at **19%** and residential buildings at **15%**.

SOURCE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

RESIDENTIAL WATER USE

SDG
6

Average residential water use in capital region, 2023

↑231 L DAILY PER PERSON up from 224 in 2022

The region's per capita water use rates have stabilized in the last decade around the Canadian average, following a sizable reduction between 1995 to 2010 due to greater conservation efforts and the introduction of efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances.

SOURCE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

THEN & NOW

From our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2004, the average water consumption per capita for residential use in the capital region was 312 litres/day, considerably less than the BC average of 425 litres/day.

SOURCE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

In 2021, the average daily residential water use in Canada was **223 litres** per capita, a decline of **11%** from **251 litres** in 2011. In BC, the average daily residential water use per capita in 2021 was **286 litres**, a decline of **8%** from **312 litres** in 2011.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALES

SDG
14

The Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) that frequent the Salish Sea are an extended family comprised of three pods: J, K, and L. As of July 1, 2024, the SRKW population was an estimated 73 individuals, down from 75 reported in the 2023 census due to the deaths of two adult males, one in K pod and one in L pod, and of a male calf in J pod—the only whale born within the census period.

TOTAL POPULATION

**73****L POD 33****J POD 25****K POD 15**

Note: These counts do not include calves born to J and L pod after the census date.

SOURCE: CENTER FOR WHALE RESEARCH

THEN & NOW

The SRKW population grew during the late 1970s, 1980s, and mid-1990s, peaking at 98 individuals, and then declined in the late 1990s. By 2001, there were 78 whales left, and while the population rose to 89 in 2006, the numbers have been dropping precipitously ever since.

SOURCE: CENTER FOR WHALE RESEARCH

Under current conditions, SRKW have a high probability of extinction. In March 2025, an independent panel of international killer whale, salmon, and conservation scientists met in Vancouver, BC, to develop recommendations for the survival and recovery of this critically endangered population.

The panel used an ecosystem-level approach to assess the effectiveness and limitations of existing threat-reduction strategies and to propose new or revised measures for urgent action.

The 26 recommendations aim to prevent extinction and rebuild a resilient SRKW population. They prioritize science-based solutions to address prey (Chinook salmon) limitation, human-caused undersea noise, and exposure to high levels of contaminants. Most recommendations can be implemented without further study.

SOURCE: INDEPENDENT SCIENCE PANEL ON SRKW RECOVERY (2025)

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Supporting Safe Agriculture in Canada

Located on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ peoples, the Centre for Plant Health in North Saanich, is Canada's only post-entry quarantine, diagnostic, and research facility dedicated to the protection of fruit-bearing trees, grapevines, and small fruit.

Run by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Centre ensures the safe introduction of foreign plant material to Canada, provides export certification, and eliminates viruses from valuable plant varieties.

After a major renewal completed in 2024, the Centre is now home to a world-class plant health diagnostic and research facility. Scientists use techniques like antibody testing, DNA detection tools, and disease testing in controlled settings to advance plant science. The Centre actively engages in scientific collaborations to protect plant resources and support innovation in Canada's agricultural and agri-food sector.

SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

GETTING STARTED

Hey, look! That's my preschool!

For over 70 years, children have crafted, learned, and explored at parent-run Metchosin Co-op Preschool—an inviting white house with rainbow letters cheering, “Come play!” However, decades of laughing and little feet zipping around took a toll on the beloved building and required the preschool to move to a new home at 4495 Happy Valley Road. With Victoria Foundation’s support, a tucked-away, sterile, former elementary school classroom transformed into a warm, accessible new home. “It’s been emotional for the teachers to take the heart of the preschool and translate it into a new space,” admits Tara Townshend, parent and preschool President. Upgrades included architectural plans, outdoor egress, sound baffles, and updated learning tools.

Licensed for 19 children, Metchosin Co-op Preschool brings parents into the classroom to learn alongside their kids. Teachers are also alumni, reinforcing a strong sense of connection and shared ownership. With many babies born during the COVID pandemic having limited early social contact, the co-op model helps caregivers observe and support emotional development. Resilience, confidence, and community values are nurtured through play, time in nature, and active participation in local events, fundraisers, and markets. It’s a place where kids and families don’t just begin preschool—they truly get started in life.



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

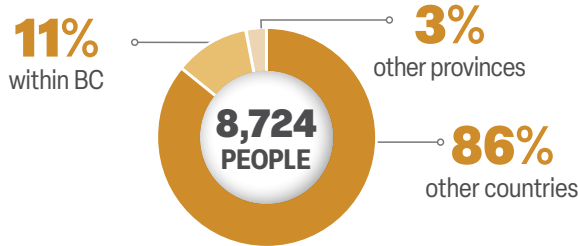


4 QUALITY
EDUCATION

Photo by: Jo-Ann Richards, Works Photography

NET MIGRATION

Total net migration in Greater Victoria between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024



⬆ Lower than the previous year (**9,188**), with a larger share coming from other countries (**86% vs. 73%**) and a smaller share from other provinces (**3% vs 17%**) compared to 2022/23.

In 2023/24, **319 young people**, aged 20-34 years, came to Greater Victoria from other provinces, well down from 915 the year before, and **531 young people** came here from other parts of BC, up from 526 in 2022/23.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



Unemployment rate for youth, aged 15-24 years, in 2024

8% GREATER VICTORIA **11% BRITISH COLUMBIA**
 ⬆ up from 7% in 2023 **13% CANADA**

Youth unemployment rates by gender were suppressed in 2024 to meet confidentiality requirements.

% Population (15-24 years) who are unemployed

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	20.1	13.5	10.0	10.7	13.1
BC	18.9	12.3	8.9	9.6	11.4
Victoria CMA	14.3	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.9

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

THEN & NOW

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Between 2015-2025 in the capital region

1,985 REFUGEES RESETTLED

- 175** blended sponsorship
- 790** government-assisted sponsorship
- 1,015** privately sponsored

During this time, **334,695** refugees were admitted to Canada for resettlement, of whom **32,210** were resettled in BC. The top five countries of citizenship for resettled refugees admitted to Canada were Syria (31%), Afghanistan (17%), Eritrea (17%), Iraq (7%), and Somalia (6%).

The Government of Canada resettles refugees to save lives and provide stability to those fleeing persecution with no hope of relief. A refugee is different from an immigrant. An immigrant is a person who chooses to settle permanently in another country; refugees are forced to flee. The United Nations Refugee Agency, along with private sponsors, identifies refugees for resettlement in Canada.

SOURCE: IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA

IMMIGRANT RETENTION

Immigrant taxfilers in 2022 who continued to reside in Greater Victoria 5 years after choosing to live here upon admission to Canada

72% GREATER VICTORIA
on par with 2021

88% BRITISH COLUMBIA

84% CANADA

The 2022 retention rate is calculated for immigrants admitted to Canada in 2017. The admission year is when an immigrant first obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status and may or may not be the same as the arrival year. The five-year retention rate provides insight on the longer-term likelihood that immigrants will settle, establish networks and relationships, and contribute to the economy in their intended geography.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

CHILD CARE SPACES

Across the region's four school districts, in 2024/25

15,402 LICENSED CHILD CARE SPACES

⬆ up 35% from 11,381 spaces in 2018/19

includes group spaces for children under 36 months, 30 months to school age, preschool, school age, and multi-age, and family spaces.

Over the past seven years, SD61 (Greater Victoria) has consistently had the largest number of total spaces, with **9,653 (63%)** in 2024/25, and SD63 (Saanich) and SD62 (Sooke) have had the largest percentage increase in spaces at **44%** and **42%**, respectively.

Note: Data refers only to child care spaces in licensed facilities that have opted in to the BC government's Child Care Operating Funding program or the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program.

SOURCE: BC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Supporting Indigenous Maternal and Child Wellness

Xexe Pahlatsis'lelum (Sacred Cradle House) supports Indigenous mothers and birthers experiencing housing precarity and substance use when they are discharged from hospital. It offers a culturally supportive transitional home where life together with their newborn can begin. Mothers and birthers stay at the program until stable, affordable housing is secured for their family.

Located on the territories of the lək'wəḡən peoples, Sacred Cradle House is operated by the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society. Residents have access to 24/7 staff support and culturally appropriate services, including Elder and Auntie mentorship, life and parenting skills training, doula and midwifery care, healthcare, infant supplies, and recovery groups and women's circles. These supports are designed to lovingly support maternal and child wellness, centering community, culture, and connection.

SOURCE: ABORIGINAL COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY
BOOTH SCOTT

VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Pedalling for inclusion and wellbeing

Through their unique program, the Sidney chapter of the Cycling Without Age Society (CWAS) brings joy to those who have barriers to cycling.

Since 2018, trained “pilots” have been welcoming aboard adults from care homes, and neurodiverse students, for delightful “trishaw” bike rides along some of the Saanich Peninsula’s most picturesque streets. These exciting journeys enhance riders’ wellbeing by connecting them to the beautiful outdoors and their communities.

Peggy Dayton, treasurer and pilot, describes a trip she took with a rider in her 90s, who rarely went outside. “Every tree, every flower and building, she was amazed. She kept saying, ‘I just love this!’”

Dorine Pomphrey coordinates the school program and says the rides are “such a positive, life-enhancing experience. Not just for complex learners, but the pilots themselves and the wider community.”

CWAS Sidney has been working to expand to new neighbourhoods, with help from a Victoria Foundation grant. President Bill Brooks says it’s also helped purchase a coveted wheelchair bike and allows for more trishaws to be taken out on trips together.

Bill says Sidney’s chapter is one of the largest nationwide, with 44 pilots and over 700 rides so far this year.



Photo by: Jo-Ann Richards, Works Photography

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

SDG
3

Estimated annual alcohol consumption per capita in 2023

9.9 L
SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND
or 580 standard drinks per
person over age 15 per year
↓ down from 10.3 L in 2022

8.2 L
**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

7.3 L
CANADA
in 2023/24

THEN & NOW

Alcohol consumption rates in South Vancouver Island are returning to levels last seen 20 years ago. In 2002, the per capita alcohol consumption rate was 9.4 L. It peaked at 11 L in 2020 and dropped steadily to 9.9 L in 2023. SVI rates have been higher than BC rates since tracking began in 2002. These declines are likely more than a post-COVID adjustment and may represent structural change in demand in the alcohol marketplace.

Consumption estimates are based on alcohol sales, reported in litres of absolute alcohol per person, with one litre equal to 58.65 standard drinks.

One standard drink equals 17 ml of pure alcohol, or 341 ml (12 oz) serving of 5% beer, cider or cooler; 142 ml (5 oz) serving of 12% wine; or a 43 ml (1.5 oz) serving of 40% spirits.

SOURCE: CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR SUBSTANCE USE RESEARCH

UNREGULATED DRUG DEATHS

SDG
3

Greater Victoria was one of the top three BC cities for unregulated drug deaths in 2024, after Vancouver and Surrey.

UNREGULATED DRUG DEATHS IN 2024

161 **GREATER VICTORIA**
7% of BC deaths

165
**SOUTH VANCOUVER
ISLAND**
down from 180 in 2023

35.4
**RATE PER 100,000
POPULATION IN SVI**
down from 39.7 in 2023

In 2014, when tracking first began, there were **23** unregulated drug deaths in the region for a rate of **5.9** per 100,000 population.

2,287
BRITISH COLUMBIA
down from 2,585 in 2023

40.1
**RATE PER 100,000
POPULATION IN BC**
down from 46.8 in 2023

In 2024, fentanyl was detected in **84%** of BC's unregulated drug deaths (85% in 2023) and benzodiazepines were detected in **48%** (44% in 2023). Benzodiazepines do not respond to naloxone and create life-saving challenges for first responders.

Note: BC Coroners Service works in a real-time database environment and statistics are updated retroactively as investigations are completed. These statistics are current to April 30, 2025.

SOURCE: BC CORONERS SERVICE

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

SDG
3

Family Physicians in 2023

845 **IN SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND**
Rate of **186** per 100,000 population

↑ up from 819 family physicians and the same rate in 2022

138 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**
per 100,000 population

120 **CANADA**
per 100,000 population

Since 2019, there has been a **15%** increase in the total number of family physicians in the region

↑ from 735 in 2019 to 845 in 2023

SOURCE: CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

Psychiatrists in 2023

112 **IN SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND**
Rate of **25** per 100,000 population

↑ up from 106 psychiatrists and a rate of 24 per 100,000 population in 2022

17 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**
per 100,000 population

15 **CANADA**
per 100,000 population

SOURCE: CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

Population, aged 12 and over, who reported having a regular healthcare provider in 2021/22

75%
**SOUTH VANCOUVER
ISLAND**

83%
**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

86%
CANADA

↑ up from 72% in 2019/20

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community

Women living with substance-use challenges on Vancouver Island will now have access to additional care through 20 newly opened treatment beds at the New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community in View Royal. Operated by Our Place Society, the centre offers long-term, holistic support for women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals facing addiction, incarceration, or housing instability. Clients can stay up to two years and the opportunity for stability allows them to begin rebuilding their lives. The centre is part of a provincial initiative to expand treatment options in all regions of BC so that more people can find their unique path to recovery.

SOURCE: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND OUR PLACE SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY
OAKCREST PARK ESTATES LTD.

HOUSING

VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

Sooke Shelter Society, where support meets dignity

The Sooke Shelter Society, founded in 2017, is on a mission to prevent and end homelessness in the Sooke region by providing essential services and compassionate support to those experiencing housing insecurity.

Offering free access to emergency shelter and supportive housing, the Society meets people where they're at with a range of outreach services. This includes comprehensive case management and temporary outdoor survival supplies such as tents, sleeping bags, warm clothing, and non-perishable food. Individuals can also access showers, bus tickets, and other basic necessities. Emotional support and referrals to longer-term resources are also available to those in need.

Sherry Thompson, Executive Director, brings lived experience to her role and understands the urgency of the work. "Addressing housing is just the right thing to do," she said. "Everyone deserves to have their basic needs met, and I truly believe this issue could be solved if we put real focus on it."

At Sooke Shelter Society, staff and volunteers work to ensure that no one feels forgotten or misunderstood by building relationships rooted in empathy. The Society depends on the strength of community partnerships and donor support. With a vision established to uplift dignity, respect, and action, the Society continues to be a deeply supportive place for some of the region's most vulnerable residents.



Photo by: Jo-Ann Richards, Works Photography

HOUSING SALES AND PRICES

Properties sold in Greater Victoria in May 2025

758 The ratio of residential sales to active residential listings was **25%** in May 2025, making Greater Victoria a more balanced market that was positive for consumers on both sides of the transaction.

down **0.7%** from May 2024

Median sale prices in May 2025



SINGLE-FAMILY HOME

\$1,200,000

up 0.8% from **\$1,191,000** in 2024



TOWNHOUSES

\$807,750

up 2.3% from **\$789,574** in 2024



CONDOS

\$535,000

down 2.3% from **\$547,450** in 2024

May is typically when Greater Victoria is at or near peak activity in the property market.

SOURCE: VICTORIA REAL ESTATE BOARD

RENTS AND RENTAL VACANCIES

In Greater Victoria in October 2024

Average vacancy rates for purpose-built rental apartments (i.e., units built as long-term rental housing)

ALL UNIT TYPES **2.5%** up from 2023 (1.6%)

HIGHEST VACANCY RATE **3.4%** 3+ bedroom units

LOWEST VACANCY RATE **2.3%** 1 bedroom units

Average apartment rents in 2024

ALL UNIT TYPES

\$1,696

up **3.1%** from \$1,571 in 2023

BACHELOR \$1,366

3+ BEDROOM \$2,439

The supply of purpose-built rentals grew by **1,785 units** in 2024, compared to 1,490 units in 2023, with most of the new supply in the Westshore (58%) and Victoria (32%) in 2024.

SOURCE: CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION



A person working **35 hours** a week at BC's minimum hourly wage of **\$17.85** would need to spend **50%** of their gross monthly income to rent a bachelor apartment (\$1,366) in Greater Victoria, based on 52 weeks per year.

59 HOURS per week at minimum wage is required to *affordably* rent this apartment (i.e., spend no more than 30% of household income on rent).

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Supporting Renters in a Financial Crisis

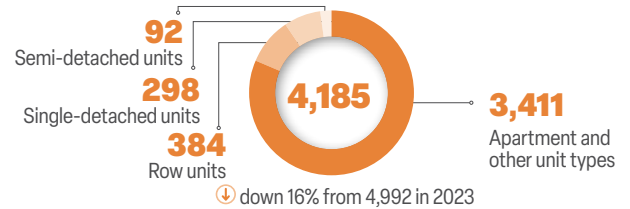
The Greater Victoria Rent Bank, operated by the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria, provides a no-interest repayable loan to households at risk of eviction or essential utility disconnection due to short-term financial crisis. The loan can also be used as a damage deposit or first month's rent to move to safe and sustainable housing.

In 2023/24, BC rent banks supported 1,513 households, preventing over 600 people from becoming homeless and 1,000 households from spending more than they could afford on rent—an estimated \$27.5 million in avoided costs. Every \$1 invested in BC rent banks delivered \$5 in savings for individuals, families, and government.

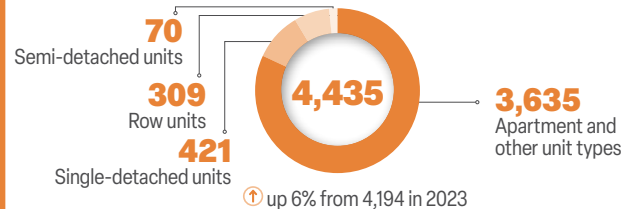
SOURCE: COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA AND BC RENT BANK

HOUSING STARTS AND COMPLETIONS

Housing Starts in Greater Victoria in 2024



Housing Completions in Greater Victoria in 2024



SOURCE: CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

SHELTER COST TO INCOME RATIO

SDG 11

Proportion of renter and owner households that spend 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs

	2011	2016	2021
Canada	26%	24%	21%
BC	30%	28%	26%
Greater Victoria	31%	29%	26%

THEN & NOW

From our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2001, 28% of households in Greater Victoria spent 30% or more of income on shelter costs.

Shelter costs for renter and owner households include, where applicable, rent, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees, along with the costs of electricity, heat, water, and other municipal services.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES

The United Nations declared 2025 the International Year of Co-operatives, highlighting how member-owned enterprises build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities.

Housing co-operatives offer a blueprint for housing affordability and social cohesion. Residents co-own the property, set the rules, and share responsibility for its future. Because every member has a vote, co-op governance is a community building exercise. Housing charges are tied to actual operating costs, with surpluses reinvested into the co-op to ensure long-term viability. The results are stable costs, secure tenure, and a built-in network of member support.

Across the region, there are an estimated 34 housing co-ops and co-op associations.

SOURCE: CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING FEDERATION OF BC



LEARNING

VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

Creating the conditions for youth to thrive

When youth see their ideas take shape in the real world, it affirms their voice, builds momentum, and deepens learning. "I discovered that I'm smart, creative, and have potential," says one PowerPlay participant.

The Young Entrepreneurs of Canada Association delivers PowerPlay Young Entrepreneurs—a free, six-to-eight-week, experiential, game-based business and financial literacy program for grades four to eight. Aligned with the BC curriculum, students build and launch their businesses. This strengths-based approach has fostered critical thinking, autonomy, and real-world learning within a safe, inclusive learning environment. "Making and spending my own money increased my confidence," shares a student.

PowerPlay Young Entrepreneurs helps youth turn ideas into action while building skills in design thinking, teamwork, and business planning. 21% of participants reported greater curiosity and willingness to explore new things. Teachers give PowerPlay an A+ for connecting diverse learning styles with entrepreneurship, enhancing financial literacy, and nurturing independence.

With Victoria Foundation's support, PowerPlay reached 752 students in 34 classrooms last year, including Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, and Pender Islands, doubling its reach across the CRD. "Students with diverse learning needs engaged in hands-on, experiential learning that played to their strengths," observes Anna Kato, teacher, SD61.

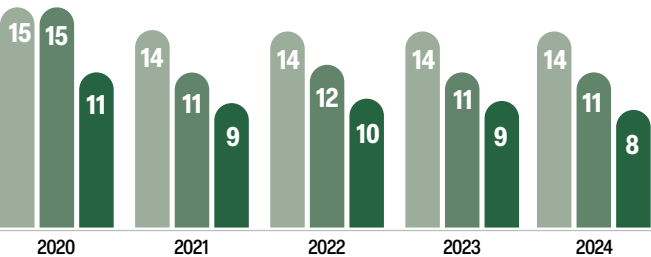


HIGH SCHOOL NON-COMPLETION

SDG 4

% Population, aged 15 years and older, who have not completed high school

CANADA | BC | VICTORIA CMA



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

THEN & NOW

Since the first Vital Signs report in 2006, the high school non-completion rate in the region has declined steadily from 17% in 2006 to 8% in 2024, with rates for Victoria CMA consistently lower than rates for BC and Canada.

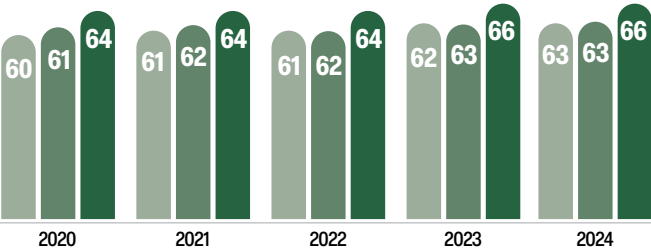
SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

POST SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

SDG 4

% Population, aged 15 years and older, who have completed some form of post-secondary education

CANADA | BC | VICTORIA CMA



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

I,ŠETEN E TFE ĆESE ŠXENÁŃs TENEW

Walking In Two Worlds, a 2024 documentary, chronicles the 50-year journey of the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board.

Formed in 1972, the originally named Saanich Indian School Board was one of the first Indigenous-run school boards in the province—a direct response to the residential and day school system that sought to assimilate Indigenous children, severing their connection to language and culture.

Walking in Two Worlds traces the journey from the three-room Tsartlip Indian Day School to a flourishing campus. It spotlights the incredible efforts of grandmothers, mothers, aunties, Elders, and leaders to reclaim the right to educate their own children, grounded in W̱SÁNEĆ cultural values and the SENĆOŦEN language.

Co-produced by Emily Olsen and Benjamin Joel Cran, the film honours the work of the late documentarian, Philip Paul. The film was screened by community members and premiered publicly in 2025.

SOURCE: W̱SÁNEĆ SCHOOL BOARD

UNDERGRADUATE TUITION FEES

SDG 4

Average undergraduate tuition fees for domestic students in 2024/25

\$6,787 GREATER VICTORIA (VICTORIA CMA)

↑ up from \$6,654 in 2023/24

\$6,607 BRITISH COLUMBIA

\$7,360 CANADA

Tuition rates in the region have risen steadily over the past decade from **\$5,591** in 2016/17.

Note: Tuition fees of the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University were combined to calculate the weighted average. This data excludes financial assistance or tax rebates provided to students. Average fees are in current dollars and a total for all fields of study.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS

In 2023, youth, aged 12–19 years, in South Vancouver Island were asked how much they agreed with a series of statements about their school experience. Reflecting the provincial trend, local youth were less likely to feel connected to school and less likely to feel safe there than those five years earlier.

Youth who agreed/strongly agreed they felt ...

	2018	2023
School staff expected them to do well	79%	74%
School staff treated them fairly	72%	66%
Safe at school	77%	65%
Teachers cared about them	70%	64%
Like a part of the school	60%	54%
Happy to be at school	61%	53%
Other school staff cared about them	54%	48%

SOURCE: MCCREARY CENTRE SOCIETY

EDUCATION AND ADULT MORTALITY

Every year spent in school or university improves life expectancy, while not attending school is as deadly as smoking or heavy drinking, according to the first systematic review to directly link years of education to longevity.

Using evidence from 59 higher-income countries, the 2024 peer-reviewed analysis found an adult's risk of mortality from all causes went down by 2% for every year in full-time education. This effect persisted across age, sex, social class, and demography, and did not diminish at higher levels of education.

The study found completing 18 years of education is the equivalent of a lifetime of eating a healthy diet, lowering the risk of death by 34% compared with those with no formal education. Conversely, not attending school at all was as bad for adult health as consuming five or more alcoholic drinks every day or smoking 10 cigarettes each day for a decade.

SOURCE: LANCET PUBLIC HEALTH

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CREST

SAFETY

Using your WITS

WITS stands for: Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help. Together, these strategies are being used by children across Canada and the region to reduce discrimination and bullying, and promote kindness in elementary schools — all thanks to the WITS Programs Foundation.

WITS was initially founded in Greater Victoria in 1997, and provides teachers, parents, and students with a common language to discuss peer victimization, through fun programs and educational materials that are easily used in classrooms. WITS also provides Focus Modules for educators to teach important topics, such as diverse abilities, race and Indigenous cultures, and gender identities. Program materials are packed with age-appropriate children's books, downloadable lesson plans, and activities.

Recently, with help from a Victoria Foundation Community Grant in 2024, WITS has been building its digital resources, including an engaging online game that helps students navigate bullying scenarios in school settings. Executive Director Andy Telfer says they're also working on an "Inclusion Strategies Project" — a new program "to encourage children to include, accept, and be curious about people who are different than themselves."

"We want to help students proactively create a generation without discrimination," says Andy.



VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

Photo by: Jo-Ann Richards, Works Photography

POLICE-REPORTED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

SDG 5
SDG 16

Police-reported intimate partner violence victims in 2023

VICTORIA CMA

250 per 100,000 population

↑ higher than the rates in 2022 and 2019; lower than the rates in 2021 and 2020

BRITISH COLUMBIA

289 per 100,000 population

CANADA

354 per 100,000 population

Rate of victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000 population, 2023

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	354	550	155
BC	289	444	130
Victoria CMA	250	371	120

In 2019, **80%** of spousal victims in Canada did not report the violence they experienced to police. Among spousal victims at the provincial level, reporting to police in 2019 was lower than 20 years earlier (**19%** vs. **28%** in 1999).

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

POLICE-REPORTED FAMILY VIOLENCE

SDG 5
SDG 16

Police-reported family violence victims in 2023

VICTORIA CMA

237 per 100,000 population

↑ higher than the rates in each of the four years, 2019-2022

BRITISH COLUMBIA

279 per 100,000 population

CANADA

352 per 100,000 population

Rate of victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000 population, 2023

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	352	474	222
BC	279	382	174
Victoria CMA	237	315	150

Rate of child and youth family violence victims in Victoria CMA 2023

Children 11 years and under

301

per 100,000 child population

Youth aged 12-17 years

340

per 100,000 youth population

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

YOUTH SENSE OF SAFETY

Youth, aged 12-19 years, in South Vancouver Island reported in 2023

90% often or always felt safe in their neighbourhood during the day, similar to 2018 but lower than a decade earlier (94% in 2013).

68% often or always felt safe in their neighbourhood at night, similar to 2018 but lower than 2013 (71%), and higher than their provincial counterparts (**64%**) in 2023.

Males were the most likely to feel safe in their neighbourhood. In 2023, **93%** of males in SVI often or always felt safe in their neighbourhood during the day, compared to **89%** of females and **78%** of non-binary youth.

SOURCE: MCCREARY CENTRE SOCIETY

OVERALL CRIME

Criminal violations (Criminal Code and Federal Statute violations) per 100,000 population in 2024

↓ **5,820**

VICTORIA CMA

down from 6,169 in 2023

7,490

BRITISH COLUMBIA

6,134

CANADA

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

VIOLENT CRIME

SDG 16

Violent crimes per 100,000 population in 2024

↓ **1,435**

VICTORIA CMA

down from 1,452 in 2023

1,498

BRITISH COLUMBIA

1,433

CANADA

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

SEXUAL ASSAULTS

SDG 5
SDG 16

Sexual assaults (level 1, 2 and 3) per 100,000 population in 2024

↑ **84**

VICTORIA CMA

379 total incidents up from a rate of 73 in 2023

78

BRITISH COLUMBIA

89

CANADA

In 2019, only **6%** of self-reported incidents of sexual assault in Canada were reported to police.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

THEN & NOW

From our first Vital Signs report (2006):

In 2005, there were 260 (876 incidents) motor vehicle theft violations per 100,000 population in the region. In 2024, the rate had dropped to 68 (298 incidents) per 100,000 population.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

YOUTH CRIME

Youth, aged 12-17 years, charged with criminal violations per 100,000 youth population in 2024

↑ **908**

VICTORIA CMA

218 total youth up from a rate of 895 in 2023

710

BRITISH COLUMBIA

1,375

CANADA

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Compassionate Care is a Call Away

For people experiencing a mental health crisis, the Community Response, Care & Leadership (CRCL) Teams offer mobile, non-emergency support through a Peer Assisted Care Team model. Operated by AVI Health and Community Services and staffed by mental health professionals and people with lived experience, CRCL teams focus on well-being, connection, and culturally safe support. When a person in crisis calls the hotline, dispatch completes an assessment and sends a team to provide immediate crisis support, including help navigating resources for follow-up. Developed by the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division, CRCL is funded by the Province of BC.

SOURCE: AVI HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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THIS WEEK'S LUNCH

SPORTS & RECREATION

VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

B+

Sport for keeps: Junior wheelchair rugby programming fills vital service gaps

In early 2024, BC Wheelchair Sports Association (BCWSA) identified a key gap: while kids could try adaptive sports for a day, there was no regular programming to support long-term growth. Thanks to support from the Victoria Foundation, BCWSA launched a weekly junior rugby program at Pacific Institute for Sport Education (PISE) for kids with disabilities aged 6 to 18. Participation quickly jumped from four to fourteen. “We’ve never seen this kind of growth,” says coach and Paralympian Byron Green.

“Many juniors have congenital disabilities like Cerebral Palsy,” shares Byron. “Early sport builds a foundation for a lifelong relationship with physical activity—recreational or high-performance.” Kids first learn “push mechanics” in adaptive manual chairs then progress to passing, tackling, and teamwork, finally progressing to full-contact wheelchair rugby.

The junior rugby program develops physical strength, confidence, and a sense of belonging. Owen, six, was the only wheelchair user at his school and became reserved; sport brought him out of his shell. For kids, seeing Byron, a Paralympian with a career, home, and family, shows that life with a disability can be full.

When kids with disabilities have access to sports, they learn their abilities and feel empowered, included, and unstoppable.



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES

Photo courtesy of BC Wheelchair Sports Association

YOUTH RECREATION

In 2023, youth, aged 12-19 years, in South Vancouver Island, participated in various types of physical activity at least weekly over the previous 12 months:

Informal sports (without a coach):

55%

Organized sports (with a coach):

51%

Exercise at a gym or rec centre:

36%

Dance, yoga, or exercise classes with an instructor:

15%

Extreme sports (e.g., backcountry skiing, BMX):

10%

Youth participation rates in 2023 were comparable to 2018, but lower than 10 years earlier for informal sports (**55%** vs. 60% in 2013); organized sports (**51%** vs. 56% in 2013); and dance, yoga, or exercise classes (**15%** vs. 20% in 2013).

In 2023, **67%** of the region's youth reported experiencing barriers to engaging in extracurricular physical activity. The top five reported barriers were too busy (**42%**), injured (**25%**), too anxious or depressed (**20%**), thought it was too competitive (**19%**), and worried about being bullied by another youth (**12%**).

SOURCE: MCCREARY CENTRE SOCIETY

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Spotlighting Community Excellence in Sport

In 2025, Greater Victoria was named a Sport Heritage Community by the BC Sports Hall of Fame, an initiative honouring communities that have shaped British Columbia's sport history.

This designation recognizes the important role communities play in fostering physical activity, organized sport, and high performance. It also acknowledges qualities that attract athletes, coaches, scientists, sport leaders, and major events.

Greater Victoria is perhaps best known for its 1925 Stanley Cup win, hosting the 1994 Commonwealth Games, producing basketball legend Steve Nash, and being home to the nine-time Mann Cup winning Victoria Shamrocks. This is a brief list of the successes and accomplishments in our region! It also boasts championship teams at the University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, and Camosun College, and amenities like the Pacific Institute for Sport Education, Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, and athlete training centres for national teams.

SOURCE: BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME

REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS

Residents in the Capital Regional District in 2024

91% visited
a regional park

83% visited
a regional trail

79% were satisfied with their overall
experiences in regional parks and trails,
down from 90% in 2017

Most residents believed that parks and trails significantly contribute to resident health and well-being, conservation of natural environments, and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The most popular parks were Elk/Beaver Lake, Thetis Lake, and Island View Beach. The most frequently visited trail was the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.

The most common activities in parks and trails

79% walking **71%** hiking **43%** viewing nature **42%** cycling **38%** dog walking

Many residents acknowledged the importance of parks (**61%**) and trails (**51%**) for respecting and preserving First Nations cultural heritage, with parks (**53%**) as valuable places for learning about these traditions.

Many viewed parks and trails as contributing to equitable access (**63%**), although just **54%** of households in which at least one member has a permanent accessibility requirement felt the same way, and these households were less likely to have visited a regional park or trail in the past year.

SOURCE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

THEN & NOW

Access to Sport for Kids

KidSport Greater Victoria believes that no child should be left on the sidelines because they do not have the resources to play sports.

Established in 2000, KidSport Greater Victoria raises and distributes funds locally so that children experiencing financial need can enjoy the benefits of organized sport. It has grown steadily to become BC's largest KidSport chapter, and third largest across the country. Today, there are 11 provincial/territorial chapters and 180+ community-based chapters in Canada.

In its first year, KidSport Greater Victoria distributed **\$7,000** in season-of-sport registration grants and helped **84** children, with 52 boys and 32 girls funded into soccer, hockey, gymnastics, karate, baseball, skating, football, and swimming.

In 2024, it distributed **\$532,400** in grants and reached **1,357** kids.

This year, KidSport Greater Victoria is celebrating 25 years of helping children access community sport programs. To date, it has distributed **\$4.5 million** and funded over **17,000** kids across the region.

SOURCE: KIDSPORT GREATER VICTORIA

MARATHON RACING

The Royal Victoria Marathon (RVM), organized by runners for runners, is one of the largest annual sporting events on Vancouver Island. Held annually on Thanksgiving weekend, RVM consists of five distances: a 42.2 km full marathon, 21.1 km half marathon, 8 km run, 5 km run, and 1 km kids' run.

The full marathon, a fast and beautiful course that winds through Victoria and Oak Bay, is a Boston Marathon qualifier and World Athletics sanctioned event. It is also part of the BC Marathon Championships and an Abbott World Majors ranking event. The half marathon is the most popular distance due to the fast and relatively flat course.

Established in 1980 with **700 runners**, RVM had over **12,000 participants** in 2024, its third largest event, with higher participation expected for RVM's 45th anniversary in 2025.

From its inception to the 2024 RVM, there have been **63,130 full marathon** runners, **84,528 half marathon** runners, **61,771 eight km** runners, and **1,411 five km** runners (started in 2023).

SOURCE: VICTORIA MARATHON SOCIETY

STANDARD OF LIVING

VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE



ĒĒENISTW TFE ŠWELOKE ŁTE (To feed our families)

Since 2024, Tsartlip Nation has been running a community-led, healthy meal program that breaks down barriers for vulnerable people, especially Elders, new mothers, and people with mobility issues. Chief Don Tom says the ĒĒENISTW TFE ŠWELOKE ŁTE program aims to address the cost of food and rates of food insecurity that continue to rise. In 2024, the Victoria Foundation provided a grant to help operate the program.

“We’ve always relied on outside agencies in the past to provide meals,” says Chief Tom. “Now, we’re excited to be able to help our membership by providing meals made in the community.”

“We’re also trying to find ways to incorporate traditional practices of preserving and preparing food,” he explains, adding that the Nation intends to make this program a long-term initiative. Chief Tom shares that the Tsartlip Food Security program is working towards encouraging young people in the community to go out and hunt, harvest, process, and cook.



MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

SDG
8

Median family income after-tax in 2023 for all census family units



The median family income rose from **\$59,180** in 2019 to **\$71,500** in 2023.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

MEDIAN INDIVIDUAL INCOME

SDG
5SDG
8

Median individual total income in 2023



Median income for women and men in the region in 2023



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

BC MINIMUM WAGE

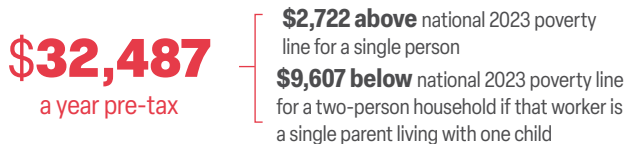
SDG
8

General minimum hourly wage in BC

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
\$15.20	\$15.65	\$16.75	\$17.40	\$17.85

SOURCE: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In 2025, a full-time minimum wage worker in BC earns



Full-time, full-year work is 35 hours of paid work for 52 weeks. The poverty line is based on Statistics Canada's 2023 Low Income Measure (LIM) threshold for market income in 2023 constant dollars for a one-person household (\$29,765) and a two-person household (\$42,094) in Canada.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Sharing Food and Growing Community

The Salt Spring Food Share program brings the community together to celebrate and share local food. Run by the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust, the program aims to increase access to locally grown food, reduce food insecurity and waste, and help food producers share the abundance of their harvests.

The program hosts monthly food exchanges from July to December where islanders can share and exchange homegrown and homemade food, all while building community and fostering connections. The Food Share program also coordinates fruit tree owners, harvest volunteers, and community partners to pick and distribute excess produce to individuals and community organizations. People can drop off and donate their extra produce.

In 2024, the Salt Spring Food Share program harvested and shared over 15,000 lbs of fruit and produce!

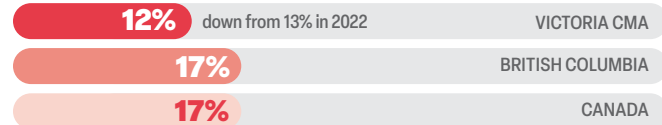
SOURCE: SALT SPRING ISLAND FARMLAND TRUST

POVERTY RATES

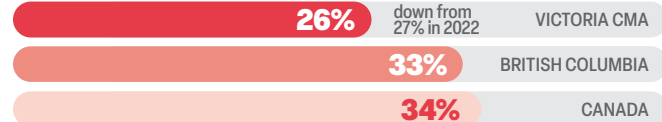
SDG
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Poverty rates in 2023 as measured by Statistics Canada's Census Family Low Income Measure after tax

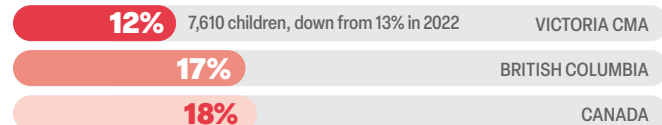
Overall



One-parent families



Children under 18 years



Seniors 65 years and older



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

LIVING WAGE

SDG
8

\$26.78

up 5.4% from \$25.40 in 2023

The hourly wage required to maintain an adequate quality of life in the capital region in 2024.

\$9 higher than the current minimum wage (\$17.85).

A sharp spike in the region's cost of living pushed up the living wage. Financial relief from government benefit increases and improvements to child care affordability was outpaced by the rising costs of rent and essentials.

In 2024, shelter (**39%**) and food (**18%**) comprised the largest share of family monthly expenses in Greater Victoria, with the largest dollar increase from 2023 in shelter and child care.

The living wage is the hourly rate that each of two parents working full-time must earn to support a family of four based on the actual cost of living in a particular community. It factors in government benefits, taxes, and deductions and excludes debt payments, savings, and non-essential costs.

SOURCE: COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA

THEN & NOW
INCOME INEQUALITYSDG
10

In our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2000, the top 10% of the region's income earners had an average employment income of **\$69,000**, compared to **\$14,600** for the bottom 10%. The income of the top 10% was nearly **five times** that of the bottom 10%.

By 2020, the average employment income of the top 10% of earners in Greater Victoria was **\$100,100**, nearly **11 times** the **\$9,270** income of the bottom 10%. Over this 20-year period, the average employment income for the region's top 10% **increased 45%**, while it **decreased 37%** for the bottom 10%.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA



VITAL SIGNS
CITIZEN SURVEY GRADE

TRANSPORTATION

Without transportation, there is no care

No vehicle? Scared of the diagnosis? Unsure where to begin? Maybe this is you, or someone you love.

It was Mary's reality, too — until she found the Daily Dose Society (DDS). Now DDS is on Mary's speed dial to help her get to clinics, physio, and hospital appointments safely, comfortably, and with dignity. Whether Mary decides to use her walker or her wheelchair, a familiar driver meets her at the door, steadies her feet, makes her laugh, and reminds her that she's not alone. For the seasoned DDS mobile outreach team, transportation is more than just a service, it's the glue that holds care together.

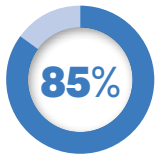
Founded in 2015, the DDS was created to bridge the gap between taxis and ambulances, offering compassionate, door-to-door, non-emergency transportation with assisted care. Since its launch, DDS has provided over 50,000 essential rides, at no cost, to those eligible on lower Vancouver Island, facing financial, physical, or mental health barriers. With a fleet of six vehicles and fourteen compassionate and friendly drivers, DDS operates on a unique service model built around reliability, assistance, and trust. As the founder and heart behind the mission says: "If you need to get there, let us drive you — with care."

In addition to rides, DDS provides advocacy and support, helping clients access essential health, legal, and social services. Whether it's arriving at an appointment on time, or navigating complex systems, DDS is there, ensuring no one is left behind.

The Saanich Legacy Foundation proudly supports DDS as an approved partnership project. This allows DDS to receive donations, apply for community grants, and seek funding from other organizations to help sustain and grow this vital service for years to come. For more information, visit thedailydosesociety.org.



CONVENIENT ACCESS TO TRANSIT

SDG
11

In 2023, **85%** of the Greater Victoria population lived within **500 metres** walking distance of a transit stop, on par with 2021, and fourth highest of Canada's 36 census metropolitan areas after Red Deer (**94%**), Montreal (**87%**), and Regina (**86%**).

Of the region's population with convenient access in 2023, approximately **63%** had after-tax income under \$60,000 and **22%** had after-tax income of \$60,000 and over, on par with 2021.

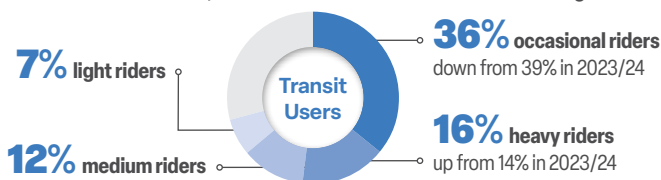
SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

TRANSIT USE

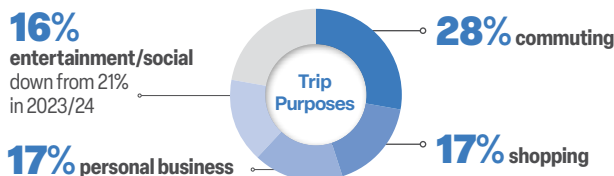
SDG
11

In 2024/25, among Greater Victoria residents:

71% used transit, of whom **26%** had used transit in the past 24 hours, while **32%** used it more than a month ago.



Those who used transit in the past seven days made an average of 4.5 one-way trips per week, higher than the BC-wide average (3.0).



Compared to a year ago, **22%** of riders used transit more often, **28%** used it less often (down from 32% in 2023/24), and **50%** used it about the same (up from 45% in 2023/24).

Riders using transit more often cited convenience (**67%**), affordability (**51%**), and environmental benefits (**40%**) for their increased usage.

Riders using transit less often or about the same cited preference for a personal vehicle (**57%**), transit taking too long to reach destinations (**50%**; down from 55% in 2023/24), and preference for cycling or walking (**46%**) as reasons why non-riders avoid transit.

Total percentages may not add up to 100% for select items. Gray segments in graphic do not reflect survey results.

SOURCE: BC TRANSIT

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

'Walking School Bus' Offers Exercise and Safety Skills

Children in Greater Victoria are boarding the Walking School Bus! Through supervised walks to school, elementary students are learning safe commuting skills while building healthy habits.

The program, in partnership with the Society for Children and Youth of BC and funded by the Province of BC, gives students a chance to start their school day with some fresh air and exercise. Both volunteers and paid leaders are given safety training to lead students on their routes.

The program is available in Langford, Sooke, Nanaimo, Esquimalt, Saanich, and Central Saanich. It will soon expand to other areas of BC and will also include a Bike School Bus program in some communities.

SOURCE: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF BC

BIKE RIDERSHIP

In 2024, according to the Capital Regional District's Regional Cyclist and Pedestrian Count Program, approximately:

13.5 million people travelled the Galloping Goose network in both directions on foot, bike, or micromobility device

⬆ up from 9.7 million total users in 2021

861 average daily users

⬆ up from 636 average daily users in 2021

The three busiest routes in 2024 by average daily users

3,548
Galloping Goose north
of Selkirk Trestle

2,317
Galloping Goose south
of Cudthul Road

2,222
Johnson Street
Bridge

In 2024, just over

10 million cyclists rode the Galloping Goose

661 average daily cyclists

The busiest route

Johnson Street Bridge with **8%** of total cycling volumes.

The CRD has set up **43 automated counters** around the region to monitor bike and pedestrian traffic volumes. It works with partners including Victoria, Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, and the University of Victoria to offer a single access point for all automated counts in the region.

SOURCE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Commuters in Greater Victoria are more likely to use active transportation than their national counterparts, with **18.7%** of the region's commuters mainly walking or biking to work in May 2024, compared to just **6%** of Canadian commuters.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

THEN & NOW

Go By Bike Week is an annual celebration of cycling in the region.

Previously known as Bike to Work Week, it began in 1995 to raise the profile of commuter cycling, first as an initiative of the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and later managed by the Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society. Bike to Work BC was formed to bring the event to communities across the province. In 2020, the event was renamed Go By Bike Week to reflect the inclusion of a Bike to School component.

Today, Go By Bike events in the region are led by Capital Bike, formed by the merger of the two founding organizations. The original one-week event in May is now three, week-long events held throughout the year.

Participation in the region's Go By Bike Week has grown steadily from 500 riders in 1995 to 10,000 in 2019 and now averages about 8,000 riders annually. As noted in the first Vital Signs report, over 5,250 people participated in the 2006 Bike to Work Week.

In 2024, approximately 56,148 people participated in Go By Bike events across BC, logging 2,489,265 kilometers and saving 539,682 kilograms of greenhouse gases, equivalent to 126 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year.

SOURCE: CAPITAL BIKE AND GOBYBIKE BC

Methodology

CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY — This year, 5,820 citizens added their voices to Victoria's Vital Signs by assigning grades and assessing their experience with various facets of life in each of the 12 key issue areas. They were also asked questions about quality of life, their perceptions and experience with equity and inclusion, and their thoughts on the progress our community has made over the years.

The online survey, conducted by Leger, is based on a “self-selected” respondent population. The survey was open to all interested individuals in Greater Victoria, and survey participants volunteered to take part in the survey. Therefore, the results should be considered as representative of “interested residents of the capital region” and may not be representative of the Greater Victoria population overall.

400 surveys were completed via research panel and 5,420 surveys were completed via open link. Since data collection was conducted with nonprobability sampling, a margin of error is not reported. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of n=400 yields a margin of error no greater than ±4.9% (19 times out of 20) for the total panel sample. For the open link, no margin of error can be reported for this data. A full report on the results of the survey and its analysis is available on the Foundation's website.

An invitation to participate in the open-link survey was promoted through many websites, social media channels, online newsletters, posters, media coverage, and more.

Continuing from the 2021 theme of equity and inclusion, there is a segmentation analysis of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) respondents on select questions in the survey results. Best practices for addressing different ethnic groups within the research is still being developed. However, due to the small sample sizes, ethnicities other than Caucasian were aggregated to form the BIPOC category.

Secondary Data

To complement citizen opinion data, the Victoria Foundation curates secondary data on a range of indicators from Statistics Canada and other institutional sources. Through our Vital Community Network, we consult local experts from a range of Greater Victoria organizations who help us identify meaningful indicators. Ultimately, the availability and accessibility of reliable data determines if we can report on a given indicator. Sponsors do not influence the indicator data in any way.

A note about geography: Greater Victoria is an umbrella term that applies to different geographical areas, depending on the indicator. It can refer to the Capital Regional District Census Division, Victoria Census Metropolitan Area, or South Vancouver Island Health Service Delivery Area. For a full list of indicators, data sources, and geographies used in this report, visit victoriafoundation.ca.

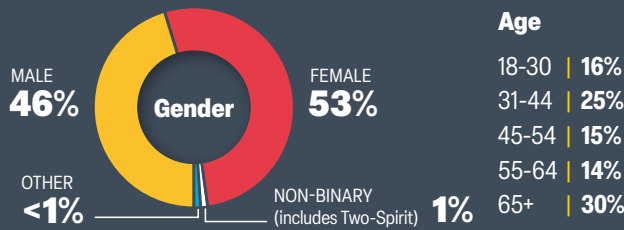
Grading

Citizen grading of the issue areas is based on a report card scale:

- A** Excellent, stay the course
- B** Good, but improvements could be made
- C** Average performance, suggest additional effort be made to address these issues
- D** Below average performance, additional work is required
- F** Failure, immediate action is required

Citizen Survey

Respondent Profile



Age	
18-30	16%
31-44	25%
45-54	15%
55-64	14%
65+	30%

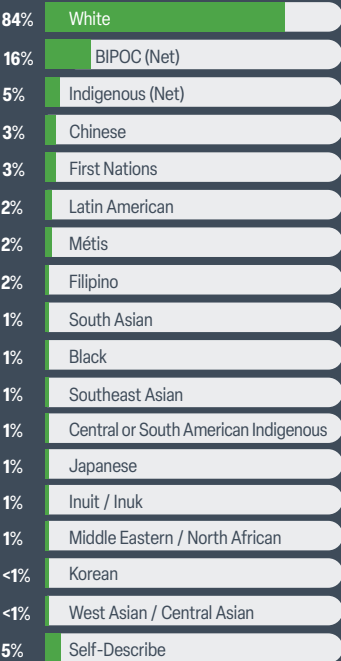
Have Lived in Greater Victoria



Household Income

NET: <\$50k	16%
Less than \$20,000	3%
\$20,000-\$49,999	13%
NET: \$50,000-\$79,999	17%
NET: \$80k+	52%
\$80,000-\$99,999	12%
\$100,000-\$124,999	13%
\$125,000-\$149,999	9%
\$150,000+	19%

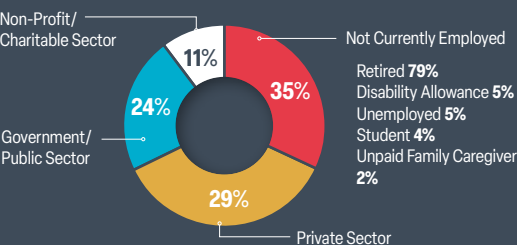
Ethnicity



Where they live

Victoria	40%
Saanich	20%
Langford	8%
Esquimalt	6%
Oak Bay	5%
Central Saanich	4%
Colwood	3%
View Royal	3%
North Saanich	2%
Sooke	2%
Sidney	2%
Metchosin	1%
Highlands	1%
S. Gulf Islands	<1%
Salt Spring Island	<1%
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area	<1%
Other	2%

Employment by Sector



*'Prefer not to answer' responses are not included. Numbers may not add up to 100%.

Which issues will you take on?



ARTS & CULTURE

Arts and culture make a community a vibrant and enriching place to live. An active and diverse mix of cultural offerings increases our sense of satisfaction with our environment and community pride.



BELONGING & ENGAGEMENT

Participation in civic life contributes to the wellbeing of our community and to our sense of connection to one another. By engaging, we foster leadership that helps build and maintain a vibrant community.



ECONOMY

Strong and vibrant communities have diverse local economies and a wide variety of options for fulfilling, secure, and well-paid work.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

From the air we breathe to the ground we walk on, a healthy and sustainable environment is an important part of quality of life. A healthy environment is reflective of a healthy community.



GETTING STARTED

Helping children, youth, and newcomers to get a good start in life, work, adulthood, and our community makes a lasting difference.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Good physical and mental health and wellness improves the quality of individual lives and reduces healthcare costs. The health status of people depends on good health practices and behaviour, and access to healthcare services.



HOUSING

Having safe and accessible housing people can afford is a basic need that contributes significantly to quality of life.



LEARNING

Lifelong learning and educational achievement affect our ability to participate in a competitive workforce, achieve higher incomes, and escape the cycle of poverty.



SAFETY

Public and personal safety affects the way we socialize and participate in community life.



SPORTS & RECREATION

Sport and recreation play a foundational role in developing and sustaining healthy citizens and communities.



STANDARD OF LIVING

Individuals, families, and children living below the poverty line may face many obstacles, which can limit their ability to enjoy quality of life.



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation includes the ability to get around and transport people and goods. The capacity and convenience of transportation, such as our transit and road systems, have a big impact on quality of life.

Want to stay in the loop? Sign up for our newsletter!

We'll share bi-weekly updates highlighting Foundation news, publications like Vital Signs and Pulse, funding and grant announcements, donor updates, and highlights about the local charitable sector. You can also visit our blog for regular updates or follow us on social media.

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The Victoria Foundation

We're not dreaming about a better future, **we're building one.**

As a Certified B Corp,
we believe that our
cooperative is an engine
for good. We want a
more inclusive and
sustainable world for all.
That's why we reinvest
10% of our profits each
year back into the
communities we work,
live and serve in. So
when you invest in us,
you invest in good.

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