

VICTORIA'S **VITAL** SIGNS[®]

GREATER VICTORIA'S 2009 ANNUAL CHECK-UP



**VICTORIA
FOUNDATION**

CONNECTING PEOPLE
WHO CARE WITH CAUSES
THAT MATTER[®]

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

Start conversations. Take action. If you or your organization is moved or motivated by what you read, use this report as a starting point for positive action.

Pass it on. Share the report with your friends, colleagues, employees, students, a neighbour, library or community centre, or an elected official at any level.

Contact us. We know the issues and organizations in our community. If you are looking for ways to make a difference, we can help.

Find out more. Learn about the many organizations in our community working to improve it, and see how you too can help.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR & CEO

Connecting people who care with causes that matter®

Connecting people who care with causes that matter was the impetus for publishing the first *Victoria's Vital Signs* four years ago. And, it continues to be our reason as we work our way through this global economic downturn – a time when we are needed more than ever.

Information and knowledge are at the heart of our ability to work with donors to make a philanthropic impact. *Vital Signs* has become a widely-used publication for our Foundation, our donors and many of the charitable organizations working in our community – making the Victoria Foundation a key resource for vital information.

Research in a reader-friendly format is the root of *Vital Signs*. This year, we've added a special focus on youth – thanks to the generous support of the TELUS Victoria Community Board. We also have some new research this year as a result of a partnership we formed with seven other organizations in Greater Victoria.

A survey that resulted in a happiness index for the region and the corresponding booklet adhered to the inside back cover are results of that partnership.

As a catalyst for networking, *Vital Signs* has been very successful in initiating and fuelling important conversations about our quality of life. One of those conversations resulted in Every Step Counts, a running program for people experiencing barriers and challenges with housing, mental health, addiction and social isolation.

A key challenge for philanthropy is sorting through competing priorities, identifying opportunities and creating space for deeper conversations and solutions. Our networks help us to engage community members and see trends, challenges and connections in our community.

Vital Signs provides a level of precision and drive to our community philanthropy. We hope you find it equally helpful and interesting.



Sandra Richardson
Chief Executive Officer

Chuck Burkett
Chair, Board of Directors

Understanding who makes up our community and where they come from helps to identify patterns and the services needed for the people who live here.

THE PEOPLE IN OUR REGION

Population location In 2006, 67.1% of Greater Victoria residents lived in the Urban Core, compared to 16.9% in the West Shore, 11.7% on the Peninsula and 4.3% on the Gulf Islands. Over the past five years, the greatest increase in population has been in the West Shore.

Ethnic origin The 2006 Census showed that 17.6% of Greater Victoria residents report non-European ethnic origins including Aboriginal communities, Latin America, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean and the Middle East. This compares to 33.1% of BC residents who report non-European ethnic origins.

Household size The average household in Greater Victoria in 2006 had 2.2 people. The average household size in BC was 2.5.

Household type Of all the households in Greater Victoria in 2006, 65.4% were occupied by one family, 2.5% were occupied by multiple families and 32.1% were non-family households where either one person lived alone or the people who shared it weren't considered a family.

Living alone In 2006, 32.3% of Greater Victoria's population over 65 years of age were living alone compared to 11.5% of those under 65. This is significantly more than the 27.3% of seniors that were living alone in BC in 2006.

Capital Region Population, 2008

	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 14 years	24,749	23,786	48,535	13.3
15 – 24 years	24,158	24,313	48,471	13.3
25 – 64 years	99,668	104,004	203,672	56.0
65+ years	27,378	36,052	63,430	17.4
Total	175,953	188,155	364,108	100.0

Source: BC Statistics (estimates)

VICTORIA'S VITAL SIGNS®

2009 Grading Summary

We're proud of our environment and generally perform well when it comes to protecting it. We support our provincial museum and we're big users of the Internet. However, the availability of housing monopolizes the concerns that we have – be it rental or social. And, we're very troubled by the increasing loss of life from illicit drugs, the lack of childcare spaces and the cost of living for families in Greater Victoria.

THINGS WE'RE DOING WELL

Victoria's Vital Signs with the highest grades

Recycling rate In 2007, 99% of households in Greater Victoria had access to a recycling program and 97% of those households used that program.

Natural environment In 2008, 85.9% of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with their opportunities to enjoy the natural environment.

Museum visits In 2007/08, the Royal BC Museum had 542,596 paid visits to their galleries, up from 294,772 in 2006/07 and 318,808 in 2005/06.

Parkland Greater Victoria had a total of 16,141 hectares of regional, provincial and federal parks and ecological reserves in 2007,

an increase of 878 hectares since 2005 and 2,687 since 2001.

Internet use In 2007, 79.1% of Greater Victoria residents 16 and over used the Internet for personal use in their home.

THINGS WE NEED TO DO BETTER

Victoria's Vital Signs with the lowest grades

Rental availability The total number of apartments in Greater Victoria in 2008 was 23,948 compared to 24,050 in 2007, a net loss of 102 apartments.

Illicit drug use The three-year average rate of death in 2005 - 2007 from illicit drugs was 7.5 for every 100,000 people age 19 – 64, up from 6.7 in 2004 - 2006, and 3.2 in 2003 - 2005.

Social housing waitlist In March 2009, there were 631 families, 347 seniors, 327 people with disabilities, 31 single people and 49 people needing wheelchair access on the social housing waitlist in the Capital Region.

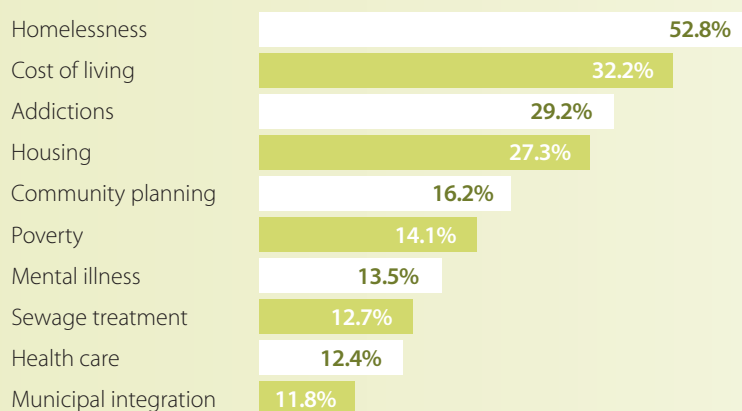
Child care spaces In January 2009, there were 5,244 registered child care spaces for 18,126 children age 5 and under in the Capital Region.

Rental vacancy The rental vacancy rate of two-bedroom apartments in Greater Victoria in April 2009 was 1.0%.

Affordability index In 2008, a two parent family with two children would need to work a cumulative 70 hour work week earning \$17.02 an hour to afford a modest standard of living in BC's Capital Region.

Greater Victoria's Most Important Issues

Vital Signs graders were asked to identify what they think are the three most important issues facing Greater Victoria today. Based on responses from over 860 people, these are the top 10.



GREATER VICTORIA'S YOUTH

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  TELUS

Christine White, Gordon Head

*Purple Morning
Mixed media on canvas*

*A recent Mt. Doug grad,
Christine spent the summer
working on the Ogden
Point murals and plans to
continue creating art
throughout her life.*



INTRODUCTION

"We just need to be included and be listened to. When we have a say, we feel we are doing something about a problem. When we are ignored, we feel we are part of the problem."

Youth Vital Signs survey respondent

This is one of the many comments contributed on the *Victoria's Youth Vital Signs* survey. Over 270 youth completed the survey, assigned letter grades in each subject area and shared their opinions and feelings about life in Victoria. Their comments and suggestions were thoughtful and articulate; they embraced the opportunity to be heard.

Youth in the region are aware of their environment, the challenges they face along with their peers – and the strengths they bring to our community. They are concerned about the cost of living in Victoria – high rents and low wages – and they want to better understand their rights as tenants and employees. The majority were candid when asked about what is best about living here.

"We have a beautiful and amazing world-class city with tons of potential..."

This survey gives a snapshot of the thoughts and lives of the youth in our community. Their time and participation in the project is greatly appreciated and we hope the release of this report is only the beginning of the engagement process.

"I think that the main thing to remember is that youth are simply adults who are considered to be not as developed. Treat us as if we are adults and we will rise to meet the expectation."

The majority of survey participants were born in Canada and 60% have lived in Victoria all their lives. They are from all parts of the CRD and nearly 58% volunteer in our community. The participants showed diversity in living arrangements, education and work experience. More details may be found in the *Vital Signs* section of the Victoria Foundation's website.

YOUTH INDICATOR AREAS

ARTS & CULTURE AROUND TOWN

How is Victoria doing when it comes to arts and culture for youth?

B

Two main themes dominated the comments about arts and culture: the need for affordable events and more youth focused advertising of events. Youth are concerned about having safe venues for dances and performances both for minors and older youth.

"I would have a youth section of the art gallery where young artists (who meet the gallery's standards) can display their work."

YOUTH VOICE

How is Victoria doing when it comes to youth having a say?

C

Many youth want to vote in elections. They want the voting age to be lowered so they can be heard.

"I just want the right to vote and then to campaign mercilessly to have other young people exercise it."

They want to be asked their opinion and to not be marginalized or judged for speaking out. More engagement of youth at the municipal and provincial ministry levels were suggested.

"I think it might be a good idea to have a person from our municipal government come into each high school once a month to discuss what is going on in our community and to get ideas which would be then brought back to the council."

GROWING UP GREEN: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & ACTION

How is Victoria doing when it comes to the green scene?



Environmental awareness is high among Victoria's youth – and they have lots to say about it. Public transportation is a hot topic with the need for late night bus service repeated time and again. Transit schedules and routes are also a concern. There were strong comments about sewage treatment – both for and against! They want future generations to be well educated and they want the environment to be part of the curriculum at every grade level. Practical suggestions were made, such as recycling options downtown, more community gardens, a public composting program and even better recycling education.

Although we do well – *“Out of town friends mock my care for recycling”*– we could do better. *“A liberal, educated, relatively small city such as ours could do much better.”*

They are ready to make a difference.

“We have hands and are ready to work, we have ideas and are ready to share.”

POVERTY: RICH vs. POOR

How is Victoria doing when it comes to addressing the gap between the rich and poor?



Victoria's youth feel the pinch of the high cost of living in our region. They want a higher minimum wage and more affordable housing – both for rentals and ownership. They want to be able to afford a place of their own and they understand, often from experience, the strain accommodation costs often put on families. Even when housing is not a personal

issue, they feel for others and many want to ensure the homeless get respect.

“...there are children and teenagers starving, sleeping in the rain. I was one of them, and it still strikes me as grossly unfair. A kid gets kicked out of their parents' house, and there's almost no way for them to pick themselves up again. We can't get a job without an address, we can't get a place without a job. There's services to feed us, but they close for summer. The youth shelter is open only at night, and never in the summer. Out Of The Rain is the only shelter that moves every night. And many of us do manage to get jobs anyways, only to discover that we need to make a choice between getting a house or eating.”

Unemployment 2009 has seen a dramatic rise in unemployment for youth age 15 to 24 in Greater Victoria, increasing from 4.8% in January to 12.6% in June. In numbers, this translates roughly into 33,700 youth working in January 2009, compared to 31,300 in June 2009.

YOUTH SPACES: HANGING OUT

How is Victoria doing when it comes to availability and quality of youth spaces?



Youth are active by nature and want options. They want “cool,” safe places to hang out and they want to stay in their neighbourhoods, not always go downtown. They feel safe all-ages venues and a variety of inexpensive places to go in the evenings are needed. Suggestions like climbing walls, dance studio nightclubs and bowling alleys were made.

“Keep the youth centres open through the summer. They need better budgets to do so, but until you're one of the kids that depends on them, you can't know just how worth it that would be. The youth centres provide emotional support, food, warmth, and many people I know have used the youth centre's phone for a way for prospective employers to reach them.”

HEALTH & WELLNESS

How is Victoria doing when it comes to supporting health and wellness for youth?



Victoria's youth want a healthy lifestyle and understand this means being active. They want schools to increase physical activity levels and offer nutrition courses. Cost is also a barrier for some to participate on sports teams and suggest organized, but free, drop-in soccer or Frisbee.

"I also find school gym classes do not promote a healthy lifestyle. From what I have seen you can take your gym strip and get a good workout, but if your skill level isn't that high then you fail the unit no matter how hard you tried. Then people lose interest in trying hard."

Access to information and confidential, discreet, non-judgmental youth-specialized health services were suggested – again, not just in the downtown core.

"Although people should stay safe and aware, it doesn't do anybody any good to just ignore those in unhealthy situations. I think the way people view health and wellbeing needs to be looked at in spreading more awareness rather than using an iron fist scaring tactic."

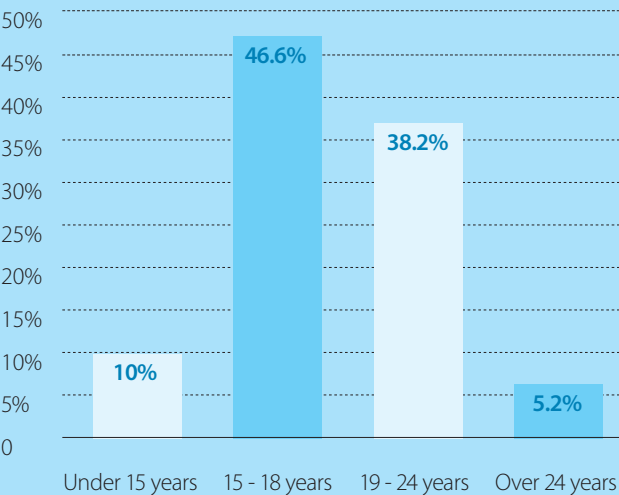
Healthy eating In 2008, 55.5% of youth age 12 to 19 on South Vancouver Island reported eating fruits and vegetables 5 or more times a day. This is higher than all residents of South Vancouver Island combined at 51.2%, and compares favourably to 50.3% of youth in BC and 49.3% in Canada.

Physical activity rate Of youth age 12 to 19 on South Vancouver Island, 59.3% reported being active or moderately active in their leisure time in 2008. This compares to 72.9% of all youth in BC and 69.2% in Canada. Comparatively, 63.9% of all South Vancouver Island residents reported being active or moderately active in their leisure time.

Mental health In 2008, 86.6% of youth age 12 to 19 on South Vancouver Island reported they had very good or excellent mental health. This compares to 80.9% of youth in BC and 78.7% in Canada.

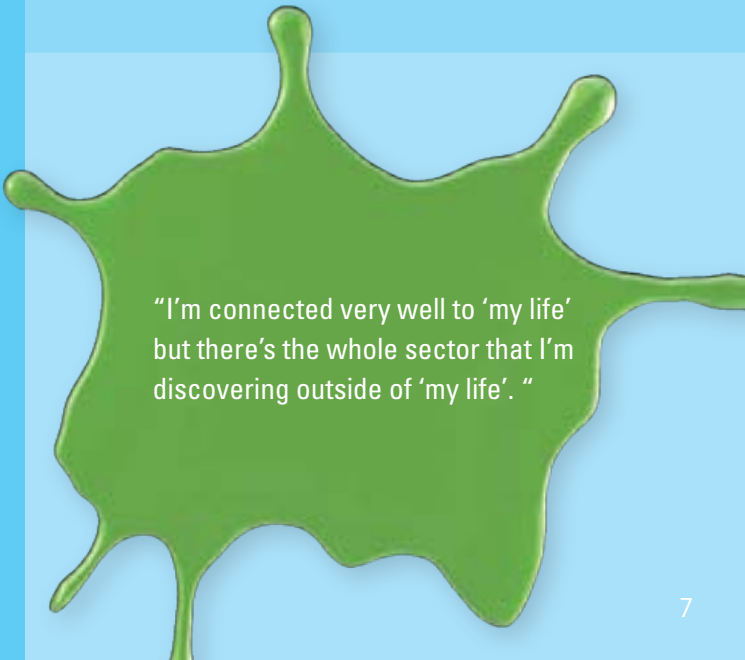
VICTORIA'S VITAL SIGNS YOUTH SURVEY RESPONDENTS

How old are you?



How connected do you feel to the Victoria community?

Very connected	14.7 %
Somewhat connected	60.4 %
Hardly connected	22.2 %
Not connected at all	2.7 %



"I'm connected very well to 'my life' but there's the whole sector that I'm discovering outside of 'my life'."

YOUTH HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

How is Victoria doing when it comes to housing for youth and young adults?

More lower cost housing options top the wish list of survey respondents. They want to better understand their rights as renters. They want to be safe but find there are many challenges with the youth shelter and other youth housing. They don't want to live on the street or stay in unsupported homes.

"...we should be able to offer the children the same thing we offer the adults, a reliable, relatively safe place to spend the night, every night..."

Homelessness In 2007, 791 homeless people were identified in the Capital Region's *Homeless Needs Survey* of which 108 were youth age 16 to 25.

EDUCATION & LEARNING

How is Victoria doing when it comes to learning, education or training opportunities for youth?

Although there are education choices in Victoria, youth would like to see smaller class size at all levels, as well as changes to the style of teaching and curriculum. A number of alternative programs received positive comments. Students want to be prepared for the different style of post-secondary learning – and be prepared for life in general.

"It would be nice to have a class that gives a variety of basic life skills; from the basics of sewing and carpentry to how to change a bike tire and explanations of global warming."

SAFETY

How is Victoria doing when it comes to youth safety?

While aware of the risks and dangers in our city, youth generally feel safe and well protected in Victoria. They are appreciative of the numerous resources available to assist them.

"There should be more female police officers – they tend to express themselves in a softer manner which makes it easier to listen."

P.A.R.T.Y. participation During the 2008/09 school year, 2,576 students participated in the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program – a one-day, in-hospital injury awareness and prevention program for youth in grades 9 and 10. While student participation was slightly lower than 2007/08 (2,650 students), the volunteer run program expanded its reach to include Salt Spring Island in 2008/09.

WORK

How would you grade youth employment and training options in Victoria?

Many youth are unemployed or underemployed. There is a strong desire for minimum wage to be increased and the minimum age to work to be decreased. Many expressed a need to understand their rights as an employee.

"The economic situation isn't helping, but as an experienced professional who has almost completed her undergraduate degree with a variety of work and volunteer experience in childcare, retail, and research, I could not get a job this summer."

Social assistance In September 2008, 2.5% of youth age 19 to 24 in the Capital Region received income assistance. This compares to BC where 3.0% of youth were receiving income assistance.

TRANSPORTATION

How is Victoria doing when it comes to youth getting around?



While there was great desire to have more bike lanes, public transit dominated the survey comments. Repeated suggestions included: student and youth discounts and family passes on the buses; monthly payment plan for BC Transit Youth Pass; and to have the buses run later.

"We need the buses to go later!!! They will get used. Believe me. Every get together, whether downtown or just hanging out at a friend's house is constrained by the last bus home!"

Alternative transportation In 2006, 41.6% of youth age 15 to 24 in Greater Victoria were travelling between home and work or school using alternative transportation such as walking, public transit or cycling, compared to 23.1% of Greater Victoria adults 25 and over and 29.8% of BC youth age 15 to 24.

OUR COMMUNITY

How is Victoria doing when it comes to youth's ability to be themselves?



While youth hear a strong message of equality in our region, they say that discrimination based on race and sexual orientation is still widespread. They want acceptance of differences in our society and believe that more education in schools is the way to achieve this.

Belonging In 2008, 86.6% of youth age 12 to 19 on South Vancouver Island reported a very strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community. This compares to 80.2% of youth in BC, 75.6% in Canada, and 65.1% of all residents on South Vancouver Island.

Migration For every youth age 18 to 24 that moved away from Greater Victoria in 2006, it is estimated that 1.6 moved to the area. This compares to Halifax and London where it is estimated that for every youth aged 18 to 24 leaving the area, 1.4 youth migrated in, and Calgary where for every youth leaving the area, 2.3 youth migrated in.

TOP FIVE YOUTH PRIORITIES FOR ATTENTION IN VICTORIA

1. Youth Housing & Homelessness
2. Poverty: Rich vs. Poor
3. Growing Up Green – Environmental Awareness
4. Youth Voice
5. Education & Learning

Community Investment Priorities

Youth rated spending money and/or time on the following issues as important or essential:

Education	89.70%
Affordable Housing	87.30%
Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation	79.75%
Public Transportation	77.25%
Environmental Action	76.55%
Family Support Services	70.20%
Employment Programs	67.95%
Arts	55.00%
After School Programs	53.80%
Police & Law Enforcement	53.40%

"More education at the elementary levels... everywhere I look there are images of hetero people, families etc ...where are there images of me and my family?"

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

How are we doing
with respect to Arts &
Culture? You told us:



ARTS & CULTURE



Pat Martin Bates, Oak Bay

Tra La La – Music by Murray Adaskin
Zinc plate etching

*"There is a thin silver thread between the
unreal world and the world we see and
that is what I dance on."*

Employment In 2008, 3,800 people were employed in cultural industries in Greater Victoria, down significantly from 4,700 in 2007. This accounted for 2.0% of total employment in Greater Victoria in 2008, compared to 2.3% in BC and 2.0% in Canada. **(C+)**

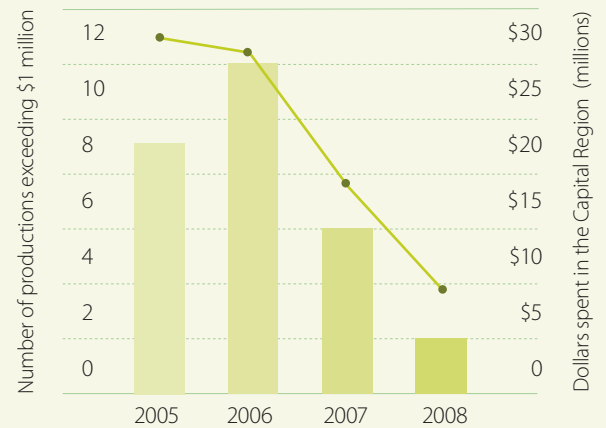
Spending Households in Greater Victoria spent an average of \$1,049 on arts and culture in 2007, up considerably from the \$967 spent in 2006. Average spending per household in BC in 2007 was \$941 and \$932 in Canada. **(B+)**

Resident satisfaction In 2008, 46.7% of Greater Victoria residents were satisfied or very satisfied with their opportunities to participate in artistic and cultural activities. This compares with 70.0% of residents who were satisfied or very satisfied with their opportunities to enjoy artistic and cultural activities as a spectator. **(B)**

Library use Greater Victoria public libraries circulated 16.2 items for every resident in 2007, slightly below the 16.4 items per resident in 2006 and 16.5 in 2005. **(B+)**

Museum visits In 2007/08, the Royal BC Museum had 542,596 paid visits to their galleries. This is significantly higher than the 294,772 in 2006/07 and 318,808 in 2005/06. Of the paid visits in 2007/08, 67.6% were from BC residents compared to 43.7% in the previous year. **(A-)**

Film Production in the Capital Region



Source: Victoria Film Commission

VITAL GRANT

Tripling in size and scope over the last seven years, Intrepid Theatre's success is a testament to the strength of arts and culture as an important contributor to our economy. With a vital grant last year, a strategic planning project was launched to assist the company to more effectively manage its fundraising strategy and plan for staff and volunteer roles.

BE A FRIEND OF THE ARTS

- + Be a billet to a visiting artist
- + Check out an art gallery
- + Donate event tickets to a charity
- + Take in a pay-what-you-can event

Participation in civic life contributes to the well being 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.

How are we doing with respect to Belonging & Leadership? You told us:



BELONGING & LEADERSHIP



Kathleen (Kay) Talbot, Fairfield

Mother and Child

Watercolour on paper

Kay began drawing and painting when she moved to Mount St. Mary Hospital and finds that her art now overwhelms her and has become her passion.

Charitable giving Of the people in Greater Victoria who filed tax returns in 2007, 28.0% reported making donations to charitable organizations, down slightly from 28.4% in 2006 and 28.9% in 2005. The median amount donated was \$340 in 2007, slightly more than the \$320 in 2006 and \$300 in 2005. (B-)

Sense of belonging In 2008, 68.5% of South Vancouver Island seniors 65 and over reported a somewhat or very strong sense of belonging to their local community, compared with 65.1% of all South Vancouver Island residents 12 and over. This is less than the 72.9% of British Columbian seniors and 72.7% of Canadian seniors who reported a somewhat or very strong sense of belonging in 2008, and a significant decrease from the 78.9% of South Vancouver Island seniors who reported the same in 2007. (B-)

Voter turnout Voter turnout for the 2008 federal election in Greater Victoria was 67.5%, considerably higher than the 60.1% in BC and 58.8% in Canada. (C+)

GET INVOLVED

- + Organize a block party
- + Check out a volunteer opportunity
- + Speak up at community meetings
- + Register for a bike, run or walk for charity

Internet use In 2007, 79.1% of Greater Victoria residents 16 and over used the Internet for personal use in their home, considerably more than the 73.6% of British Columbians and 68.6% of Canadians. (B+)

United Way campaign In 2008, the Victoria United Way campaign raised \$6.33 million, slightly more than the \$6.30 million in 2007. (B+)

WHO KNEW?

Every year, Volunteer Victoria refers approximately 16,000 volunteers to local non-profit agencies, primarily through its website.

Internet Access Location

	2005		2007	
	Greater Victoria	BC	Greater Victoria	BC
Home	70.0%	63.3%	79.1%	73.6%
Work	26.8%	25.0 %	35.8%	29.0%
School	11.6%	11.3%	14.7%	14.4%
Public Library	14.2%	13.8%	11.6%	12.4%

Source: Statistics Canada

VITAL GRANT

The Saanich Volunteer Services Society hosted the consultation and development of an Integrated Volunteer Data Management system that now links five volunteer organizations and thousands of clients. This invaluable tool matches client needs with the volunteers' interests and availability. The software program will produce dynamic reports and enhance communication with donors, volunteers and client data.

In a healthy community, the local economy builds strong businesses and organizations that create quality employment opportunities by training and supporting workers, and attracting and developing new jobs and businesses.

How are we doing with respect to the Economy?
You told us:



ECONOMY



Tad Suzuki, Sidney by the Sea

Cascadia – Saturday Morning

Acrylic on canvas

As an urban realist painter, Tad is inspired by changes in light and distorted images in reflections.

BOOST OUR ECONOMY

- + Train a colleague
- + Support a new business
- + Welcome newcomers to your workplace
- + Buy local products whenever possible

Employment In June 2009, 63.3% of the residents of Greater Victoria 15 and older were employed, compared to 61.3% in BC and 62.1% in Canada. This is somewhat less than in June 2008, when 68.2% of Greater Victorians 15 and older were employed. **(B-)**

Business failures In 2008, there were 43 incorporated business bankruptcies in Greater Victoria compared to 35 in 2007, a 22.9% increase. This is significantly higher than the provincial bankruptcies decrease of 3.4% in 2008. **(C)**

Employment insurance The number of people claiming regular employment insurance (not including those receiving maternity or sick benefits) in Greater Victoria in April 2009 was 3,940 compared to 1,410 in April 2008, an increase of 179.4%. This compares to a provincial increase of 122.7% and a national increase of 55.8%. **(D+)**

Building permits In 2008, the value of non-residential building permits in Greater Victoria was \$282 million compared to \$246 million in 2007, a 14.3% increase. This is significantly higher than a national increase of 2.5% and a provincial increase of 6.5%. **(B)**

Employment growth Greater Victoria had employment growth of 4.4% in 2008, considerably higher than the 2.1% provincial growth rate and 1.5% national. Employment growth in Greater Victoria in 2007 was the same at 4.4%. **(B-)**

Employment by Industry in Greater Victoria, 2008

(in thousands)

Goods producing sector	22.4
Construction	13.5
Manufacturing	6.2
Other	2.7
Service producing sector	168.5
Trade	30.2
Health care & social assistance	24.5
Public administration	22.3
Accommodation & food services	17.7
Professional, scientific & technical services	16.8
Educational services	13.5
Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing	10.0
Other services	9.2
Business, building & other support services	8.4
Information, culture & recreation	8.4
Transportation & warehousing	7.5

Source: Statistics Canada

WHO KNEW?

Open since 1887, Willie's Bakery on lower Johnson Street is the oldest bakery in BC.

VITAL GRANT

After 18 years on Yates Street, a recent move took the Victoria Immigrant Refugee Society to its new training centre at 637 Bay Street. Funds assisted with converting a former publishing house into nearly 30 offices, a cafe-style reception area, computer lab and resource room, an ESL classroom and a play area for children. The new space offers a welcoming environment for newcomers to upgrade their essential skills and embark on career searches.

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

How are we doing with respect to our Environment?
You told us:



ENVIRONMENT



lessLIE, Duncan

*Salmon & Water
Acrylic on paper*

Coast Salish graphic artist lessLIE works with traditional forms in a contemporary fashion creating bold and arresting art.

Recycling rate In 2007, 99% of households in Greater Victoria had access to a recycling program and 97% of those households used that program. Nationally, 95% of households had access and 98% of them participated in a recycling program. (A-)

Agricultural land reserve Two hectares of land were taken out of the Capital Region's Agricultural Land Reserve (land protected for agricultural use) in 2008 and 5 hectares were added to it, for a net increase of 3 hectares. This compares positively to a net increase of 1.1 hectares in 2007 and a net loss of 84.1 hectares in 2006. (B)

Resident satisfaction In 2008, 85.9% of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with their opportunities to enjoy the natural environment. (A-)

Parkland Greater Victoria had a total of 16,141 hectares of regional, provincial and federal parks and ecological reserves in 2007. This is a significant increase of 878 hectares since 2005 and 2,687 hectares since 2001. (B+)

Composting In 2007, 56% of households in Greater Victoria composted kitchen or yard waste up significantly from 40% in 2006. However, less than the 60% of the households in BC that composted in 2007 and 57% in Canada. (B-)

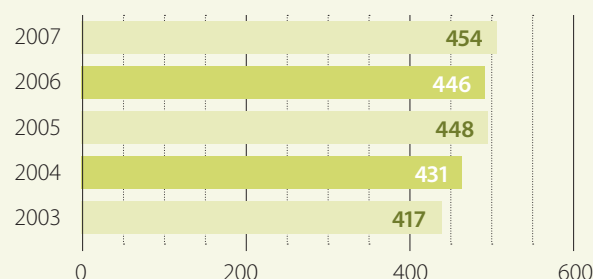
WHO KNEW?

By implementing a recycling program, the Provincial Capital Commission reduced the solid waste produced by the Crystal Gardens and tenants, from 12 yards daily to 8 yards per week.

HELP OUR ENVIRONMENT

- + Fully use your blue box
- + Use renewable energy resources
- + Do a carbon footprint audit
- + Use reusable shopping bags

Solid Waste Disposal at Hartland Landfill
(Kilograms per capita)



Source: Capital Regional District

VITAL GRANT

A lively interactive environmental education centre opened its doors on the Gorge in Esquimalt in 2008. Over 600 youth and thousands of public visitors have been enlightened by the knowledgeable staff and volunteers of the SeaChange Marine Conservation Society, the Township of Esquimalt and World Fisheries Trust among others. Visitors learn about the local habitat and how they can make a difference to the health of this unique urban waterway.

Helping people get a good start in life, work, adulthood and our community makes a lasting difference.

How are we doing
with respect to Getting
Started? You told us:



GETTING STARTED



Sheena Lott, North Saanich

Tidal Pool Explorers

Watercolour on paper

*Award winning children's book
illustrator and fine artist, Sheena
is inspired by children in the landscape.*

Youth unemployment Unemployment for youth aged 15 to 24 in Greater Victoria in June 2009 was 12.6% up significantly from 6.7% in June 2008. Youth unemployment in BC and in Canada overall was higher at 13.1% and 16.0% respectively in June 2009. (C)

Child care spaces In January 2009, there were 5,244 registered child care spaces for 18,126 children age 5 and under in the Capital Region, up somewhat from 5,171 in January 2008. (D+)

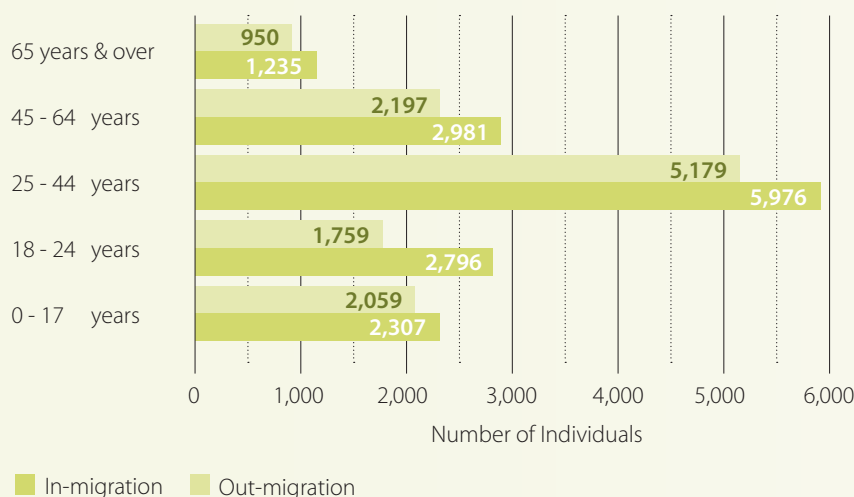
Net migration Greater Victoria's population grew by 3,151 people as a result of migration in 2006. On a net basis, 628 came from outside Canada, 2,030 came from outside of the province, and 493 came from within the province. This compares with population growth of 2,393 in 2005. Of which on a net basis, 968 came from outside Canada, 1,292 came from outside of the province, and 133 came from within the province. (B-)



Screen time In 2007, Kindergarten aged children in Greater Victoria spent 1.7 hours per day on average watching television or playing video games, comparable to the Canada-wide average of 1.6 hours per day. (C-)

Extracurricular activities for children In 2008, 76% of Greater Victoria residents with children had limited their child's involvement in extracurricular activities because of cost in the past year. (C-)

In and Out Migration, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada

VITAL GRANT

A new, innovative service was launched for youth across our region facing a range of issues. One to one counselling through email enables staff of the Pacific Centre for the Family (PCFSA) and NEED Crisis and Information Line to advise youth to reach safe and healthy solutions, as well as explore options and additional services. Support made this e-counselling service a reality and PCFSA doubled its contact with youth in need last year.

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

How are we doing with respect to Health & Wellness? You told us:



HEALTH & WELLNESS



Ted Grant, Saanich

Women In Medicine:

A Celebration of Their Work

Black & white photographs

An internationally known photojournalist with a particular interest in healthcare, Ted believes "When you photograph people in color, you are photographing their clothes. When you photograph them in B&W, you photograph their souls."

PICTURE PERFECT HEALTH

- + Help a smoker quit
- + Be a friend
- + Limit alcohol consumption
- + Eat raw fruit & veggies every day

Low birth weight Of the babies born on South Vancouver Island in 2007/08, 4.5% were considered to have a low birth weight, down considerably from 5.7% in 2006/07. In BC and Canada, 5.7% and 6.1% of babies respectively had low birth weight in 2007/08. **(B)**

Work absence Full-time workers in Greater Victoria were absent from work an average of 11.0 days in 2008, not including maternity leaves. This is considerably higher than the BC average of 9.8 days and 10.0 days for Canada overall. **(C)**

Obesity In 2008, 15.4% of residents on South Vancouver Island 18 years and over reported being obese (having a body mass index greater than 30) up significantly from 11.5% in 2007 and 12.8% in 2005. In Canada overall, 17.2% reported being obese as did 13.5% of British Columbians. **(C-)**

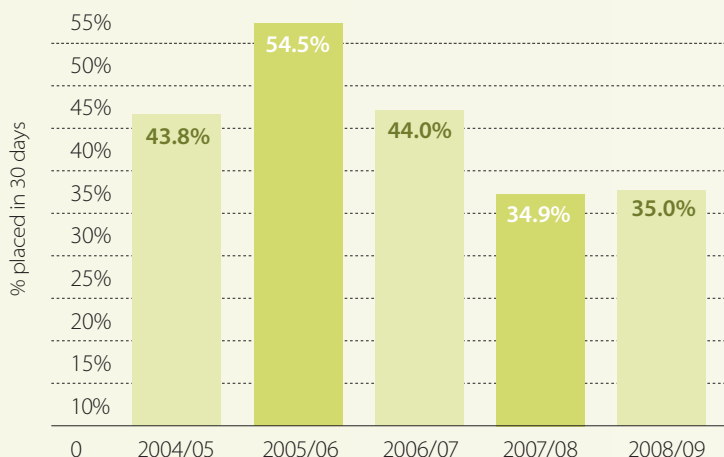
Happiness In a regional study done in 2008, Greater Victoria residents on average rated their happiness 7.6 out of a total score of 10. This is comparable to the most recent average score for Canada overall at 7.7 and the highest international average score of 8.2 in Denmark. The happiness measure is a combination of self-reported happiness and life satisfaction. **(B-)**

Addiction beds As of May 2009, there were 78 beds available in Greater Victoria to support people in their recovery from addictions to drugs and alcohol. This compares to 47 beds in May 2008. These beds provide a range of services from overnight safe shelter to stays of up to three months in a safe, home-like and sober environment for people in long-term recovery from addiction. **(C)**

Smoking In 2008, 15.6% of the population on South Vancouver Island 12 and over reported smoking daily or occasionally, compared to 13.9% in 2007 and 15.9% in 2005. In BC 18.6% reported smoking in 2008 as did 21.4% of Canadians. **(C)**

Waitlist for Residential Care

(% of clients admitted to residential care within 30 days)



Source: Vancouver Island Health Authority

VITAL GRANT

Through an inclusive support network initiated by the Victoria Foundation, in partnership with Victoria Cool Aid Society and Frontrunners Victoria, Every Step Counts (ESC) brings together key community organizations to improve health and self-reliance through a downtown weekly running and nutrition program. ESC brings people dealing with issues of poverty, homelessness, unemployment, isolation and challenges with mental health and addictions together with volunteer running coaches from the community.

Having safe and comfortable shelter that people can access and afford is a basic need that contributes significantly to quality of life.

How are we doing with respect to Housing?
You told us:



HOUSING



Martin Machacek, Oak Bay

House 1595

Acrylic on wood

Martin's love of architectural form comes from being born and raised in Prague and he finds great inspiration in his new home of Victoria.

Rental availability The total number of apartments in Greater Victoria in 2008 was 23,948 compared to 24,050 in 2007, a net loss of 102 apartments. (D+)

Social housing waitlist In March 2009, there were 631 families, 347 seniors, 327 people with disabilities, 31 single people and 49 people needing wheelchair access on the social housing waitlist in the Capital Region. By comparison, in 2008 there were 919 families, 481 seniors and 437 people with disabilities on the waitlist. (D+)

Rental costs The average cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment in Greater Victoria in 2008 was \$964 compared to \$908 in 2007. Provincially, the cost of a two-bedroom apartment was comparable at \$969, however the national average cost of \$804 was significantly less. (C-)

CREATE A HOME

- + Open your home to a student
- + Support alternate housing
- + Advocate for affordable housing
- + Read the plan to end homelessness

Residential building permits In the first quarter of 2009, 642 residential building permits were issued in the Capital Region, down significantly from 794 in 2008. (C)

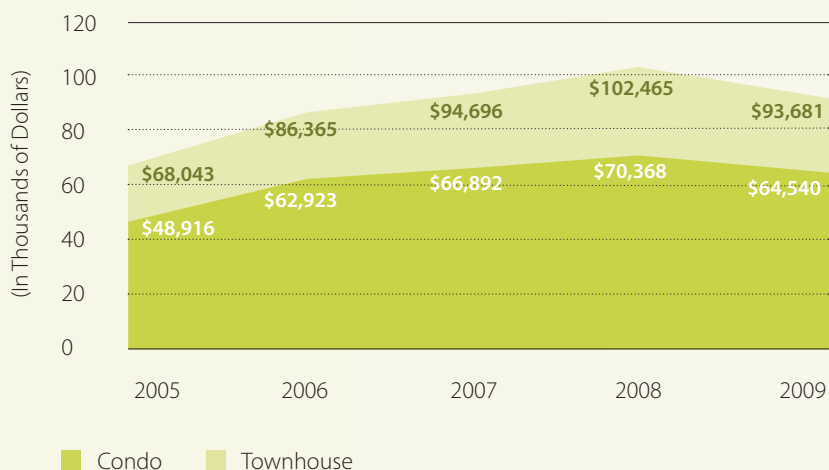
Rental vacancy The rental vacancy rate of two-bedroom apartments in Greater Victoria In April 2009 was 1.0%, up slightly from 0.3% in April 2008 and 0.8% in 2007. (D+)

WHO KNEW?

34% of our region's homeless are women.

Annual Income Needed for a Starter Home in Greater Victoria

(in July of each year)



Source: Victoria Real Estate Board and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

VITAL GRANT

Renovations at buildings owned by the Cridge Centre for the Family will provide a safe place to live for vulnerable, single mature women. The completion of eight upgraded 500 square foot one-bedroom suites will increase the Cridge supportive housing capacity by 25 per cent. This home base will help these women move on to live in the community with dignity, independence and respect.

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

How are we doing with respect to Learning?
You told us:



LEARNING



Alvin Hipke, Colwood

*Pink & Blue with Letters
Mixed media on paper*

Alvin has been painting with the Garth Homer ArtWorks program for almost 15 years and had a solo exhibition in 2000. He enjoys meeting people when he participates in the Moss Street Paint-In.

Post-secondary education Of the residents of Greater Victoria 15 and over in 2008, 53.3% had completed some level of post-secondary education, up considerably from 50.9% in 2007 and 49.2% in 2006. Provincially, 49.1% of residents had post-secondary education in 2008, as do 50.4% nationally. **(B-)**

Learning opportunities In 2008, 64.8% of Greater Victoria residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the adult learning or continuing education opportunities in their community. **(B)**

Reading to children In Greater Victoria, 63% of parents of Kindergarten children read to their child at least once every day in 2007, slightly more than 60% of parents across Canada. **(B-)**

Job training The 2009 Composite Learning Index measure for job training shows that 27.9% of Greater Victorians are participating in some form of learning on the job compared to 26.7% of British Columbians and 25.5% of Canadians. In 2007 and 2008, 24.3% and 29.3% of Greater Victorians respectively participated in job-related training. **(B-)**

High school non-completion In 2008, 12.7% of Greater Victoria residents 15 years and over had not completed high school, down from 13.7% in 2007 and 15.6% in 2006. And, significantly less than the 17.8% provincially and 21.6% nationally that had not completed high school in 2008. **(C+)**

WHO KNEW?

The Victoria Police Department annually sponsors three financial awards to students that specialize in the field of mental health in Camosun College's Human Services Program.

Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded

(by Camosun College, Royal Roads University & the University of Victoria)

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Undergraduate degrees	3,631	3,679	4,040
Graduate degrees	2,042	2,153	1,959
Certificates & diplomas	1,762	1,763	1,961
Total	7,435	7,595	7,960

Source: University of Victoria & BC Ministry of Advanced Education & Labour Market Development

VITAL GRANT

Through its integrated counseling and educational program, Artemis Place provides a unique alternative to traditional school for girls. A vital grant to Artemis provided guest speakers and outings to assist with their students' integration in the community. These girls work on completing their high school diploma while learning critical life skills in conflict resolution, building self-esteem and successful relationships.

LEAD THE WAY

- + Read to a child every day
- + Give to a scholarship fund
- + Support family literacy
- + Get involved in a child's education

Personal safety affects the ways we socialize and participate in community life.

How are we doing
with respect to Safety?
You told us:



SAFETY



Sarah Amos, Victoria
Starry Night at Harris Green
Oil on canvas

Sarah lives in Cook Street Village and finds inspiration for her art in the beauty she sees all around her.

Violent crime In 2008, there were 945 violent crimes (murder, assault, sex crimes, robbery and abduction) for every 100,000 people in Greater Victoria up from 915 in 2007. Overall, violent crime in Greater Victoria is down 21.5% since 1991. The violent crime rate in BC in 2008 was considerably higher at 1,137 per 100,000. However, the national rate was lower at 932 per 100,000 in Canada. **(C)**

Police per capita Greater Victoria had 151 police officers for every 100,000 people in 2008, the same as in 2007. This is considerably less than the provincial and national rates of 184 and 191 police officers per 100,000 respectfully. **(C+)**

Resident safety In 2008, 85.7% of Greater Victoria residents usually or always felt safe walking after dark. **(B)**

Child abuse The child abuse rate in the Capital Region in 2008 was 8.1 for every 1,000 children under the age of 19, down slightly from 8.3 in 2007 and 8.6 in 2006. However, higher than in BC overall at 7.5 for every 1,000 children. **(C-)**

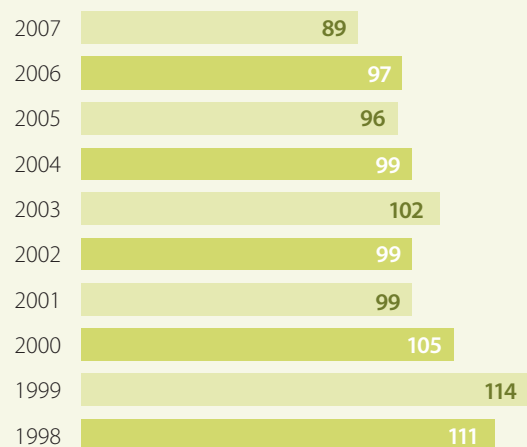
Illicit drug use The three-year average rate of death in 2005-2007 from illicit drugs was 7.5 for every 100,000 people age 19 to 64, up from 6.7 in 2004-2006, and 3.2 in 2003-2005. The average rate in BC overall for 2005-2007 was 7.4 deaths. **(D+)**

SAFE IDEAS

- + Don't drive & text
- + If you witness a crime, call Crime Stoppers
- + Talk to a child about the dangers of drugs
- + Enjoy your downtown

Capital Region Crime Rate

(Criminal Code Offences per 1,000 people)



Source: BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

VITAL GRANT

The Young Parents Support Network designed and developed a curriculum about anti-violence and abuse for young parents who are facing increased levels of stress and conflict in their daily lives.

This new training program will address common challenges such as discipline, child and youth development and living on a limited income.

Having an income or financial resources equal to or greater than the cost of living helps to avoid poverty and provide quality living standards.

How are we doing with respect to the Standard of Living? You told us:

B

STANDARD OF LIVING



Elfrida Schragen, Victoria

Neil

Oil on canvas board

With a background in social services and teaching, Elfrida captures the unique personalities of her subjects, be they landscapes or portraits.

BEAT POVERTY

- + Support family friendly workplaces
- + Donate clothes & household goods
- + Treat someone in need to lunch
- + Share your surplus fruit tree produce

Income Some of the highest income-earning households in Greater Victoria (those in the 90th percentile) earned \$150,600 on average in 2006, a 24.4% increase over 2001. For some of the lowest earning households (in the 10th percentile), their average income in 2006 was \$23,600, a 21% increase over 2001. (C+)

Consumer price index Consumers in Greater Victoria paid 1.1% more in March 2009 for goods and services than in March 2008. This rate of inflation compares with average annual increases of 2.0% in 2008 and 1.3% in 2007. Other capital cities such as Regina had one of the highest increases at 2.6%, and Charlottetown and Halifax the lowest at 0.2%. (C+)

Aboriginal income The median annual household income for aboriginal people in the Capital Region in 2006 was \$44,693 or 84.4% of the median household income for the total population. By comparison, in 2001 the median household income of aboriginal people was 74.4% of the total population's. (C+)

Affordability index In 2008, a two parent family with two children would need to work a cumulative 70 hour work week earning \$17.02 an hour to afford a modest standard of living in BC's Capital Region. This is an increase of 63 cents an hour over 2007. (D+)

Social safety net dependence In December 2008, 3.5% of the people in the Capital Region age 19 to 64 were dependent on employment insurance or basic income assistance (not including permanent disability assistance) compared with 4.7% in the province. The social safety net supported 2.9% of the population in the Capital Region in December 2007. (C)

Top 5 Household Expenditures in Greater Victoria

Commodity	Average Expenditure/Household		
	2005	2006	2007
Shelter	\$13,463	\$14,013	\$16,991
Personal Income Taxes	\$10,002	\$13,684	\$13,622
Transportation	\$8,230	\$8,483	\$8,624
Recreation	\$4,111	\$4,320	\$8,457
Food	\$6,746	\$7,758	\$8,414

Source: Statistics Canada

VITAL GRANT

In partnership with local community agencies, the Community Council purchased 12,000 bus tickets and will distribute them to people living on low income. A vital grant allowed the discount rate of two-for-one tickets and bus passes through the BC Transit Ticket Assistance program and will provide transportation for clients' urgent needs such as trips to the food bank, employment and medical appointments.

Transportation alternatives that recognize the importance of individual mobility and minimal impact on the environment add to a sustainable community.

How are we doing with
respect to Transportation?
You told us:

B

TRANSPORTATION



Amy Rice, Esquimalt
Old Fashioned Cars
Marker on paper

A Macaulay Elementary School student, Amy has an artistic spirit and loves to create art in many forms.

Cycling infrastructure In 2008, cycling routes in the Capital Region totalled 475 km, made up of 107 km of pedestrian and bicycle paths such as the Galloping Goose and 368 km of on-street bicycle routes. This is an increase of 176 km since 2003. (B+)

Airport traffic The Victoria International Airport transported over 1.5 million travellers in 2008, 56,811 more than in 2007 and 148,289 more than in 2006. (B+)

Walkable neighbourhoods Approximately 25.4% of dwellings in Greater Victoria were within walking distance (400m) of a commercial centre in 2006, less than the 28.9% that were within walking distance in 2001. A commercial centre provides goods and services needed day-to-day including a full-service grocery store. (B-)



Insured passenger vehicles In 2007, there were 144,351 insured passenger vehicles on South Vancouver Island, or 0.42 insured vehicles per person, compared to 0.43 in 2005. This is significantly less than Metro Vancouver with 0.60 cars insured per person in 2005. (B-)

Commute At least 4,605 people were travelling over the Malahat to work in the Capital Region in 2006. This included 4,135 people living in the Cowichan Valley and 470 people living in the Nanaimo area. (C)

WHO KNEW?

There are approximately 8,500 parking stalls located throughout the downtown as on-street, at-grade off-street, and in parkades and the Downtown Victoria daily working population is approximately 24,000.

Usual Methods of Getting to Work or School in Greater Victoria

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Drive Alone	44%	49%	49%	44%
Transit	18%	18%	19%	24%
Car/Vanpool	15%	11%	12%	10%
Walk	10%	10%	9%	9%
Cycle	6%	7%	8%	8%
Other	7%	3%	3%	5%

Source: BC Transit

VITAL GRANT

Run by volunteers, the UVic SPOKES bicycle bursary program links recycling with cycling. Refurbished bikes and free commuter cycling skills courses. A vital grant allowed for the purchase of additional bike storage, security equipment and bike maintenance work stations on campus. SPOKES recipients are expected to protect and maintain their bikes for up to a year, after which they return it for recycling to another person.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to all the individuals and organizations that helped to create this report. We are grateful to all those who provided data and to the many individuals who participated in our on-line surveys to prioritize and then grade the indicators. Almost 1,500 people contributed to the contents of this report. Policy makers, community organizations and citizens wanting to make a difference use indicators and report cards like *Vital Signs* to assess community needs and opportunities. To that end, the Victoria Foundation works with a group of 11 organizations doing indicator work in the Capital Region.

As part of a national initiative, we are one of 16 community foundations from across Canada to coordinate our efforts and report on a common set of core indicators. Our thanks to the board and staff of the Victoria Foundation for their guidance and continuing support, and lastly to our sponsors whose support results in the production and promotion of this report card.

CONTRIBUTORS OF INFORMATION

Agricultural Land Commission
Bank of Canada
BC Housing
BC Statistics
BC Transit
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canadian Council on Learning
Canadian Institute for Health Information
Capital Regional District
Centre for Spatial Economics
Community Council
Environment Canada
Greater Victoria Film Commission
Happiness Index Partnership
Human Resources & Skills Development Canada
Inter-Cultural Association
Legacies 2010 Now
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PLAY Victoria
Provincial Capital Commission
Quality of Life CHALLENGE
Royal BC Museum
Statistics Canada
United Way of Greater Victoria
Vancouver Island Health Authority
Victoria Cool Aid Society
Victoria Real Estate Board
Volunteer Victoria

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ABOUT VICTORIA'S VITAL SIGNS

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

INDICATOR SELECTION

Three factors determine the indicators that are published in *Vital Signs* each year:

1. As part of a **national initiative** of 16 community foundations publishing *Vital Signs* reports this year, we all agree to publish one common indicator for cross-country comparison. This is generally the first indicator in each section.
2. The results of an **indicator survey** that was publicly promoted and available in March of this year is the second factor that determines the indicators published. This represents what our community generally thinks is important to report on. Over 400 people responded to this on-line survey.
3. The third factor is **data availability** – whether the data exists to report on the suggested indicator. *Vital Signs* uses existing data collected from a variety of national, provincial and local sources. The source of indicators used in the 2009 *Vital Signs* report are available on our web site at www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca

PRINCIPLES OF A GOOD INDICATOR

Once we know what data is available, the following principles are applied to final selection. The indicator:

- Affects the well-being of the population;
- Is of general relevance and interest to the population;
- Is well defined, measurable and quantifiable;
- Uses current data, preferably from the last two years;
- Ranked in the top 10 in the indicator survey;
- Provides contrast or a context that makes it easy to grade; and is easy to understand.

Our goal is to have as many of these principles as possible evident in the indicators published in *Victoria's Vital Signs*.

GRADING

The indicators used in *Victoria's Vital Signs* have been graded using a report card scale of A, B, C, D and F. Grading was done through an on-line survey that was publicly promoted and available in July and August. Over 860 people responded to the survey. A profile of those people follows.

GRADER PROFILE

Over 860 people participated in the on-line survey to grade *Victoria's Vital Signs*. Of those who completed the grader profile:

- 67% were female;
- 48% were between the age of 35 and 54 and 36% were over 55;
- 47% have lived in Greater Victoria for more than 20 years and 8% have lived here for less than 3 years;
- 65% were new graders of *Victoria's Vital Signs*.

TRENDS TO WATCH

The following indicators are updated annually, allowing us to measure progress and monitor change from year-to-year.

MOVING AHEAD

Property crime In 2008, there were 4,150 property crimes for every 100,000 people in Greater Victoria, significantly less than the 4,850 in 2007 and 5,608 in 2006.

Median donation The median amount donated by residents of Greater Victoria filing tax returns in 2007 was \$340 compared to \$320 in 2006 and \$300 in 2005.

Rental vacancy The rental vacancy rate of one-bedroom apartments in Greater Victoria in April 2009 was 1.3%, up from 0.3% in April 2008 and 0.8% in 2007.

Commute method In 2008/09, 44% of Greater Victoria's commuters drove alone in a vehicle to get to and from work or school compared to 49% in 2007/08 and 2006/07.

Income needed for shelter In July 2009, a household income of \$64,540 was needed to purchase a median cost condo in Greater Victoria. This is down from \$70,368 in July 2008 and \$66,892 in July 2007.

STAYING THE SAME

Children in care In the Capital Region in December 2008, there were 11.2 children in government care for every 1,000 children under the age of 19, compared to 11.2 in 2007 and 11.6 in 2006.

FALLING BEHIND

Unemployment In June 2009, the unemployment rate in the Capital Region was 6.2%, up from 2.8% in June 2008.

Perceived health Of the people living on South Vancouver Island 12 years and over, 59.7% reported having excellent or very good health in 2008 compared to 66.0% in 2007 and 65.1% in 2005.

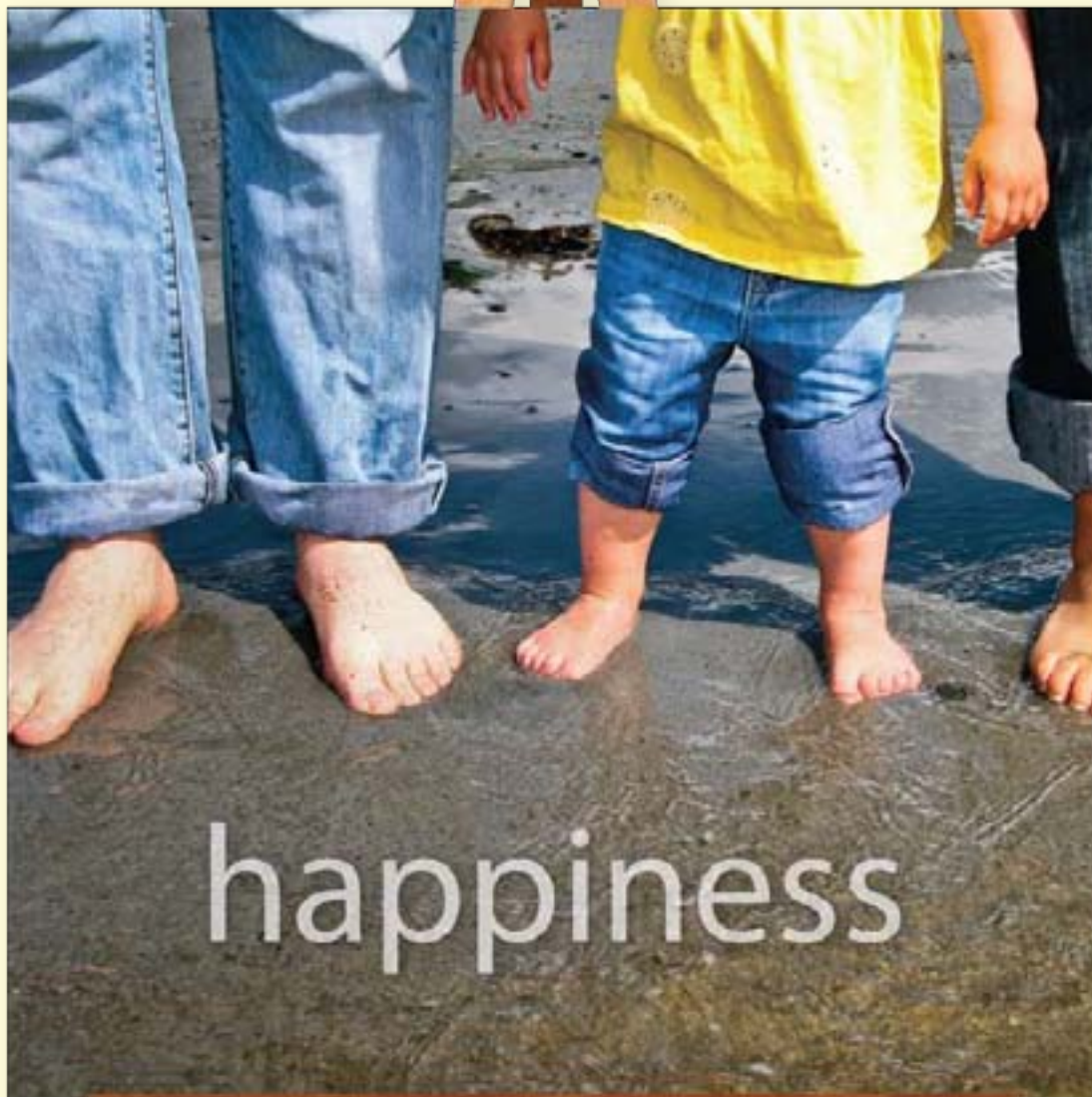
Solid waste disposal Per person solid waste disposal at the Hartland Landfill was 454 kilograms in 2007, up from 446 Kg per person in 2006 and 448 Kg in 2005.

Tourism revenue In 2008, tourism revenue in Greater Victoria was \$1.152 billion, down from \$1.233 billion in 2007 and \$1.186 in 2006.

Composite learning index In 2009, the Composite Learning Index for Greater Victoria was 86, compared to 93 in 2008 and 85 in 2007.

Physical activity In 2008, 63.9% of residents on South Vancouver Island 12 years and over reported that they were physically active or moderately active compared with 65.7% in 2007 and 68.5% in 2005.

Charitable giving Of the people in Greater Victoria who filed tax returns in 2007, 28.0% reported making donations to charitable organizations, down from 28.4% in 2006 and 28.9% in 2005.



happiness



VICTORIA FOUNDATION

CONNECTING PEOPLE
WHO CARE WITH CAUSES
THAT MATTER®

Since its humble beginnings in 1936, the Victoria Foundation has remained committed to improving the quality of life in our community today and for generations to come. We inspire giving, care for the assets entrusted to us, and invest in people, ideas and activities that strengthen our community.

VICTORIA'S

VitalSigns®*

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

This report as well as an expanded version with source information and links, is available at:
www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca



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ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS REPORT

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