

VICTORIA'S YOUTH 2012 VITAL SIGNS



VICTORIA FOUNDATION
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Victoria's Youth Vital Signs, now in its fourth year, is a unique measure of the vitality of our city from a youth perspective. It gives survey participants aged 15 – 24 in our region a way to have their voices heard.

Housing, homelessness and education continue to be the top issues, but respondents to this year's survey expressed increased concern about public transportation in the Capital Regional District. A lack of free or affordable arts, recreation and social activities for youth were also identified by survey participants. And respondents were decisive on what they would like to see changed. Survey comments show that youth desire innovation and collaboration as they seek solutions, and they're not afraid to think outside the box. The youth voice is clear: young people in our region want to be recognized for their potential to effect change in our community.

For more in-depth information
www.victoriafoundation.ca

According to the 2011 Census, there are 43,695 youth aged 15 – 24 in the Capital Regional District, with almost an equal number of males and females. This is 12% of the population.

WHO ARE THE YOUTH THAT GRADED OUR SURVEY?

51.3%	79.4%
WERE 15 – 18 YEARS OLD	GO TO SCHOOL

53% VOLUNTEER

**74.5% FEMALE | 25% MALE
0.5% TRANSGENDER**

53.7% LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS

**13.6% HAVE MOVED TWO OR MORE
TIMES IN THE PAST YEAR**

6.4%	16.4%
HAVE BEEN A YOUTH IN CARE	WORK FULL TIME

26.8%
WORK PART TIME

45.3%	12%
GO TO HIGH SCHOOL	WORK SEASONALLY

48.4% HAVE LIVED IN THE REGION ALL THEIR LIVES

4.8% IDENTIFY AS HAVING A DISABILITY



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HOW CONNECTED DO YOU FEEL TO THE VICTORIA COMMUNITY?

2012	12.8%	58%	26.1%	3.2%
2011	16.4%	71.4%	10%	2.1%
2010	19.1%	56%	21.3%	3.6%
2009	14.7%	60.4%	22.2%	2.7%
	VERY CONNECTED	SOMEWHAT CONNECTED	HARDLY CONNECTED	NOT CONNECTED AT ALL

"YOUTH ARE SO CAPABLE
OF DOING SO MUCH MORE
THAN MENIAL, MINIMUM
WAGE SLOG WORK"

SUBJECT AREAS



MENTAL HEALTH

Surpassed only by injuries, mental health disorders in youth are ranked as the second highest youth hospital care expenditure in Canada.

Canada's youth suicide rate is the third highest in the industrialized world but three out of four children and youth who need specialized treatment services do not receive them.

ARTS AND CULTURE **C+**

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO ARTS AND CULTURE FOR YOUTH?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- Lower costs **62.8%**
- More events outside the downtown core **34.4%**
- Have more all-ages events **33.3%**
- More advertising of events **32.8%**

YOUTH VOICE **C**

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO YOUTH HAVING A SAY?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- Increase awareness of options and opportunities **69.3%**
- More education about the political system **45.8%**
- All levels of government to consult and include youth **40.2%**
- Fewer surveys, more doing **22.9%**
- Lower the voting age **22.9%**

ENVIRONMENT **B-**

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO THE GREEN SCENE?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- Extended bus routes and schedules **54.2%**
- Public recycling bins **46.9%**
- More bicycle trails, lanes and lock ups **45.2%**
- More frequent bus service outside the core **41.2%**



POVERTY : GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR **C-**

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- More affordable housing **64%**
- Higher minimum wage **47.1%**
- More programs for at-risk youth **42.4%**
- Government incentives for rental and low-cost housing **34.9%**

YOUTH SPACES **C+**

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO THE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF YOUTH SPACES?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- More free hang-out places for youth under 19 **52.4%**
- Incentives for youth to be active/use rec centres **48.8%**
- More all-ages clubs **32.5%**
- Bowling lanes **32.5%**
- Wider selection of community centre programs for teens **31.3%**

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING **C+**

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR YOUTH?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- Access to gym/fitness discounts for low-income youth **48.1%**
- Extend free youth services past age 18 **42%**
- More funding to non-profits that support vulnerable youth **32.7%**
- More mental health and addiction services for youth **32.1%**

YOUTH HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS **C**

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO HOUSING FOR YOUTH?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- Affordable student housing **65.2%**
- More low-income apartments **45.8%**
- Support for teens living on their own **43.2%**
- Year-round youth shelters **32.9%**

“NOT EVERYONE HAS THE LUXURY OF HAVING RESPONSIBLE PARENTS THAT WILL BE THERE FOR THEM”



MOST YOUTH EXCEED RECOMMENDED SCREEN TIME

In 2009-10, Canadian youth aged 10-16 spent an average of 6 hours and 37 minutes in front of a screen per day, according to the 2012 Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card. The largest source of screen time is television (2 hours and 39 min) followed by computers (2 hours and 7 min) and video games (1 hour and 51 min). Only 19% of 10-16 year-olds report meeting the Canadian Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines, which recommend no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time per day, an improvement from 17% in 2006.



EDUCATION AND LEARNING

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING, EDUCATION OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- More funding options for post-secondary education **60.5%**
- Better life-skills education in high school **53.3%**
- Smaller class sizes **36.8%**
- Better intercultural, anti-racist and sexualities education in schools **30.9%**



SAFETY

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO YOUTH SAFETY?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- Better relationship between police and youth **62.9%**
- Reduce all forms of bullying with more education **38.4%**
- Stress importance of being a community leader to students of all ages **35.1%**
- More respect from the police **33.8%**

SPORT AND RECREATION

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO SPORTS AND RECREATION?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

This is a new area this year. The most common survey comments were:

- Non-competitive leagues where youth can learn new sports and be active
- Encourage interest and participation in fitness and health at a young age
- Less expensive recreation options or subsidized fees
- Accessible information on opportunities for youth sport and recreation

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

HOW WOULD YOU GRADE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPTIONS IN VICTORIA?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- More teen-friendly employers **56.4%**
- More intern positions in government and business **48.3%**
- Free food-safe training **45%**
- Higher wages **43%**

TRANSPORTATION

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO YOUTH GETTING AROUND?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- More frequent buses **58.8%**
- Additional late-night bus runs **56.1%**
- Lower bus fares **52%**
- Better defined bike lanes and bike lockups **38.5%**

OUR COMMUNITY

HOW IS VICTORIA DOING WHEN IT COMES TO YOUTH BEING ABLE TO BE THEMSELVES?

If you could change one (or two) things in this area, what would it be?

- More playgrounds, sports and theatres that youth can afford **45.8%**
- More awareness of youth cultural events **39.4%**
- Mandatory awareness education in schools **38%**
- Multicultural fair downtown **38%**

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT HOLDS STEADY

The 2011 unemployment rate for Greater Victoria youth aged 15 – 24 was 10.9%, down from 11.3% in 2010. This rate is significantly below the national (14.25%) and provincial rates (14%).



For the fourth year in a row, *Youth Housing and Homelessness* is the top area identified by graders as needing the most attention but *Transportation* is showing ever-increasing importance and this year is in the number two spot.

GRADERS IDENTIFIED THE TOP 5 AREAS THAT NEED THE MOST ATTENTION:

1. Youth Housing and Homelessness
2. Getting Around: Transportation
3. Poverty
4. Work
5. Health and Wellness

For four years graders have rated *Education* and *Affordable Housing* as the top priority areas to dedicate more money, time and leadership. This year, *Transportation* has moved up into third place.

GRADERS RATED THE FOLLOWING AS THE TOP PRIORITY AREAS TO DEDICATE MORE MONEY, TIME AND LEADERSHIP:

1. Education
2. Affordable Housing
3. Public Transportation
4. Health Education
5. Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation



GRADING



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