

WEST VANCOUVER'S

Vital Signs 2016



One snapshot of our community



Ten key issues areas



More than **200** citizen contributors



WEST VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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District of West Vancouver
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APPRECIATION

This report would not be possible without the assistance of many individuals and organizations who contributed time, knowledge and expertise, data and research, financial and in-kind support, and interest and enthusiasm.

Thank you to:

Presenting Partner
District of West Vancouver

Gold Partner
Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd

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Rotary Clubs of West Vancouver

WVCF Community Committee (p. 5)
Vital Signs Working Group (p.5)
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A Special thank you to Dr. Angus Reid for presenting the keynote at our Vital Conversations in October 2015 to kickstart planning for this Vital Signs Report.

Venue Partner:

PARK ROYAL

PARTNERS



Quiet Money.



A Message from our Presenting Partner:

"The District of West Vancouver is proud of its ongoing collaboration and partnership with the West Vancouver Community Foundation and recognizes the important work the Foundation does in building and strengthening our community. Through the Vital Signs study, the West Vancouver Community Foundation has taken key ideas, issues, concepts and values that make a community strong and then drilled down further for the purpose of measuring West Vancouver's vitality and identifying notable trends. The results of this report will help to inform and support decisions and actions that the District, citizens, partners and stakeholders can take toward improving our community's quality of life. With the information and trends identified in this comprehensive study, the West Vancouver Community Foundation has provided a planning and policy development tool for the District of West Vancouver. We will use it to continue to work with citizens, partners and stakeholders toward creating a healthy and safe community, where best practices in municipal planning and service delivery are paramount, protection of the natural environment is held to be critical, citizen engagement, participation and empowerment are fostered, and diversity and inclusivity are recognized and celebrated."

- NINA LEEMHUIS | CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

You have in your hands our inaugural Vital Signs Report. What is it and why does it matter?



We at the West Vancouver Community Foundation believe that Vital Signs will be the spark that starts a conversation, kindles it, and ultimately helps to create an even more vibrant West Vancouver. First started in 2001 as an initiative of the Toronto Foundation, Vital Signs is now used across the country as both a measuring stick and a motivating tool. Collection of the data you will find in this Report brought together some key community players representing a broad variety of interests – from health to safety to cultural leaders and more. I am grateful to every one of them for their commitment to bringing excellent research to light and to their collaborative vision.

What are our hopes? We hope that this Report helps identify issues and opportunities that lead to thoughtful and carefully crafted responses. We anticipate that the facts and opinions reported here will become a baseline for comparison in the future. Are we getting better as a community? Are the trends going our way?

Who uses this report? We anticipate that our local government, businesses, institutions, donors and others will find this useful information.

We live in a great community with an engaged citizenry. A few interesting tidbits from the Report demonstrate the point. Our charitable donation rate is higher than the national average. 94% of residents agree they feel safe walking alone at night here. Our library has the highest circulation rate per capita in BC and we even live three years longer. It must be that we know just how many more books there are to be read!

One of my personal goals is to see that our (impressive) sense of belonging gets even better. Currently at 85%, a full 20% better than the province's 65%, I want to see us at 100%. Here at the West Vancouver Community Foundation, our vision is "a healthy and vibrant West Vancouver, where everyone is valued, contributes and feels they belong". And our mission is to leverage the generosity, talent and commitment of our residents to build a stronger, more caring and inclusive community. Vital Signs will get us thinking more about how we do that.

Enjoy the report.


NANCY FARRAN
CHAIR

INTRODUCTION

From a single effort of the Toronto Community Foundation in 2000, Vital Signs has grown to become an internationally recognized initiative that has involved more than 65 community foundations in Canada and around the world. By gathering data, organizing it into themes, and putting it in context, Vital Signs creates a snapshot of the community and the people who live there, providing a tool for discussion, planning and action.

On its own, data can be of limited value, and may result in a response of “so what?” But adding context, comparisons, and examples, the numbers become more illuminating and insightful, and strengthen our collective understanding of our community and its residents. The goals of West Vancouver Community Foundation’s Vital Signs Report are to:

- *Highlight areas to encourage further dialogue and response from institutions, public leaders, charitable organizations and citizens*
- *Encourage cross-sector, holistic thinking on the overall vitality of our community and provide impetus for cross-sector initiatives*
- *Build community capacity through shared knowledge for good decision-making*

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About Vital Signs

Vital Signs is a community check-up led by community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada that leverages community knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities, identify significant trends, and support action towards improving our quality of life.



About the West Vancouver Community Foundation

Since 1979, the West Vancouver Community Foundation has worked to leverage the generosity, talent and commitment of our residents to build a stronger, more caring and inclusive community. Our vision is a healthy and vibrant West Vancouver, where everyone is valued, contributes and feels they belong.

METHODOLOGY

Research Network

Informed by West Vancouver Community Foundation's October 2015 Vital Conversation, the Foundation's Community Committee and Vital Signs Working Group identified theme areas and indicators. Working Group members helped to identify data sources and ensure relevance and accuracy of indicators. Community Foundations of Canada, which retained the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to analyze national research, provided additional support.

Indicator and Data Selection

Indicators were selected and prioritized based on the following guidelines:

- Perceived public interest
- Potential to inspire and engage individuals, organizations or communities to take action
- Availability of reasonably current data and frequency of collection for future use
- Ease and cost of data collection
- Understandability and measurability

Data Selection

Although the census is normally a key source of data, for some indicators, information from the 2011 general census is insufficiently current, and data from the last long form census in 2006 is considered out-dated for most indicators. Vancouver Coastal Health's My Health, My Community survey provided valuable data, however figures for West Vancouver also included Lion's Bay. Likewise, West Vancouver School District statistics include Bowen Island and Lion's Bay. Data sources for all indicators are available on the WVCF Vital Signs website, which you can access through the WVCF website.

Survey

Vancouver Foundation engaged Mustel Research to undertake a province-wide Vital Signs survey in June 2016 to gather opinions on various aspects of community interests and issues, as well as how connected individuals feel to their community. Local community foundations, including West Vancouver Community Foundation, promoted participation in the survey in their areas. Survey responses are summarized on pages 6-7.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Intended as a long-term initiative, Vital Signs engages a broad range of community members who contribute their skills and expertise. Representatives from key West Vancouver and North Shore organizations provided advice and recommendations to ensure that West Vancouver's Vital Signs report is an effective vehicle for showing the trends and priorities that are emerging in West Vancouver.

WVCF Community Committee

Barbara McMillan
WVCF Volunteer

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WVCF Volunteer

Ken Snowball
WVCF Volunteer

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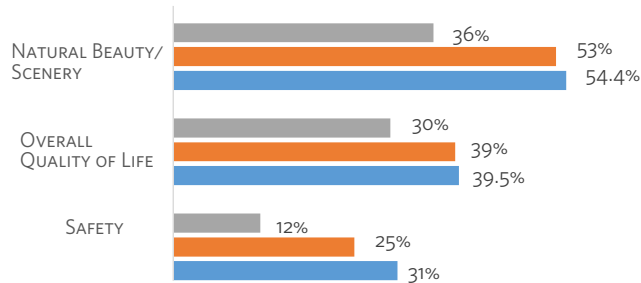
Tad Kaye
YAHU - Young Adults Helping You

2016 VITAL SIGNS SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

■ BC ■ North Shore and Sea to Sky Region ■ West Vancouver

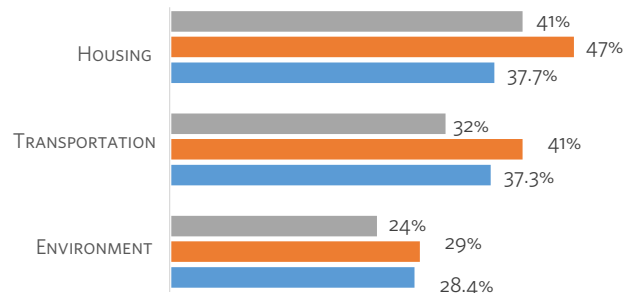
THE 2016 VITAL SIGNS SURVEY WAS COMPLETED ON-LINE BY OVER 7,000 BC RESIDENTS BETWEEN JUNE 14TH AND JULY 5TH, 2016. A LINK TO THE SURVEY WAS DISTRIBUTED BY BC'S COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS, INCLUDING WEST VANCOUVER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND VANCOUVER FOUNDATION, AND WAS ALSO SENT TO MUSTEL GROUP'S PANELISTS, AND TO ONE OF THEIR PANEL PARTNERS (ASKING CANADIANS) PANELISTS. RESPONDENTS WERE PROVIDED THEIR CHOICE OF LANGUAGE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY (ENGLISH, CHINESE, OR PUNJABI). THE FINAL SAMPLE IS STATISTICALLY VALID, AND WAS WEIGHTED TO MATCH STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS DATA ON THE BASIS OF GENDER, AGE, AND REGION OF RESIDENCE. 242 (WEIGHTED) SURVEYS WERE COMPLETED BY WEST VANCOUVER RESIDENTS.

1) WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

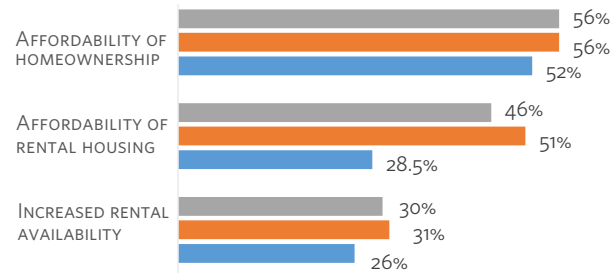


2) OF THESE 10 ISSUES OR CONCERNS, WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOU IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

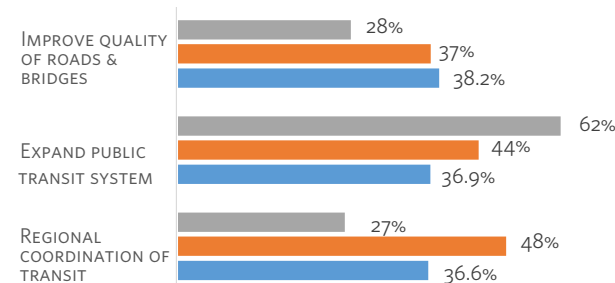
- ECONOMIC EQUALITY (GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR)
- SAFETY OF COMMUNITY (INCLUDING CRIME)
- OVERALL HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF CITIZENS
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND EDUCATION
- HOUSING
- WELCOMING TO NEWCOMERS
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND LEISURE
- ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND THE GENERAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT
- CONNECTEDNESS OF COMMUNITY (SENSE OF BELONGING)
- SENIORS WELL-BEING
- CHILDREN AND YOUTH WELL-BEING
- TRANSPORTATION OR GETTING AROUND



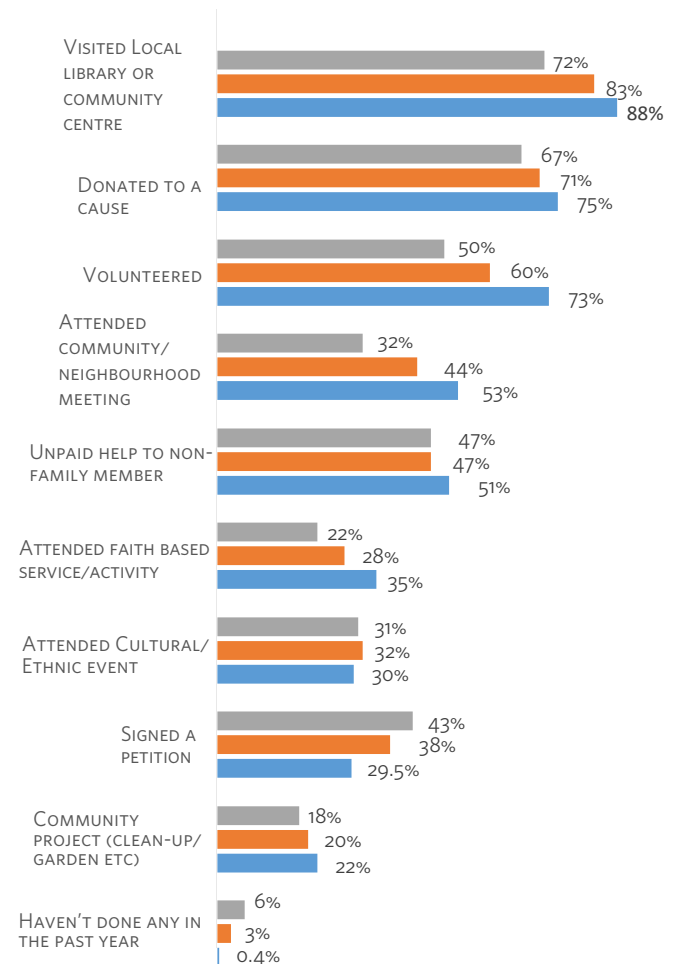
3) WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR IMPROVING HOUSING OPTIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



4) WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR THE ABILITY TO GET AROUND IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



5) THINKING ABOUT THE LAST 12 MONTHS, INDICATE IF YOU HAVE DONE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR COMMUNITY:



A Message from our Gold Partner:

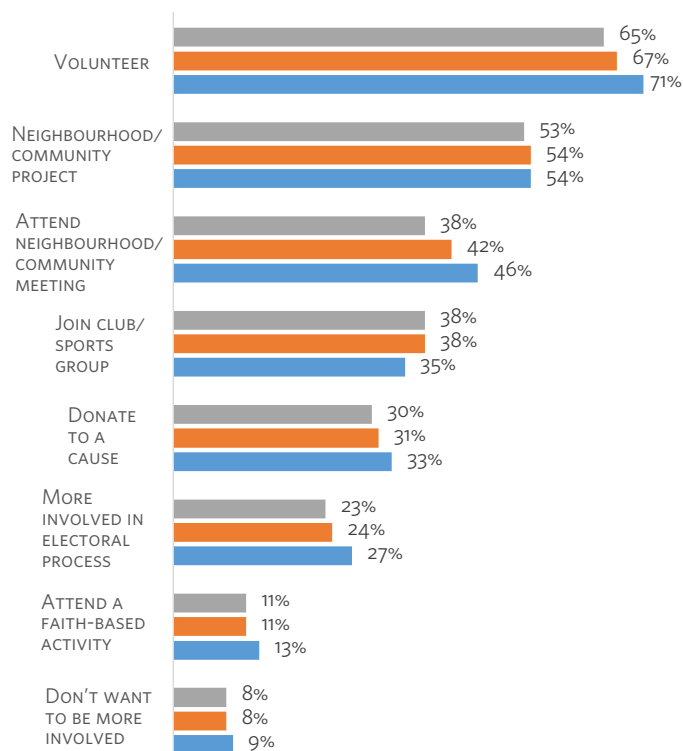
"Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd. is a proud sponsor of the West Vancouver Community Foundation and Vital Signs. Many of our team members are part of this wonderful community and we are committed to seeing it continue to thrive."

- MARCELA MCBURNEY, CFA | VICE PRESIDENT, PORTFOLIO MANAGER
LEITH WHEELER INVESTMENT COUNSEL LTD.

2016 VITAL SIGNS SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

■ BC ■ North Shore and Sea to Sky Region ■ West Vancouver

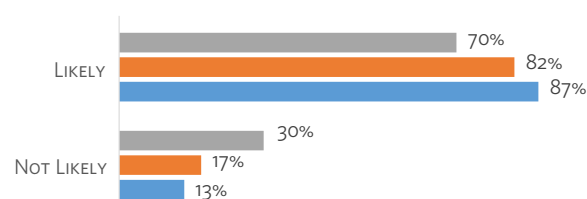
6) IF YOU WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE/BE MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKELY DO?



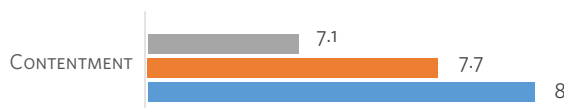
7) HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR NETWORK THAT YOU CAN CONFIDE IN?



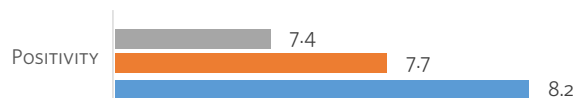
8) IF YOU LOST A WALLET WITH \$100, HOW LIKELY DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE RETURNED, WITH THE MONEY, BY ONE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS?



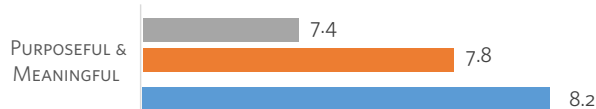
9) IN GENERAL, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL CONTENT? (10 MOST CONTENT, 1 LEAST CONTENT)



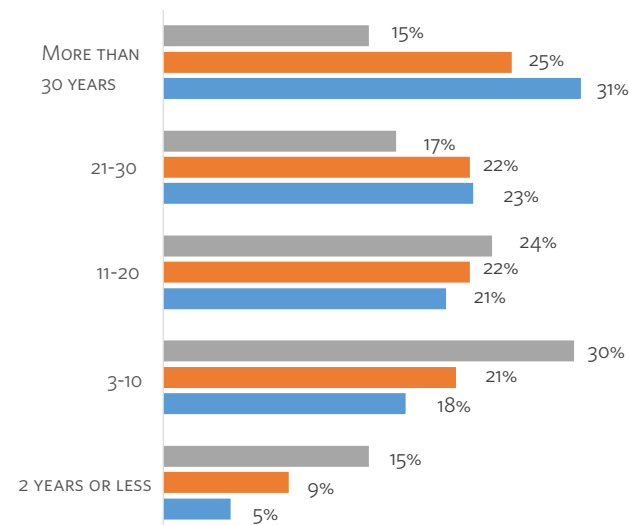
10) IN GENERAL, HOW OFTEN DO YOU FEEL POSITIVE? (10 MOST POSITIVE, 1 LEAST POSITIVE)



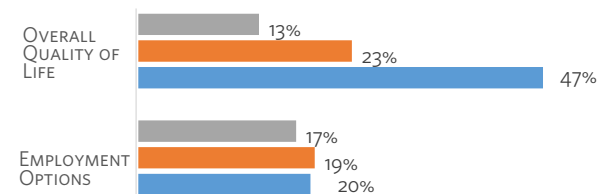
11) IN GENERAL, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL YOU LEAD A PURPOSEFUL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE? (10 MOST MEANINGFUL, 1 LEAST MEANINGFUL)



12) HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU LIVED IN YOUR CURRENT COMMUNITY?



13) IF YOU MOVED WITHIN THE PAST 5 YEARS, WHAT WAS THE REASON?



WEST VANCOUVER



LAND AREA

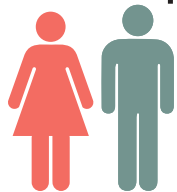
87.26 KM²



POPULATION

42,694

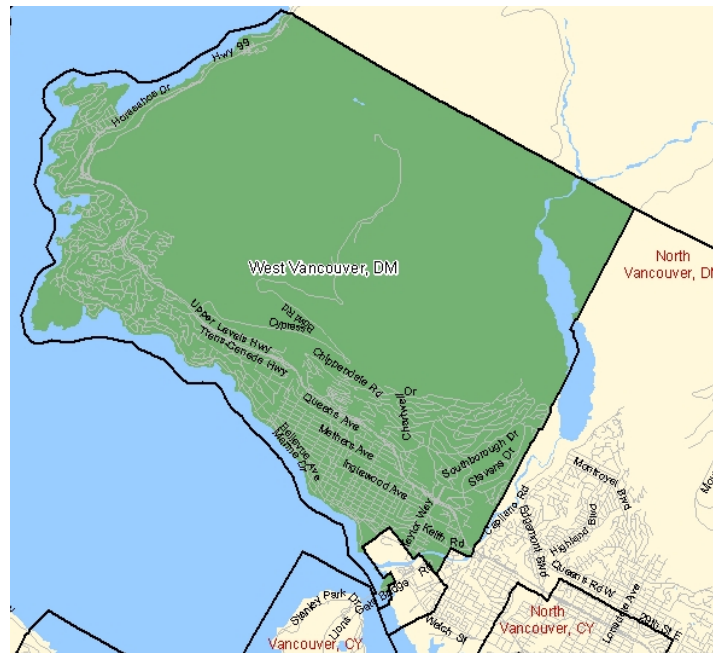
BASED ON THE 2011 CENSUS, STATISTICS CANADA



POPULATION DENSITY

489.3

PEOPLE/KM²



Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Squamish Nation

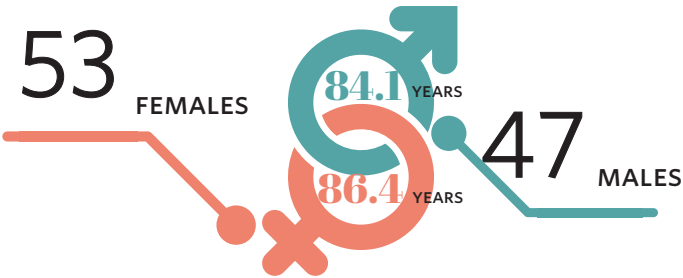
West Vancouver is situated on the shores of Burrard Inlet and Howe Sound on traditional lands of the Squamish people, who are part of the Coast Salish Nation. Today, Xwemelch'stn, the Capilano Reserve, sits at the eastern border of West Vancouver municipality on the banks of the Capilano River, and a portion of Squamish Nation lands lie within West Vancouver's municipal boundaries. The Squamish Capilano 5 Reserve is not part of the District of West Vancouver, however, the two governments share services such as fire protection, policing, bylaw enforcement, parklands, and engineering infrastructure.

Squamish people are very much a part of the West Vancouver community – they are neighbours, employees, employers, business owners, artists, and environmentalists actively contributing to the social, economic, cultural and ecological fabric of the region. Census data for residents of the Squamish Capilano 5 Reserve is reported separately from District of West Vancouver figures. In 2011, the population was 2700, with over half under the age of 30 – a significant contrast to the District of West Vancouver's largely older demographic.

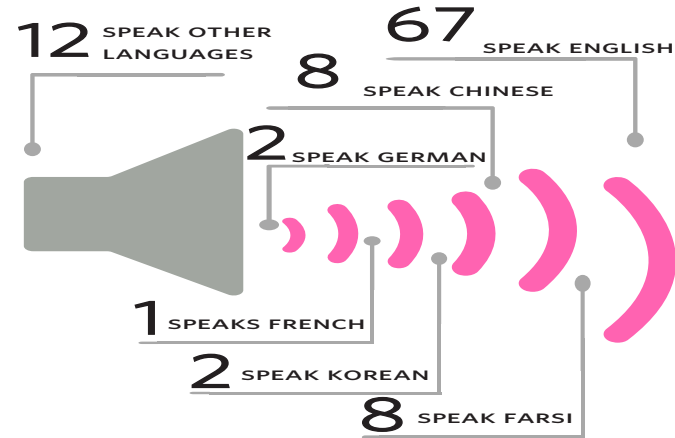


COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

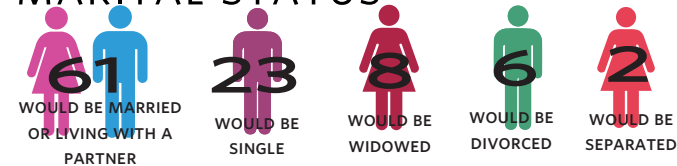
GENDER & LIFE EXPECTANCY



LANGUAGE MOTHER TONGUE



MARITAL STATUS OF THOSE AGED 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER:

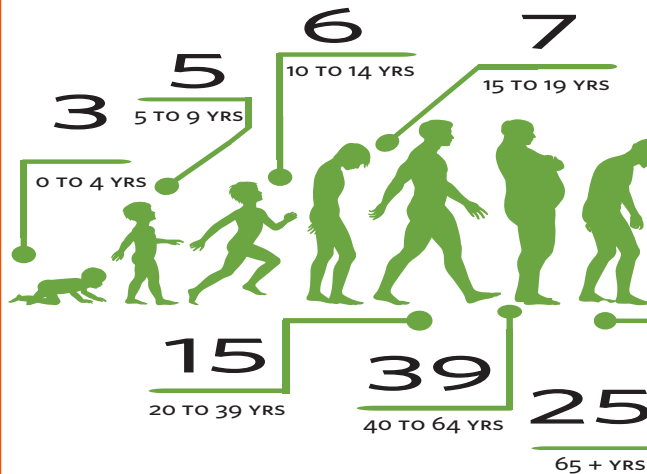


EMPLOYMENT



If West Vancouver was a village of **100**

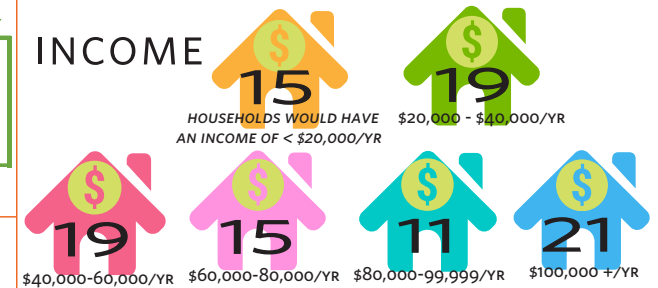
AGE



ETHNICITY



INCOME



HOUSEHOLD SIZE





LEARNING

West Vancouver's education system creates a strong foundation for educational success and for many, a lifelong love of learning. High student performance, graduation rates and post secondary attainment are also factors that contribute positively to the health, wellness and safety of the community.

Vulnerable students

In 2013, 22% of kindergarteners in the West Vancouver School District were vulnerable on one or more scales of the Early Development Instrument, which assesses school readiness on five scales: physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive development; and communication and general knowledge. While West Vancouver has less vulnerability than most areas of the province, the British Properties has a higher level of child vulnerability (33%) than other areas of West Vancouver. This compares to the overall provincial vulnerability rate of 32.5%.

Student performance

West Vancouver students have had the highest scores in the BC Ministry of Education Foundation Skills Assessments testing program every year since testing began. Over 95% of West Vancouver students in grades 4 and 7 meet or exceed expectations in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, compared to the provincial rate of 82%.

Post secondary studies

70.8% of West Vancouver residents over the age of 15 have a university degree, post secondary certificate, or diploma, compared to the provincial rate of 55.7% and the national rate of 54.3%. More than 87% of West Vancouver's graduating students proceed immediately into post-secondary institutions.

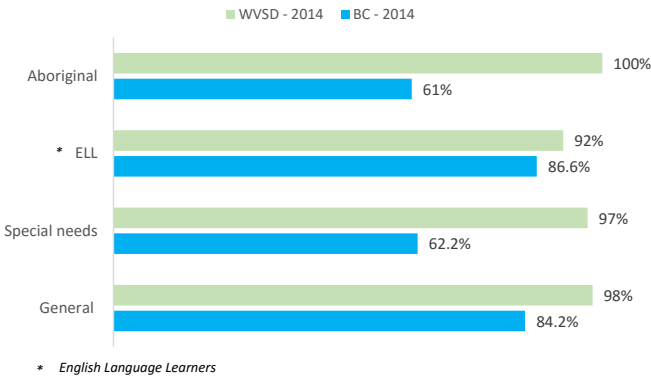


How the Foundation is helping...

Each year, the Foundation awards 15 scholarships, awards and bursaries, ranging from \$500 to \$2000 to West Vancouver students.

Graduation rates

West Vancouver's secondary school graduation rate of 97.5% compares favorably to the provincial rate of 84%. For special needs students, English language learners and First Nations students, graduation rates are all exceptionally strong. (see chart below)

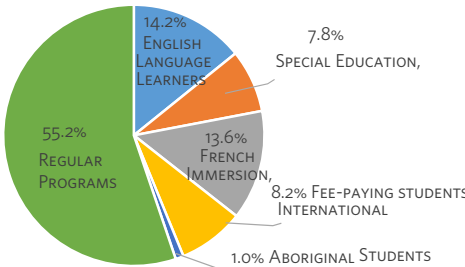


Lifelong learning

Of the 504,843 in person visits to the West Vancouver Memorial Library in 2015, 60% were by residents 55 years or older. WVML continued to hold the highest circulation per capita in BC for physical materials in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Did you know?

In 2015-20 16, approximately 80% of students were enrolled in public schools and 20% were in independent schools. Of the 7,292 students in the West Vancouver District:



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

West Vancouverites are among the healthiest in the region. However, as the population ages, there is a higher incidence of chronic conditions such as arthritis and heart disease. Regular physical activity and good nutrition are key prevention strategies for healthy aging.

Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth is an indicator of overall health for all age groups. At 85.3 years, life expectancy for West Vancouver residents is more than 3 years over the BC average of 82 years. For women in West Vancouver, it is 86.4 (vs. 84.1 for all of BC) and for West Vancouver men, it is 84.1 (vs. 79.8 for all of BC).

General health

68% of West Vancouver residents rated their overall health as excellent or very good, compared to 49% of Metro Vancouver residents.

Mental health

71% rated their mental health as excellent or very good, compared to the 57% Metro Vancouver average.

12.3% of West Vancouver residents report experiencing a mood or anxiety disorder compared to 16.3% of Metro Vancouver residents.

Health care access

90.6% of West Vancouver residents have a family doctor, compared to 83.1% in Metro Vancouver.

Nutrition

32% of West Vancouver residents reported that they consumed 5 or more servings of fruits and/or vegetables per day. This compares to 25% of Metro Vancouver residents.

Disease and chronic conditions

Compared to Metro Vancouver overall, West Vancouver residents experience higher rates of some chronic diseases such as high blood pressure (23.5% vs. 17.9%), heart disease (6% vs. 5%) arthritis (18.1% vs. 13.1%) and cancer (5.7% vs. 2.9%). This can be expected with the number of residents who are 65 and over, almost double that of Metro Vancouver's senior population (25% vs. 13.5%)

Physical activity

While 44 % of Metro Vancouver residents get enough exercise (150 minutes of weekly physical activity), 58% of West Vancouver residents reported 150+ minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per week.

Obesity

19% of individuals are rated as obese in West Vancouver, compared to 22% in Metro Vancouver.

Smoking

Smoking remains the number one preventable cause of illness and death in the Metro region. While the smoking rate in Metro Vancouver is 11%, the rate for West Vancouver is 6%.



**WEST VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
The Giving Answer... Ask Us How!

Did you know?

Each year, the North Shore Mayors' Golf Tournament awards a \$50,000 grant to a local organization to address an important community issue. In 2016, the grant was awarded to the North Shore Schizophrenia Society to support community mental health education programs. Since the first Tournament in 2007, over \$1 million has been raised to benefit charitable organizations on the North Shore through the West Vancouver and the North Shore Community Foundations.

How the Foundation is helping...

The Foundation has provided grant funding to Family Services of the North Shore's *Youth LAB*, a youth group working to help increase mental health literacy in schools and the broader community.



VULNERABILITY

While West Vancouver is considered an affluent and thriving community by some measures, there are residents who face challenges due to low income, poor health, addictions, abuse, or other problems that are often concealed until a crisis brings them out of the shadows.

Working poor

7.5% or 1,407 of West Vancouver's working age population (18,670) are employed, but with earnings below the poverty line - they are the working poor. This is an increase from the 2006 rate of 6.5%. *Working Poverty is defined as individuals of working age (between 18-64 years) who earn at least \$3,000/yr and live in a family with after-tax income below Statistics Canada's Low Income Measure (LIM).*

Child poverty

18.5% of children in West Vancouver 0-17 years live in low income families, comparable to the Metro Vancouver child poverty rate of 19.5%, as measured by Statistics Canada's Low Income Measure (LIM) after income taxes.

Seniors poverty

10% of West Vancouver residents 65 years and older are considered low income. This compares to the Metro Vancouver rate of 15.5% and the BC rate of 13.9%.

Stress

23.2% of West Vancouver residents say the amount of stress in their life most days is extremely or quite stressful. Causes of stress are attributed to:

- work situation (50.6%)
- financial situation (39.4%)
- caring for children or grandchildren (30.9%)
- caring for elderly relatives (13.1%)

Mental illness

In 2015, the North Shore Schizophrenia Society reported assisting 370 North Shore families with one-to-one support and 8,070 participants in education, awareness and support programs, an increase of 7% from 2012.

Single-parent families

12.3% of West Vancouver families are lone parent families (2011). Of these, approximately 75% are female lone parent families, whose average income is typically half that of all other household types in West Vancouver.

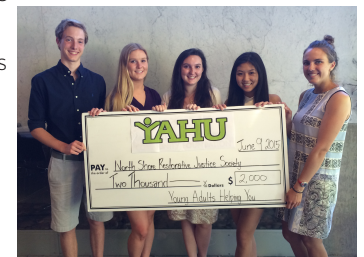


How the Foundation is helping...

Studies have shown that the higher level of child vulnerability in the British Properties (33%) indicated by the Early Development Instrument is related to the high proportion of immigrants settling in the area who are not accessing family support and educational services. In response, the Properties Family Hub was formed to offer multi-generational community health and education programs for families, seniors, singles and children. The Foundation has supported these activities with grants in 2015 and 2016.

Did you know?

The Foundation's youth council, YAHU (Young Adults Helping U), is a group of secondary school students dedicated to improving the quality of life for youth in West Vancouver by granting funds to youth-involved projects. In 2016, YAHU provided a grant to the North Shore Youth Safe House. The Safe House acts as an emergency shelter that stabilizes youth by providing basic necessities, and each year typically supports 20 to 30 West Vancouver Youth.



SAFETY

With West Vancouver's low crime rates, the most significant risk to the public is motor vehicle collisions, particularly for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, West Vancouver's prime location for outdoor recreation requires significant resources dedicated to keeping people safe on the water and the mountains.

Traffic safety

In 2015, 2 of the 3 traffic fatalities in West Vancouver were pedestrians over the age of 65. Although West Vancouver has a mobile, active and healthy seniors population, even slow speed impacts can cause serious injury or death among this age group.

Crime rates

Category	2013	2014	2015
Crimes Against Person (Violent Crime)	281	246	293
Crimes Against Property (Property Crime)	1215	1319	1409
Drug Offences	181	161	145
Motor vehicle - Fatal	2	0	3
Motor vehicle - Injury	93	80	95
Motor vehicle - Damage	327	350	407
Youth Crimes (Count by Person. Charged/Recommended Charges <18 yrs)	24	22	8
Domestic Violence (Intimate Partner Violence)	38	40	28

Seniors fraud and identity theft

The number of reports of fraud or identity theft involving seniors in West Vancouver has increased from 35 in 2013 and 40 in 2014 to 44 in 2015.

Family violence

North Shore Crisis Society, which provides first and second stage transitional housing and other services for women and children fleeing abuse, provided support to 93 West Vancouver residents in 2014-15. Research indicates that 7 out of 10 domestic assaults are not reported to police, and on average, victims are assaulted 9 times before seeking help.

Marine and mountain safety

In 2015, West Vancouver Marine Rescue Society (RCMSAR) responded to 87 marine emergencies in local waters, and their 49 volunteers spent more than 4500 hours on calls, training, maintenance and fundraising. In the same period, North Shore Rescue responded to 139 calls, and its 82 volunteers contributed 6,546 hours to this important work.

Neighbourhood safety

94% of West Vancouver residents agree that they feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood after dark.

Emergency preparedness

Over 96% of West Vancouver residents agree that there are people they can count on in an emergency, and 32% report that they have 3 or more days of emergency supplies on hand. This is higher than the Metro Vancouver rate of 27% having at least 3 days of emergency supplies available.



**WEST VANCOUVER
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How the Foundation is helping...

In 2015, the Foundation provided a grant to West Vancouver Marine Rescue Society towards equipping their new Fast Response Rescue Vessel and crew with safety gear. The Foundation also supports North Shore Rescue, and holds its two endowment funds. The income from these funds is used for the purchase of safety and rescue equipment and supplies.



Did you know?

One in every 12 seniors in BC (8%) has experienced financial abuse. Abuse refers to a deliberate action or behaviour of a person in a position of trust, such as a family member, friend or care-giver that causes physical, mental or emotional harm, or damage to or loss of property or assets.



Housing

Housing choice and affordability is a growing challenge in West Vancouver for both owners and renters. While younger residents are less able to afford to live in the community, older residents ready to downsize have limited options if they want to stay in their neighbourhoods.

Housing stock

West Vancouver's total inventory of 17,075 households (2011) includes:

- 9,845 single detached homes (58%)
- 360 townhouses (2%)
- 1925 duplexes or houses with a suite (11%)
- 4,940 apartments (29%)

Housing demolitions

In West Vancouver, housing demolitions have averaged 111 over the past 5 years, and 102 over the past 10 years. In 2015, there were 124 demolitions.

Affordability

55% of West Vancouver renters spend over 30% of their household income on household costs vs. 44.7% of renters in Metro Vancouver; 45.3% of renters in all of BC; and 40.1% in Canada (2011).

26% of West Vancouver homeowners spend over 30% of their household income on household costs vs. 27.6% in Metro Vancouver; 23.8% in BC, and 18.5% in Canada (2011).

Household profile

In West Vancouver, 62% of households are occupied by 1 or 2 people (2011), and 39% of households include children aged 18 and over (26% are 18-25, 13% are 25+). 28% of West Vancouver seniors live alone, and 52% live in single family dwellings.

Rentals

Of West Vancouver's 17,075 dwellings, 3,610 are renter households (21%) and 13,465 are owner households (79%). The vacancy rate in 2016 in West Vancouver is .5%, slightly lower than Metro Vancouver's .8%, and West Vancouver's average rent of \$1673 is significantly higher than Metro's \$1144 monthly average.

Social housing

In 2015, the total housing administered by BC Housing for seniors, families, and people with disabilities in West Vancouver was 495 units.

Seniors' social housing

Although there are 10,875 seniors in West Vancouver (2011), in 2012 there were 274 seniors social housing units in the municipality, a rate of 3 units available for every 100 seniors – significantly less than Metro Vancouver's rate of 7 units for every 100 seniors.



How the Foundation is helping...

In 2015 and 2016, the Foundation provided grants to Hollyburn Family Services Society's *Seniors at Housing Risk Outreach Program*. Last year, this program supported 46 West Vancouver seniors who were homeless or at risk of being homeless to find affordable and permanent housing, income and financial resources, and mental and general health supports, and prevented 70 West Vancouver seniors from being evicted.

Did you know?

Housing options such as townhomes, rowhouses, coach and laneway houses, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, and low-rise apartments are increasingly in demand by people wanting to downsize and those looking for more affordable and environmentally friendly alternatives. These options represent about 20% of housing in West Vancouver; they are the "missing middle" that needs to become a priority for new development.



ENVIRONMENT

West Vancouver's geography and location presents a stunning tableau of natural beauty, where mountains, forests, rivers, and seaside coexist with an urban population and infrastructure. Preserving and protecting this environment is everyone's responsibility, and requires the cooperation and collaboration of multiple levels of government, non-profit groups, businesses, and citizens.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from housing

52% of West Vancouver's annual greenhouse gas emissions are from buildings and infrastructure. This is unusual in BC, and is due to large numbers of older homes and larger single detached homes and smaller household sizes.

Average house size

The average size of a new detached home in West Vancouver in 2010 was 5500 sq ft and 1750 for duplexes and townhouses. In Metro Vancouver, the average size of a detached single-family home was 3401 sq ft and 1830 sq ft for duplexes.

Transportation

68% of West Vancouver residents drive to work or school, compared to 55% in Metro Vancouver; 17% use public transit (Metro 28%); and 11% walk or cycle (Metro 14%). Of West Vancouver's 30,000 vehicles, .9% are electric vehicles and plug in hybrids. In 2015, 1.6% of all new vehicles sold in BC were EVs and plug in hybrids.

Water use

80% of water use in West Vancouver is residential, and per capita water consumption in 2015 was 591 litres per person per day, compared to the Metro consumption rate of 442 L/person/day. This increase from 560 L/person/day in West Vancouver in 2014 may be due to the hotter, dryer summer, however, overall, water use has declined from highs of over 700 L/person/day due to increased conservation education, started in 2004, and water metering, implemented in 2006.

Parkland

West Vancouver's supply of active parkland is 4.4 hectares per 1000 people. This compares to the provincial average of 2.51 ha/1000 population.

Local food

The Ambleside Artisan Farmers' Market started in June 2005 with 15 vendors and has grown to average 66 vendors each week in its operating period from May to October. A province-wide assessment by the BC Association of Farmers' Markets in 2012 found that farmers' markets in BC have continued to grow in number, producing 147% more sales in 2012 than 2006, and delivering over \$170 million in total economic benefits.

Community gardens

In 2016, there are 66 community garden plots in West Vancouver, an increase from 51 in 2011.

Habitat protection

West Vancouver Streamkeepers, partnering with elementary and secondary students, Guides, Scouts and church groups, has marked 246 storm drains with yellow fish so far in 2016. This brings the total to 2271 drains marked in the past 9 years to raise awareness of the impact of pollution on aquatic systems. Of West Vancouver's 22 creeks and tributaries, 10 are now producing salmon and several others are likely to do so with some remediation; almost all produce native cutthroat trout.



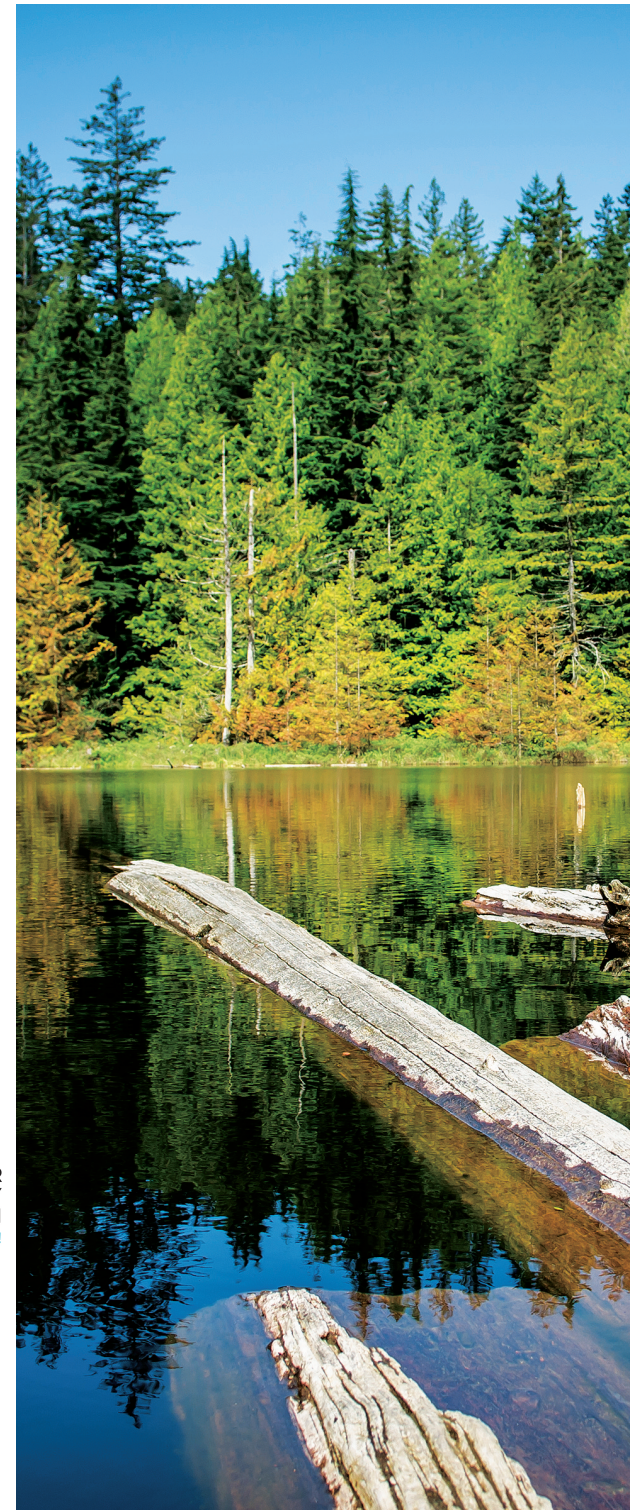
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Did you know?

The Foundation holds two endowment funds that are designated for the West Vancouver Seawall and/or waterfront enhancement. The Donald and Marjorie Lanskail Fund and the Holly and Beke Burne Fund were created as perpetual legacies to maintain an important part of West Vancouver's landscape and infrastructure.

How the Foundation is helping...

In 2014, the Foundation partnered with the five other Sea to Sky area community foundations and Capilano University to host "Mobilizing Assets", a forum for environmental stewardship groups. Over 130 participants gathered to meet each other, share their stories, and learn about resources available to increase their capacity and their impact.





ARTS & CULTURE

West Vancouver comes alive with an array of festivals, exhibitions, galleries, performances, public art, cultural celebrations, and innovative design. Arts, culture and heritage are not just window dressing or amenities for entertainment– they are a critical part of the life of the community, fostering social interaction, sparking innovation, increasing community pride and identity, and contributing to the local economy.

Library usage

Total circulation at the West Vancouver Memorial Library in 2015 was 1,058,980, including 695,505 print materials, 253,318 DVDs and CDs, and 110,157 electronic materials (e-books, e-audiobooks, e-music, digital collections). An average weekday saw approximately 1,750 in-person visitors, and 26,960 people participated in programs such as Booktopia, the North Shore Writers' Festival, author talks, music concerts, movies, TedX events, Philosophers' Cafe, English Language Learner classes and conversation groups, and much more.

Kay Meek Centre

In 2015, the Kay Meek Centre worked with 66 unique organizations to host 263 events, for which over 50,000 tickets were issued in total. During 45 presentation days, "The Meek's" own Kay Meek Centre Presents Season welcomed over 10,000 guests: 50% from West Vancouver, 40% from North Vancouver, and 10% from other parts of the Lower Mainland.

Harmony Arts Festival

Approximately 130,000 people attend the Harmony Arts Festival over its 10-day run each summer, a significant increase from 80,000 attendees in 2010. With the support of 200 volunteers, the Festival offers over 50 musical performances, as well as art exhibits, outdoor film screenings, children's activities, presentations, and an art market.



How the Foundation is helping...

The Musica Nautica Fund is a donor advised fund established in memory of West Vancouver resident Linda Humphries. The Fund will commemorate Linda's love of music by supporting music programming and music education in West Vancouver. As a donor advised fund, grants will be awarded to projects based on recommendations made by Linda's family.

Arts, artists and audiences

In the 2014-15 season, the West Vancouver Community Arts Council held 117 art exhibits, concerts, workshops, demonstrations and lectures, theatre productions and literary events. The total audience for these events was 14,562.

Innovative design

West Vancouver was a centre for the innovative residential design that came to be known as West Coast Style. West Vancouver's Survey of Significant Architecture 1945-1975 identified 124 West Vancouver buildings of primary or secondary importance in this design style that was heavily influenced by local landscape and climate.

Public art

There are 11 works by local indigenous artists in West Vancouver's public art collection.

Community heritage

West Vancouver's Community Heritage Register was established in 2007, with Hollyburn Lodge being the first resource listed. From 2008 to 2015, 46 heritage resources were added to the Register, including 20 private residences. The most recent addition was the Hollyburn Cabin Community in early 2016.

Did you know?

The Foundation has been a supporter of the Harmony Arts Festival since its beginnings 26 years ago, and for much of that time has been the Main Stage sponsor. In 2016, the Foundation also supported the new literary series.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY

From the Coast Salish Nation Squamish people, who originally settled on these shores, to the larger influx of residents of British origin, to the multicultural blend now calling this community home, West Vancouver has become more diverse over the past 100 years. But diversity is about more than different cultures and races; it also refers to all the ways we differ from each other, such as language, gender, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, disability, education, and religion. When these differences are embraced and an environment of respect, involvement, and connection is fostered, our community becomes more inclusive, and benefits from the richness of different backgrounds, perspectives, ideas and contributions.

Visible minorities

28.2% of West Vancouver residents have self-identified as visible minorities, comparable to the BC rate of 27.3 %, but higher than the national rate of 19.1%.

Younger immigrants

While 48.5% of West Vancouver's Canadian born population is 44 or younger, 75.8% of the recent immigrant population settling in West Vancouver is in that age group.

Educated immigrants

63.7% of West Vancouver's recent immigrants aged 25-64 hold a Bachelor's degree or higher, while 53.4% of Canadian born West Vancouver residents possess this level of education.

Diversity Index

One of the most authentic ways to measure the intensity of ethnic diversity is to test the chances that two people, chosen at random from a certain area, will be of a different ethnic background. The measure this creates is an area's "diversity index". In West Vancouver, the Diversity Index is 47%, while the City of Vancouver has a Diversity Index of 68%.

Languages spoken at home

In West Vancouver, 79% of residents speak English most often at home, while 6% speak Farsi, 5.8% speak Chinese, and 9.2% speak other languages most often at home.

Disability

Among school-aged children and youth in West Vancouver public schools in 2015-16, 6.75% have special needs, including learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, physical disabilities and chronic health impairments. This compares to 9.5% of all public school students in BC.

Youth experiencing discrimination

In 2013, the proportion of West Vancouver students in Grades 8 to 12 who reported experiencing various types of discrimination were at rates comparable or slightly lower than provincial rates.:

- physical appearance: 16% (BC: 19%)
- race, ethnicity or skin colour: 12% (BC: 11%)
- gender/sex: 4% (BC: 6%)
- sexual orientation: 3% (BC: 4%)
- income or family income: 3% (BC: 5%)



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Did you know?

Each year, about 2000 immigrants settle in North Shore communities. Without these new arrivals, West Vancouver would experience a 1% to 2% decrease in population annually. The top source countries of recent arrivals to West Vancouver are China, Iran, South Korea, United States and United Kingdom.



How the Foundation is helping...

In 2016, the Foundation provided a grant to support Squamish Nation youth and West Vancouver Police to participate in the Pulling Together Journey, a week-long canoe trip aimed at enhancing understanding between public service agencies and aboriginal peoples by "canoeing the traditional highway." The 29-foot canoe, named Ch'ich'iyúy, will continue to be used as a community engagement tool to connect and educate people on local First Nations culture and the history of the area.





BELONGING

A strong sense of belonging is important to both individuals and the community. When people feel they belong and are included, they tend to be healthier and happier, and are more likely to contribute to the community through volunteerism, philanthropy, leadership and other types of involvement. A high degree of belonging and social capital is essential for communities to solve problems and foster fairness, helpfulness, safety and resilience.

Belonging to community

Over 74% of West Vancouver residents report having a strong sense of community belonging compared to 56% of Metro Vancouver residents and 66% of BC residents.

Belonging to groups and activities

85% of West Vancouver residents say they have a strong sense of belonging to groups or activities. This compares to 65% of BC residents.

Youth community connectedness

Among West Vancouver students in Grades 8 to 12 in 2013, 49% felt a part of their community, while 39% felt somewhat a part of their community, and 11% felt very little or not at all a part of their community. This compares to overall BC figures of 39% of youth who feel a part their community, 41% who feel somewhat a part of their community and 19% who feel little or no community connection.



How the Foundation is helping...

In 2015 and 2016, the Foundation provided grants to Sentinel Boys Club, which provides a safe, respectful, and nurturing space for young men to gather and share their stories, explore their lives and think about their future. Introduced to Sentinel Secondary School in 2011, it has grown to support approximately 30 youth on a weekly basis, and has evolved into a leadership group that explores various social justice issues.

Trusting relationships

94% of individuals in West Vancouver agree that there is someone they trust that they would be able to turn to for advice. This is consistent with the overall rate on the North Shore of 93%.

Helpful neighbours

While 88% of West Vancouver residents agree that people are willing to help their neighbours, the overall rate for the North Shore is 91%.

Newcomers

53% of West Vancouver residents agree that when someone new moves onto their street, they are welcomed into the neighbourhood. This compares to 45% of BC residents overall.

Building community

Vancouver Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants help to build connections among residents and increase community belonging. In 2016, 10 projects were funded in West Vancouver neighbourhoods, an increase from 4 in 2014 and 8 in 2015.

Did you know?

Over the past decade, research has highlighted the health challenges associated with social isolation, including depression and poor mental health; lower level of general well-being; disability from chronic conditions; reduced quality of life, and increased risk of premature death. Support from families, friends and communities is one of several social determinants of health. Evidence has demonstrated the importance of social support networks in helping people deal with adversity, solve problems, and maintain a sense of control over difficult life circumstances. The caring and support provided by social relationships result in increased satisfaction and well-being, and acts as a buffer against health problems.



VOLUNTEERISM & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The community is significantly enriched when citizens participate in community life by volunteering, voting, contributing opinions and ideas, and donating to local causes. Many of the programs and facilities that residents take for granted would not be possible without the support of caring people who actively engage in the community, both formally and informally.

Voter turnout

In last year's federal election, the voter turnout in West Vancouver was 5.3 % higher than the national average (68.3%) and 3.6% higher than the provincial average (70%).

Election/Riding	2008	2011	2014	2015
Local Government Election - District of West Vancouver	38.29%	27.31%	31.74%	
Transportation and Transit Plebiscite - District of West Vancouver				51.89%
Federal Election - West Van - Sunshine Coast - Sea to Sky	63.36%	63.29%		73.60%
Provincial Election	2009	2013		
WV - Garibaldi/Sea to Sky	55.14%	57.10%		
WV-Capilano	61.46%	66.99%		

Non-profit organizations

There are over 200 non-profit societies operating in West Vancouver. 125 of these groups also have Registered Charity status with Canada Revenue Agency, which allows them to issue tax receipts for donations.

Charitable donations

26.4% of West Vancouver tax filers gave a charitable donation in 2014, down from 27.1% in 2013 and from 34.1% in 1997. West Vancouver's 2014 donation rate was 5 percentage points higher than the national average of 21.4 % and 6.1 percentage points higher than the provincial average of 20.3%.

In 2014, the median donation given by West Vancouver donors was \$700, an increase of 1.4 % from 2013 (\$690) and up 118.8% from 1997 (\$320). West Vancouver's 2014 median charitable donation was \$420 higher than the national average of \$280, and \$290 higher than the provincial average of \$410.

Volunteering

73% of West Vancouver residents say they have volunteered in the past 12 months, compared to the provincial rate of 50%.

Seniors Centre and Community Centre Volunteers

48,203 hours were contributed by 775 volunteers at the West Vancouver Seniors Centre in 2015, while 76 people volunteered 3621 hours at the Community Centre.



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Did you know?

100 Women Who Care of the North Shore, a giving circle launched by the West Vancouver Community Foundation in late 2014, has so far engaged over 60 donors in learning about local charities and giving over \$17,000 in grants to charitable causes.



How the Foundation is helping...

Since the Foundation started in 1979, it has granted over \$1.7 million to local organizations for initiatives that benefit the community in health, social services, education, arts and culture, environment, and recreation. The Foundation provides a vehicle for interested donors to support specific charities, fields of interest, or the general welfare of our community, forever.



West Vancouver Community Foundation's Vital Signs - *shining a light on our community*

This Vital Signs Report is intended to help us better appreciate who lives here and how well their needs are being met, from the most basic needs—sustenance, shelter, health, safety—to those that give quality to life, such as places and opportunities to play, learn and create.

It presents a picture of quality-of-life using a wide range of national data and local research - community knowledge that will help the Foundation decide where to focus attention and resources to have the greatest impact.

West Vancouver Community Foundation

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ASTROLITE PC 100 ECO - AUDIT

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TREES SAVED	WATER SAVED (gals)	NET GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCED (lbs)	WOOD SAVED (lbs)	LANDFILL REDUCED (lbs)	ENERGY REDUCED (BTU 000)
4	1795	331	2000	120	2000



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