

The logo for Nanaimo Daily News, featuring the text "Nanaimo Daily News." in white serif font on a blue rectangular background.The logo for Harbour City Star, featuring the text "HARBOUR CITY STAR" in white sans-serif font on a red rectangular background.

## Survey will examine livability, economy of city

[Spencer Anderson](#) / Daily News

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A city-wide public survey is expected to be launched early next week as part of preparations for a new report that will profile Nanaimo's livability and economy.

The project is being produced by the non-profit Nanaimo Foundation in partnership the United Way of Central and Northern Vancouver Island and the City of Nanaimo.

Tim Mawdsley, a director on the Nanaimo Foundation board, is leading development of the report, called Vital Signs. He said the community survey will be a chance for residents of the city to express their views on the city and the issues they care about, a key part of the project.

The organizations also have a researcher compiling statistical information on the city and its residents for the other portion of the report.

The aim is to produce an overall 'big picture' look at the city and where charitable dollars would best be spent to help its residents.

"The survey is essentially (about) how do you feel about this area, how do you feel about arts and culture, how do you feel about health and the economy and work," Mawdsley said, adding respondents will have a chance to enter their thoughts in long form and grade each area of life in the city.

Once combined with hard data on various aspects of Nanaimo, the report will begin to take shape, he added.

"Things are moving along as planned. The great thing about the survey is that's when we get the input and we get to show, 'Okay Nanaimo, this is what you thought and here's the data that's collected for the area as well.'" The project is modelled off of similar reports prepared in Victoria and Vancouver respectively by the Victoria Foundation and Vancouver Foundation.

Mawdsley said the final report is slated to be released on Oct. 7 to coincide with other Vital Signs reports across the country. Production of the report is being sponsored by Island Savings Credit Union, where Mawdsley is a branch manager, and also has the support of Vancouver Island University.

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