

Nanaimo's

Vital Signs®

Nanaimo's Annual Check-up



We All
Belong!



NANAIMO
FOUNDATION



How to Read This Report

- 1 ISSUE AREAS**
This report covers ten Issue Areas that should be considered when assessing the overall health and vitality of a community.
- 2 RESEARCH FINDINGS**
The statistics were collected with the assistance of Community Foundations of Canada and the Centre for the Study of Living Standards. Reliable sources such as Statistics Canada were used with an emphasis on the most current and geographically specific data possible. Existing data from a variety of local, provincial and national sources were also used.
- 3 YOUR GRADE**
During the months of July and August, citizens in the region were invited to complete a survey on the health of their community according to the 10 Issue Areas. The idea was to capture people’s views on issues within the region and then to include these with available data to compare perceptions. Survey grades are not statistically valid, however represent the opinions of a large group of residents. Over 600 people participated in the survey by grading the Issue Areas using the following scale.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A “I think it’s excellent” | D “It is a concern” |
| B “I think it’s good” | F “In dire need of attention” |
| C “It’s okay” | |

How to Use This Report

- Read, Remember & Reflect**
Take the time to read the report and reflect on the data and what it means to our community. Share the report and stats with your friends, colleagues, employees, employers, board members, students, neighbors and elected officials. Use the report as a starting point for conversations and positive action.
- Act & Support**
If you’re moved by what you read, think of ways that you can participate. There are numerous organizations in our community working to improve it that could benefit from your participation and/or financial support.
- Contact Us!**
We know the issues and organizations in our community. If you are looking for ways to make a difference, we can help.

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Connecting and Sharing
MAKING OUR
COMMUNITY BETTER



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By connecting visionary donors with causes that truly matter, we’re able to invest in people and projects by assisting local charitable organizations that make our communities stronger - now and for the long-term.

- Ted Carson** • Chairman
- George Hanson** • Vice-Chair, Strategic & Grants Director
- Tom Harris** • Director
- Daniel Martinez** • Development Director
- Jocelyn Matwe** • Communications Director
- Tim Mawdsley** • Vital Signs Director
- Joyce A. Smith** • Treasurer
- Michael Wassermann** • Director

- Our focus is building a healthy, vibrant, livable and sustainable Greater Nanaimo community**
- As a community foundation, we steward the gifts of energy, ideas, time, and money to make meaningful and lasting impacts in our community.
- We take the broadest view of what a community is and what it needs to succeed**
- We provide grants to a wide range of charitable causes - from shelter, education, sustenance and care for those most in need, to recreation, the arts, and the environment—wherever the needs are greatest at any given time in the Greater Nanaimo community.
- We bring donors to the table as community builders**
- We manage charitable gifts from donors whose generosity allows us to create permanent, income-earning funds which are distributed in the areas the donors wish to support. We help donors formulate and realize their philanthropic goals, matching their interests and concerns with community needs and organizations. We help them find innovative and responsible ways to give their investments lasting impact. Since the Nanaimo Foundation formed in 1982, we have granted funds to more than 130 charitable organizations in the communities of Nanaimo, Lantzville, Gabriola Island, Cedar and Ladysmith.
- The Nanaimo Foundation does three key things to build community vitality:**
- Vitality takes long-term resources for long-term solutions - so we work with donors to build endowment and other funds that ensure vital futures for communities.
 - Vitality comes from all corners of a community, so we grant funds to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives.
 - Vitality needs leadership, so we bring people together from all parts of our communities to stimulate new ideas, build participation and strengthen community philanthropy.

When you give to the Nanaimo Foundation, you are planting a seed that will help to nourish present needs and continue growing to benefit future generations. Please contact us to discuss a gift of lasting impact.

Laurie Bienert • Development Officer
250.667.4292 laurie@nanaimofoundation.com www.nanaimofoundation.com
250.753.1124 info@nanaimofoundation.com

About Vital Signs®



Chairs' Message



Tim Mawdsley
Chair of Vital Signs



Ted Carson
Nanaimo Foundation Chair

Nanaimo's Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by the Nanaimo Foundation that measures the vitality of our community. By compiling findings from the Vital Signs survey and the most recent data and research on a wide range of local issues, we are able to understand the current well-being of our community, and provide critical information that can help identify opportunities for action.

Along with 27 other communities across Canada, data collected from our community will contribute to the national Vital Signs report, conducted by the Community Foundations of Canada. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by the Community Foundations of Canada and with a special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept.

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For more information, visit www.vitalsignscanada.ca

Welcome to the second edition of Nanaimo's Vital Signs report.
The Nanaimo Foundation is excited to present this year's check-up on Nanaimo, with a special focus on a sense of belonging in our community.

Our vision with this report is to provide a comprehensive look at how our community is faring, as indicated by you - members of our community, in conjunction with a review of local and national data. By looking at multiple indicators in each of the ten Issue Areas, we are able to make connections between issues and trends, and see how our community has improved.

This report is a snapshot of Greater Nanaimo's ongoing narrative. Thank you to those who took the time to complete the Vital Signs survey and share your feedback on our community. We encourage you to continue the conversation, share your perceptions, and identify ways in which you can contribute to the positive changes you would like to see in Nanaimo.

As the community foundation of Nanaimo, we are proud to provide this valuable tool to our community as a resource for our Foundation, residents, local government, businesses, schools, and community groups. Our hope is this current measure of the quality of life in our community is a source of pride and instrumental in focusing efforts as a community in shaping a stronger Greater Nanaimo for all.

A special thank you to our Vital Signs partners, whose collaboration and generous financial support has made this initiative possible.



The 2015 Vital Signs Survey received more than 600 responses. Of those who completed the survey:

60.5%	39.5%	26.6%	29.5%	43.1%	7.4%
Female	Male	Age 65 +	Age 44 -	Residents 20 yrs +	Residents 3 yrs -

YOUR CHOSEN TOP 5 OF
Nanaimo's Best

- 1 Natural Environment
- 2 Climate
- 3 Parks
- 4 Air Quality
- 5 Friends & Family



YOUR CHOSEN TOP 5 MOST
Important Issues

- 1 Employment Opportunities
- 2 Affordable Housing
- 3 Poverty
- 4 Community Planning / Development
- 5 Economy



Community Profile

The Geography of Nanaimo

Nanaimo is located on the east side of Vancouver Island 23 km west from Vancouver separated by the Salish Sea and 113 km north of Victoria, the capital of British Columbia. The City of Nanaimo, which is 91.3 km² in area, fits within the following geographic and administrative areas:

- Nanaimo Census Agglomeration;
- Nanaimo Regional District;
- Nanaimo Local Health Area; and,
- Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District.



Nanaimo has a moderate climate, with over 1,800 hours of bright sunshine each year. During the summer, the average daily high is 21°C (70°F) and during the winter months, daily temperatures normally remain above the freezing mark.

Nanaimo was first inhabited thousands of years ago by the Snuneymuxw First Nations People who named the area “Sne-ney-mous”, which means “meeting place”. Nanaimo was dubbed the “Hub City” early in its history by the Vancouver Island Development League because of its central location on Vancouver Island.

Nanaimo Demographics Highlights (Detailed stats on Pg. 6 chart)

6.1% ↑
Nanaimo Census Agglomeration - 2006-2011 population increase

67.4%
of families were married couples



TOP 5 IMMIGRANT SOURCE COUNTRIES...

- United Kingdom
- USA
- India
- Germany
- Netherlands

Median Age in 2011

45.2 years

Population projections, for total population, children and youth and seniors, Nanaimo Regional District, 2015 to 2035

AGE GROUPS	2015 POPULATION	2035 POPULATION	2015-2035, # CHANGE	2015-2035, % CHANGE
Total population	153,551	191,921	38,370	25.0%
Children and youth (0-19 years old)	26,517	33,913	7,396	27.9%
Seniors (65+ years old)	40,098	56,642	16,544	41.3%

Source: BC Stats. Population Projections by Regional District.

Nanaimo’s Future Trends

- The population of the Nanaimo Regional District is projected to increase by 38,370 people (a 25.0% increase) from 153,551 people in 2015 to 191,921 people in 2035.
- The number of children and youth (0-19 years old) in the Nanaimo Regional District is projected to increase by 7,396 (a 27.9% increase) from 26,517 children and youth in 2015 to 33,913 children and youth in 2035.
- The number of seniors (65+ years old) in the Nanaimo Regional District is projected to increase by 16,544 (a 41.3% increase) from 40,098 seniors in 2015 to 56,642 seniors in 2035.

25% ↑
27.9% ↑
41.3% ↑

Demographics at a glance, Nanaimo Census Agglomeration, 2011

DEMOGRAPHICS	FACTS
2011 Population	98,021
2006 Population	92,361
2006 - 2011 Population Increase	5,660 (6.1%)
Median Age	45.2 years
Males and Females	47,635 males and 50,385 females.
Families	67.4% were married couples 15.6% were common-law couples 17.0% were lone-parent families
Five most commonly spoken languages at home	English French Panjabi (Punjabi) German Spanish
Aboriginal Identity Population	6,505 Aboriginal Identity residents (6.8% of the population)
Top five immigrant source countries for immigrants (any period of immigration)	United Kingdom USA India Germany Netherlands

Sources:
Statistics Canada.
2011 Census.
Statistics Canada.
2011 National Household Survey.

Sense of Belonging

Safety & Security

Nanaimo Resident Survey Grade

C+

Feeling safe and secure in our communities is measured not only by numbers of crimes but also by the richness of our relationships and connectedness with our neighbours. We should feel safe walking to school, having children play outside and smiling at people we walk past.



Life Satisfaction

In 2013, 94.4% of Central Vancouver Island Health Service Delivery Area (Central Vancouver Island HSDA) 12+ years old residents were satisfied or very satisfied with their lives in 2013, an increase from 92.8% in 2012.

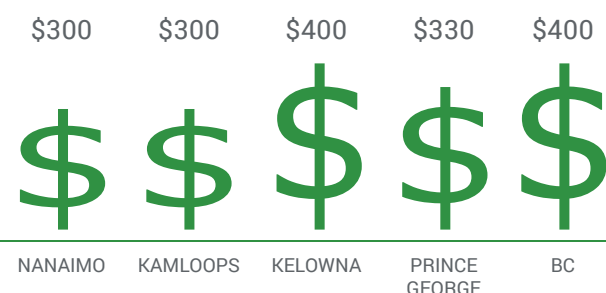
94.4%

PROPORTION OF TAXFILERS MAKING A CHARITABLE DONATION

of Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) taxfilers made a charitable donation in 2013, slightly lower than in 2012 (20.2%).

19.7%

MEDIAN ANNUAL CHARITABLE DONATIONS



The median annual charitable donation among taxfilers in the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) who made a charitable donation was \$300 in 2013, the same as in 2012 (\$300).

Crime Rate 6.5% ↓

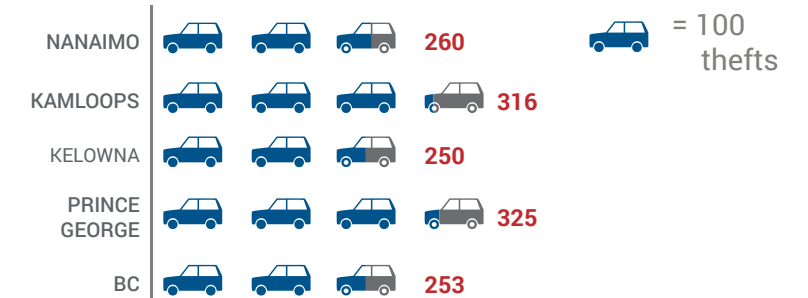


In Nanaimo, the overall crime rate dropped from 11,067 crimes per 100,000 residents in 2012 to 10,347 crimes per 100,000 residents in 2013, a decrease of 720 crimes per 100,000 residents.

Crime Severity Index



In 2013, Nanaimo had a crime severity index of 106, which was virtually the same (a -0.4% change) as the 2012 crime severity index (106), higher than British Columbia's crime severity index in 2013 (89).



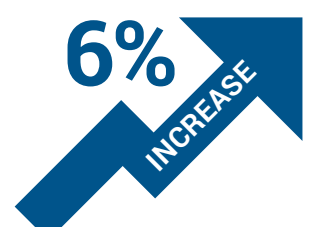
In 2013, the rate of motor vehicle theft per 100,000 residents in Nanaimo was higher than in Kelowna and British Columbia, but was lower than in Kamloops and Prince George.

VEHICLE THEFT

Drug Violations

The rate of drug violations in Nanaimo decreased from 792 violations per 100,000 residents in 2012 to 682 violations per 100,000 residents in 2013, a decrease of 110 violations per 100,000 residents.

YOUTH Violent Crime RATE



The rate of youth (12-17 years old) being charged with violent crime offenses in Nanaimo increased from 789 per 100,000 youth in 2012 to 836 per 100,000 youth in 2013, an increase of 47 per 100,000 youth.

Gap Between Rich & Poor

Nanaimo Resident Survey Grade

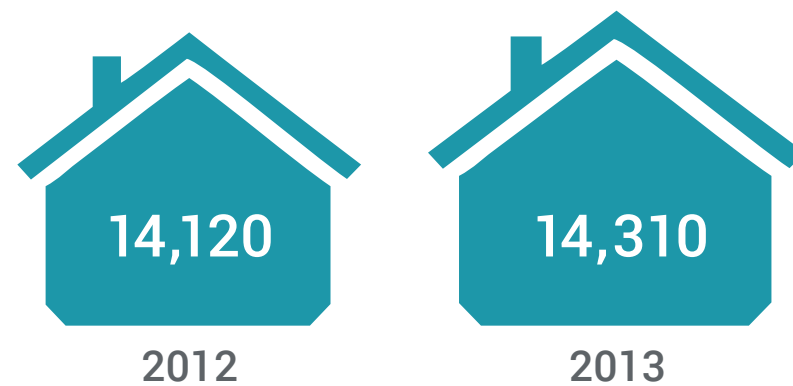
D+

When there is a large gap between the rich and poor in our community, we are all affected. When all citizens, especially the most vulnerable, have adequate resources to ensure that their basic needs are met, then individuals, families, and communities are more healthy and resilient.



Poverty Rate

The number of residents in low income households (based on LIM – After Tax) in the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) increased from 14,120 in 2012 to 14,310 in 2013.



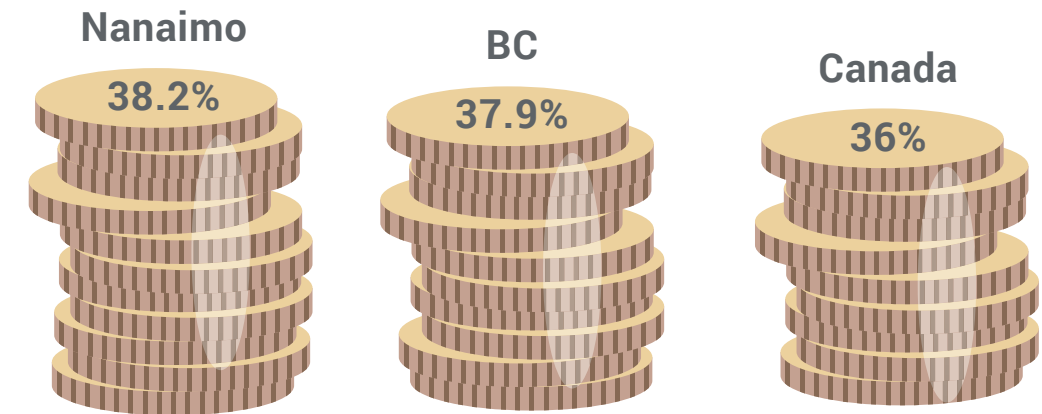
Income Assistance Caseloads

334 fewer people receiving income assistance in 2014



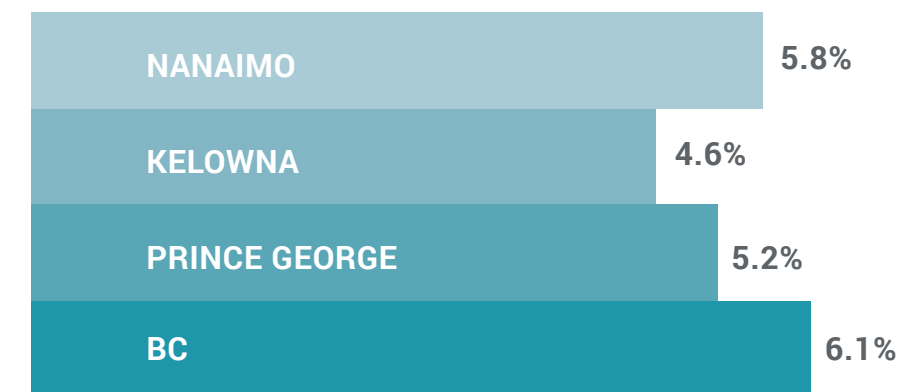
Nanaimo had an average of 6,064 persons receiving income assistance during 2014, down from an average of 6,398 during 2013. The proportion of Nanaimo City residents receiving income assistance dropped from 7.3% in 2013 to 6.8% in 2014.

Living Wage



Of all Nanaimo residents employed in 2010, 38.2% were not earning a living wage (an annual income of more than \$20,000 before tax). This compared with 36.0% in Canada and 37.9% in British Columbia.

Unemployment



In 2014, the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) had an unemployment rate of 5.8%, up slightly from 5.6% in 2013. The 2014 unemployment rate for the Nanaimo CA was lower than for British Columbia (6.1%), but higher than for the Prince George CA (5.2%) and the Kelowna CMA (4.6%).

Food Bank Visits

In 2014, there were 61,500 food bank visits to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank by food bank clients, an increase of 4,296 visits (a 7.5% increase) from the 57,204 food bank visits in 2013.



Your Voices

“Lack of business opportunities and employment is driving people away to get work elsewhere, and increasing poverty levels.”

Health & Wellness

Nanaimo Resident Survey Grade

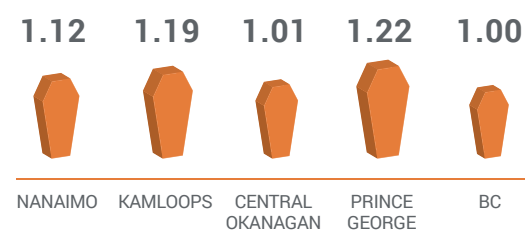
C

Personal health and well-being are largely a reflection of the lifestyle choices we make and these, in turn, are strongly influenced by our social and economic status. Collective action that empowers and motivates all individuals to make the healthy choices the easy choices, will improve the health of our communities and help our region flourish.



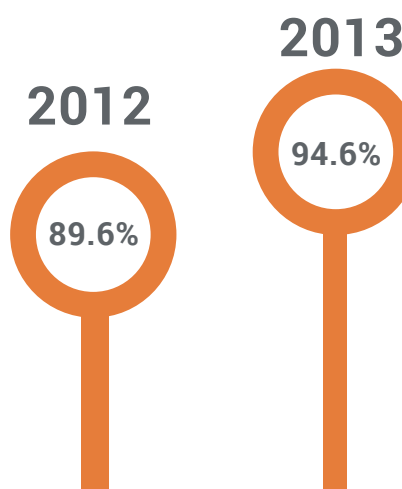
Mortality Ratio

In 2011, Nanaimo had a standardized mortality ratio (SMR=1.0) of 1.12, a ratio higher than the provincial mortality ratio of 1.00. The standardized mortality ratio (SMR) is the ratio of the observed number of deaths in a population to the number of expected deaths.



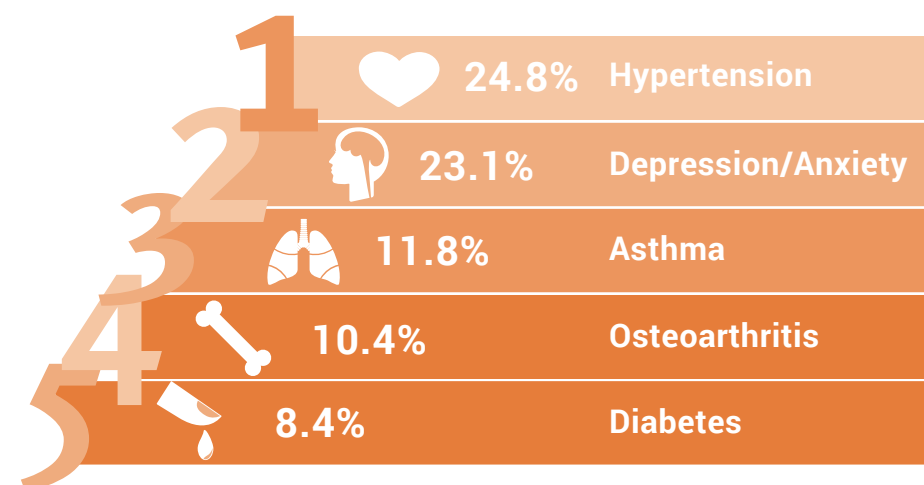
RESIDENTS WITH A REGULAR PHYSICIAN

94.6% of Central Vancouver Island Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA) residents 12+ years old had a regular medical doctor in 2013, up from 89.6% in 2012.

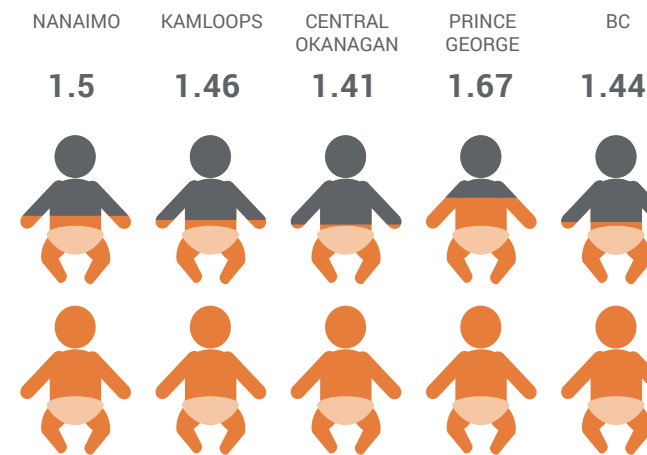


Top 5 Chronic Diseases

The five most common chronic diseases in the Nanaimo Local Health Area (LHA) in 2011/2012 were:

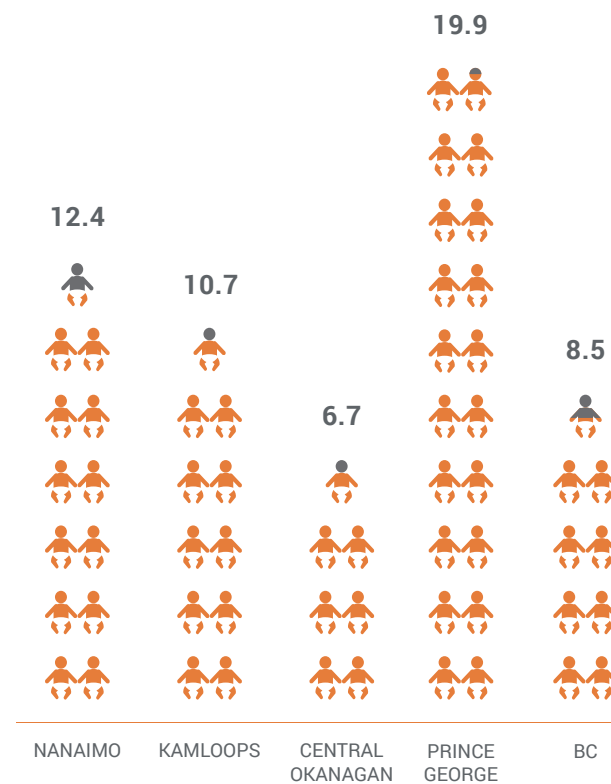


TOTAL FERTILITY RATES



In 2013, total fertility rate for each woman aged 15 to 49 in Nanaimo was 1.5, a rate higher than the provincial rate of 1.44. The total fertility rate is the number of children a woman would have during her lifetime based on current birth rates for each age group.

TEEN FERTILITY RATES



In 2011, the number of births per 1,000 women age 15 to 19 in the Nanaimo Local Health Area (Nanaimo LHA) was 12.4, a rate higher than the provincial rate of 8.5.

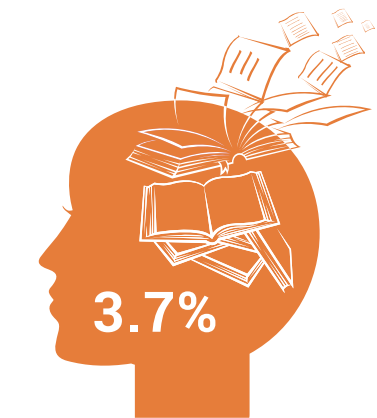
Your Voices

"I definitely think more attention to mental health programs and addiction treatment is needed. I feel like I see more and more people struggling with those issues and it is definitely having an effect on our community."

In 2013, 67.6% of Central Vancouver Island Health Service Delivery Area youth reported having very good or excellent perceived mental health, which is slightly lower than the provincial figure.



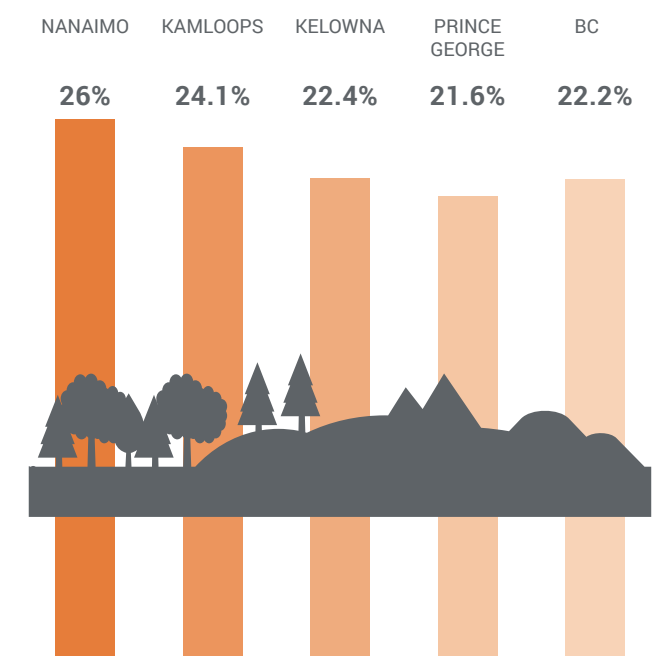
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH



In 2012, 3.7% of Nanaimo LHA residents had dementia, which is similar to the provincial rate of 3.3%.

DEMENTIA

In 2011, 26% of the residents in the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration had an activity limitation, compared to 22.2% provincially.



ACTIVITY LIMITATION RATES

Learning

Nanaimo
Resident
Survey
Grade

C+

As we prepare the next generation for their future in a knowledge-based economy, it is our shared responsibility to improve opportunities for all students and learners in our community. Successful communities offer residents abundant, affordable and flexible opportunities for learning at school, work or in the community.

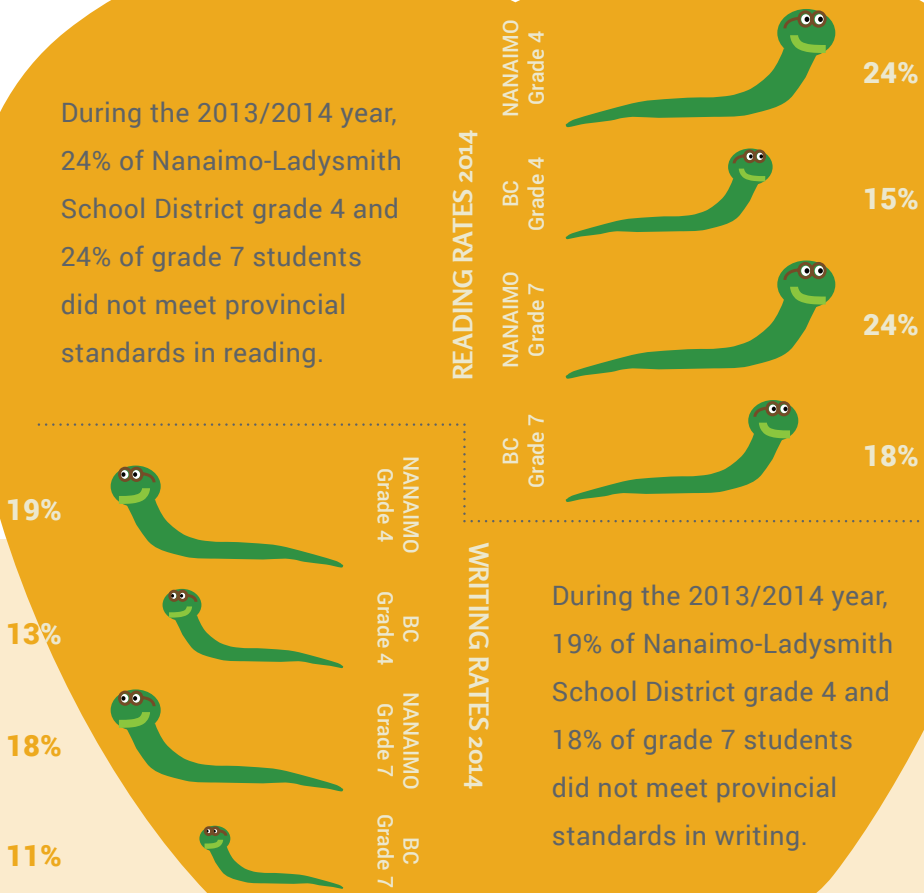


Childhood Development Vulnerability Index of Nanaimo

35% of Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District kindergarten students were vulnerable on one or more early development domains during the 2011/2012 – 2012/2013 school years, compared to 34% during the 2009/2010 - 2010/2011 school years.

35%

During the 2013/2014 year, 24% of Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District grade 4 and 24% of grade 7 students did not meet provincial standards in reading.

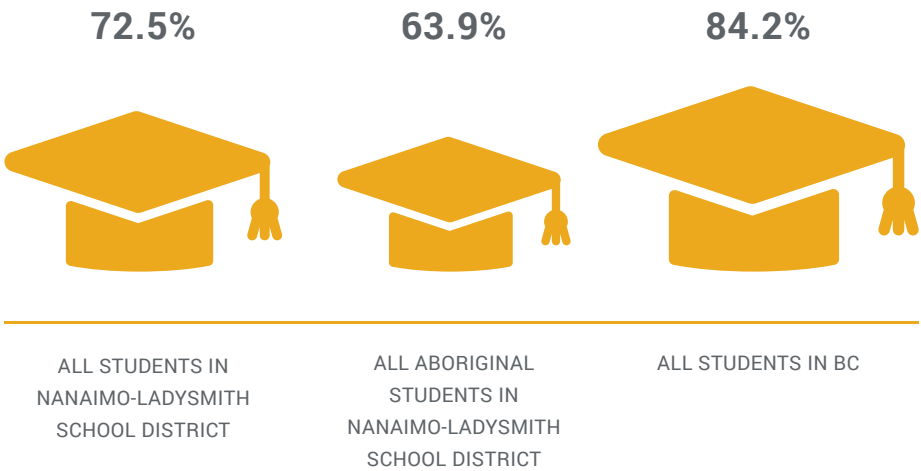


During the 2013/2014 year, 19% of Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District grade 4 and 18% of grade 7 students did not meet provincial standards in writing.

Reading & Writing

High School Completion Rate

In the 2014, 72.5% of all students (72.3% in 2013) and 63.9% (56.2% in 2013) of Aboriginal students in the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District completed high school in six years, compared to the provincial average of 84.2%.



6 YR HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE 2014

Vancouver Island University

CREDENTIALS
AWARDED

During the 2014/2015 fiscal year, 4,846 credentials were awarded by Vancouver Island University.

CREDENTIAL TYPE	FY 2014/15
Associate Degree	4
Advanced Diploma	41
Apprenticeship	604
Bachelor	820
Certificate	999
Developmental	903
Diploma	361
Master	249
Unspecified	22
Post Degree Diploma	95
Short Certificate	748
TOTAL:	4,846

ENROLLMENT

There were 8,390 full-time equivalent students in Vancouver Island University during the 2014/2015 fiscal year, an increase of 57 full-time equivalent students (a 0.7% increase) from the 8,333 full-time equivalent students during the 2013/2014 fiscal year.



2014
8,333
students
enrolled

2015
8,390
students
enrolled



Housing

Nanaimo Resident Survey Grade

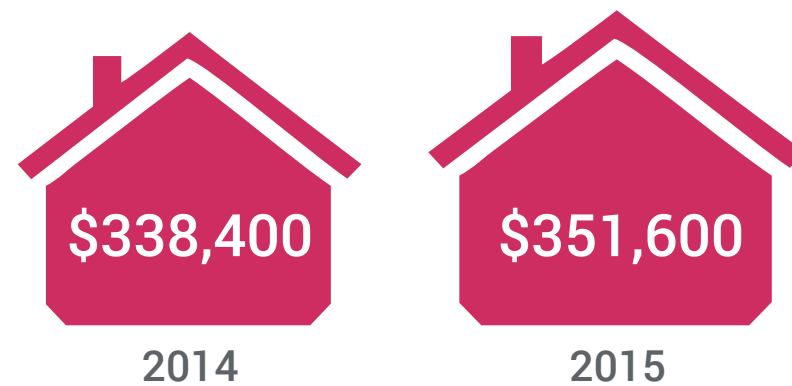
C-

Communities with housing options that meet the diverse needs of its residents are more inclusive, economically competitive and vibrant. One important measure of whether a community has sufficient housing options for its residents is the percentage of households that are in "core housing need." The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation defines a household to be in core housing need when its housing falls below at least one of three housing standards: adequacy (i.e., condition of dwelling), affordability (i.e., cost of housing is less than 30% of before-tax income), and suitability (i.e., dwelling has enough bedrooms).

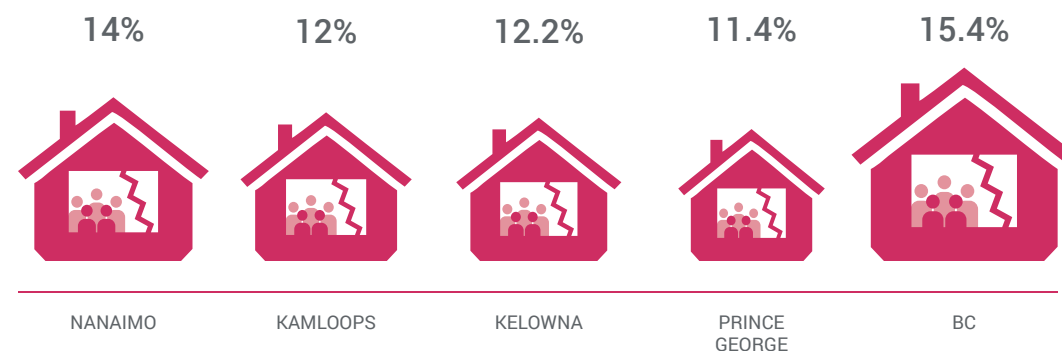


House Prices

The benchmark single family house price for Island Zone 4 – Nanaimo was \$351,600 in May 2015, up \$13,200 (or 3.9%) from \$338,400 in May 2014.

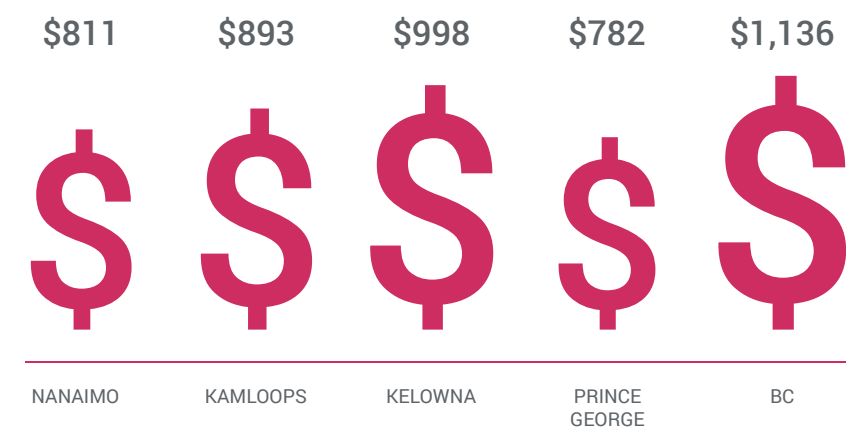


Core Housing Need



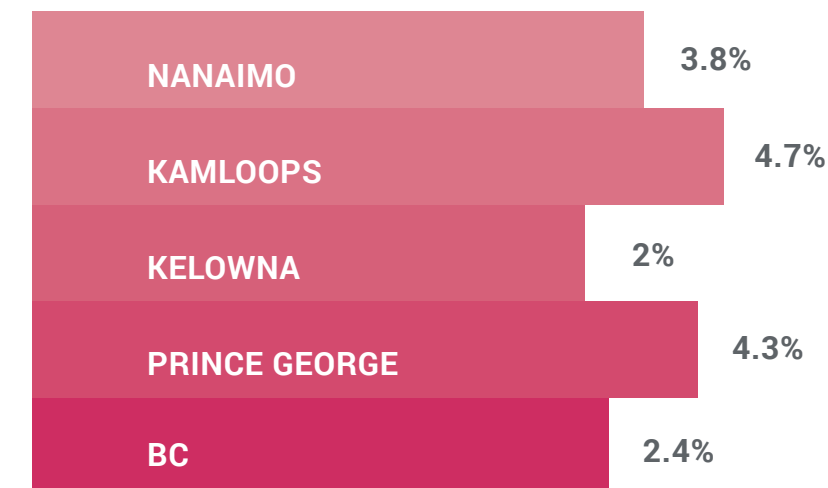
In 2011, 14.0% of Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) households were in core housing need, higher than for Kamloops CA, Kelowna CMA and Prince George CA, but lower than for British Columbia. Core housing need refers to households who live in housing that has at least one of the following problems: unaffordable to the household, overcrowded, or in need of major repairs, but cannot afford the cost of housing that doesn't have any of these problems.

Average Rent



The average two bedroom apartment rent in the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration in April 2015 was \$811/month. The average two bedroom apartment rent was lower than the average rents for two bedroom apartments in British Columbia, the Kelowna CMA and the Kamloops CA but higher than Prince George CA.

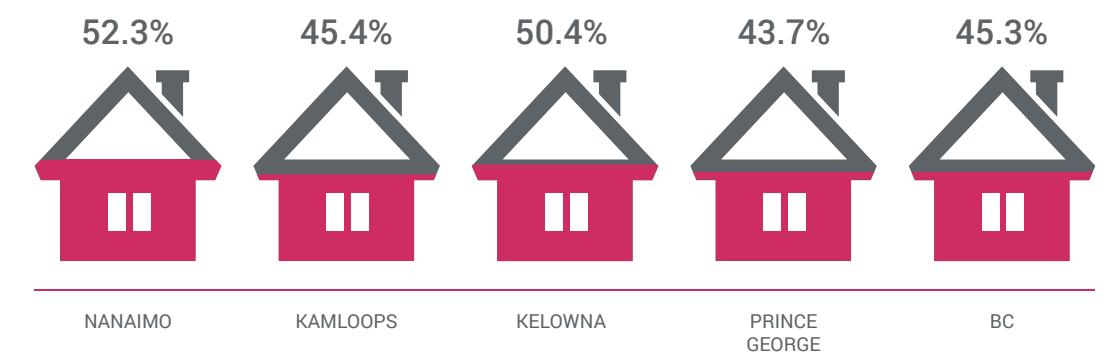
Rental Vacancy Rate



The vacancy rate for two bedroom apartments in the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration was 3.8% in April 2015, higher than the two bedroom apartment vacancy rates in the Kelowna CMA and British Columbia, but lower than the two bedroom apartment vacancy rates in the Prince George CA and the Kamloops CA.

Shelter / Income Ratio

In 2011, 52.3% of Nanaimo Census Agglomeration renter households spent 30% or more of their before-tax household incomes on housing costs.



Your Voices

"Rental housing is expensive and difficult for those on minimum income to access."

Economy

Nanaimo
Resident
Survey
Grade

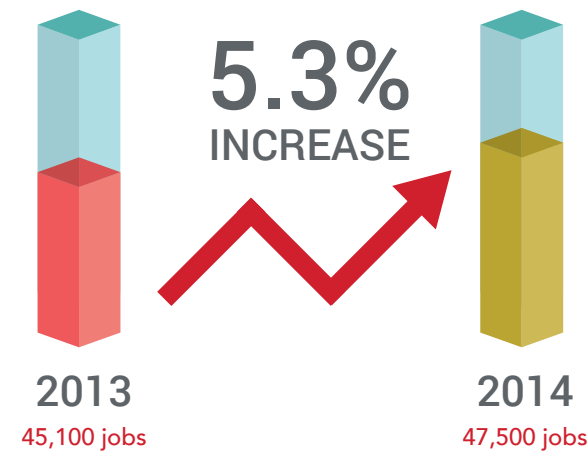
C-

A healthy economy is the engine of prosperity. Quality of life, in all its aspects, is greater for all residents when the economy is strong. Businesses and residents have greater resiliency when the economy is robust and vibrant. Every community desires to be a location where people want to live, engage in meaningful work, and pursue their passions.

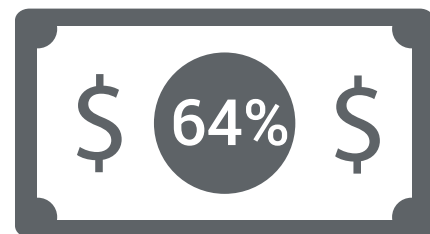


Total Employment

In 2014, the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) had approximately 47.5 thousand jobs, a 5.3% increase from 2013, when the Nanaimo CA had approximately 45.1 thousand jobs.

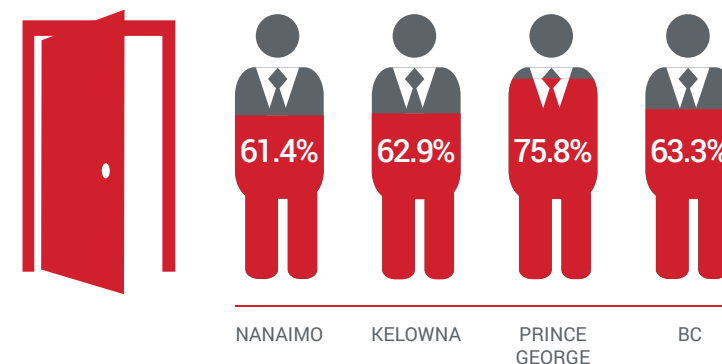


Income sources\$



64% of the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) taxfiler income was derived from employment income in 2013, similar to 2012 (63.9%).

Labour Force Participation Rate



The Nanaimo CA had a labour force participation rate of 61.4% among the 15+ year old population in 2014, lower than in the Prince George CA, British Columbia and the Kelowna CMA.

GDP

3.3%

INCREASE

The GDP of the City of Nanaimo was approximately \$4,586.43 million dollars in 2014 (in 2014 \$), a \$148.13 million increase from its \$4,438.30 million dollar GDP (in 2014 \$) in 2013.

Family income

The median before-tax family income in the Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) in 2013 was \$72,070, which was lower than the provincial median before-tax family income.



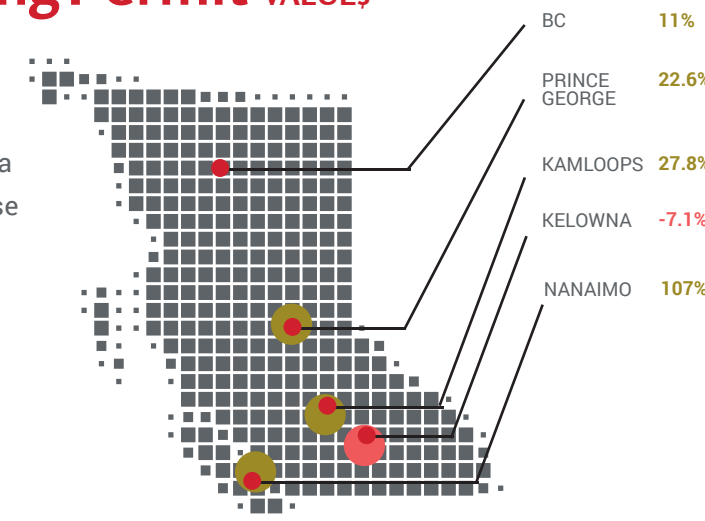
BC
\$74,150



NANAIMO
\$72,070

Building Permit VALUE\$

In 2014, Nanaimo experienced a 107% increase in building values compared with 2013.



New business start-ups in 2013 remained virtually unchanged from 2012. In comparison, the number of business start-ups in British Columbia increased by 3.7% between 2012 and 2013.

New Business Start-Ups

Housing Starts

The Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) had 665 housing starts in 2014, a 60.2% increase from 2013.



AN INCREASE OF 250 HOUSING STARTS

Arts & Culture

Nanaimo Resident Survey Grade

B-

Participation in arts, cultural and heritage activities, projects and events create engaging and authentic connections. The creative well-being of individuals and organizations are a vital sign of thriving communities and something to be enthusiastically pursued.



Arts & Culture



In 2014, there were 907,907 items circulated in the Nanaimo branches of the Vancouver Island Regional Library system. This represented a 36,050 item increase in the number of items circulated compared with 2013, when 871,857 items were circulated.

4.1% INCREASE ↑

Art Gallery

The Nanaimo Art Gallery has an average of 22,200 visits per year. The Artists in the Schools program has an average of 12,000 children taking part each year.

MUSEUM VISITS

In 2014, the Nanaimo and District Museum had 63,898 visits, while the Vancouver Island Military Museum received 3,610 visits.



In 2014, the Port Theatre hosted 275 events and 107,430 patrons.



Environment

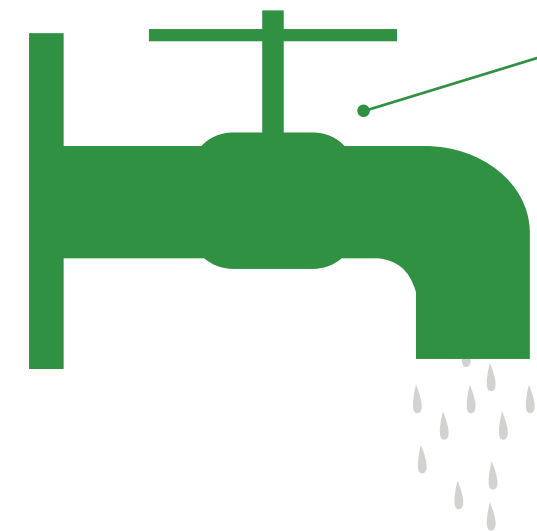
Nanaimo Resident Survey Grade

C+

We depend on, and are stewards of the natural environment. It provides the essentials of life, inspires us, and is critical to our health and vitality. It is important to take the necessary steps to protect, preserve and appreciate our urban, rural and natural surroundings.



Environment



Residential Water Use

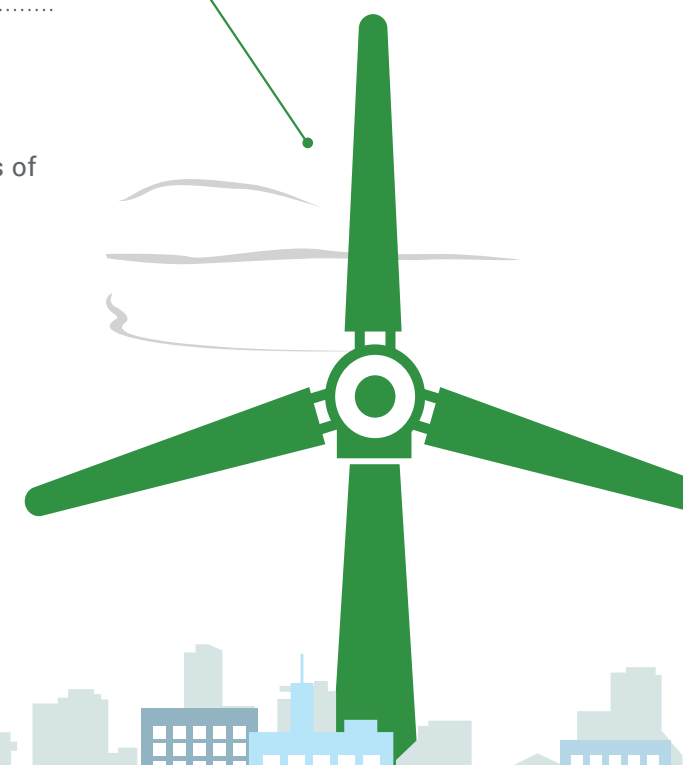
In 2012, residential water consumption in Nanaimo was 251 litres per person per day.

Organic Waste

In 2014, the Nanaimo Regional District collected 6,212.4 tonnes of residential food waste.

Air Quality Index

In 2014, Nanaimo had an average Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) of 1.8 (low health risk), the same as in 2013.



Regional Park System

In 2015, the Nanaimo Regional District had 2,061 hectares of parkland in the regional park system.



Getting Around

Nanaimo Resident Survey Grade

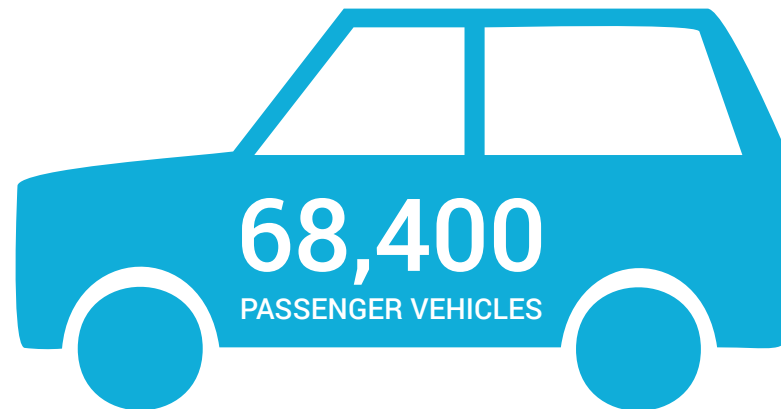
C

A wide variety of accessible and affordable transportation options is necessary to properly support the diversity, health, economy and environmental sustainability of our community.



Vehicle Ownership

There were 68,400 passenger vehicles owned by Nanaimo City residents in 2014, up from 66,700 passenger vehicles in 2013.



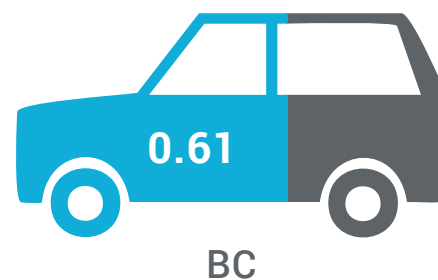
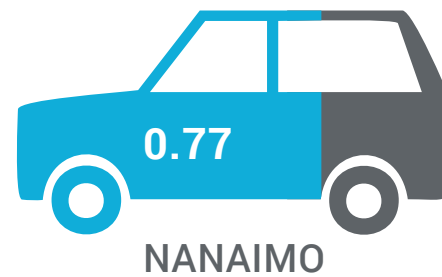
Sustainable Transportation

In 2011, 12.1% of Nanaimo Census Agglomeration (Nanaimo CA) residents used sustainable transportation modes (public transportation, walk, or bicycle) to get to work, up slightly from 11.4% in 2006.



Vehicles Per Capita

In 2014, Nanaimo had 0.77 passenger vehicles (also includes pickups, crew cabs, vans and windows vans) per person, higher than the provincial average of 0.61 passenger vehicles per person.



Acknowledgements / Our Sponsors & Partners

Our Sponsors & Partners:

IslandSavings

A DIVISION OF FIRST WEST CREDIT UNION

Growing Island Families Together

Through our Growing Island Families Together (GIFT) program, we aim to improve the quality of life for Island families and build strong communities for long-term success. Since 2010, we have provided more than 2.5 million dollars towards family-focused initiatives on the Island.

But we strive to go beyond offering financial assistance, because we know that it takes more than that to build strong communities. It takes passion, dedication and community spirit. At Island Savings, our team is constantly asking, "What can we do to help?"

We're focused on making a meaningful difference in the communities where we operate. Our local community giving program empowers our branch staff to make decisions that have a positive impact on the communities we serve. Each branch has the opportunity to provide volunteer support and funding to community groups and organizations that improve the quality of life for local families.



Your United Way - Helping Thousands of People This Year

You never know when you, a family member, a neighbour or a friend may need help facing a crisis such as a sudden death in the family, overcoming a long term issue such as addiction or rebuilding your life after an injury. By donating to or volunteering at your local United Way (UWCNVI), you can ensure that in your time of need there will be an effective social program available to you in Nanaimo. Just as important are the prevention programs United Way funds such as those helping vulnerable children and their families or teaching anti-bullying or suicide prevention programs in the schools.

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of thousands of caring community members, this year United Way is helping 20,300 people through 61 life-changing programs in the Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Gabriola Island, Oceanside, Parksville, Comox Valley and Campbell River region.

The Vital Signs report gives United Way insight into our community's strengths and highlights areas and issues in need of attention. This in turn guides how we invest our donor's dollars to best strengthen our community. Thanks to our partners the Nanaimo Foundation, Island Savings and the City of Nanaimo.



The City of Nanaimo provides a variety of services to those living and visiting here and those services are shaped by Nanaimo's Official Community Plan, which has 6 major goal areas;

- Manage Urban Growth
- Build a more sustainable community
- Encourage Social enrichment
- Promote a thriving economy
- Protect and enhance our environment
- Improve mobility and servicing

The City's partnership in the Vital Signs project allows for measuring progress in a number of areas; most of them found in Goal 3, "Encouraging Social Enrichment" which means that "Nanaimo is a socially sustainable community that nurtures a caring, healthy, inclusive and safe environment, and which empowers all its citizens to realize their aspirations". The Social Planning function provides support to Mayor and Council in achieving this vision and is distinct from other forms of planning, which have a focus on land, buildings and streets, whereas social planning focuses on people. In Nanaimo, social planning involves the assessment of community needs, building community cooperation, providing support to citizen participation, and encouraging the community to become active in social issues.

The City's Social Planner works with community-based organizations, federal and provincial ministries, the Social Planning Advisory Committee and other civic departments to address the City's critical social issues. The Social Planner provides support and information to Nanaimo's social agencies, brings together key people to address emerging social issues, and provides information to Council on these issues.

Special Thanks to:



Cover Photos: (left to right)

John Horn, Dr. Davina Kaznowski, Elder Waneita Settler, Constable Gord Nowicki, Kaita Heydemann

Vital Signs Leadership Team:

- Tim Mawdsley, Island Savings
- Signy Madden, United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island
- John Horn, City of Nanaimo



For more information:



Office Location:
205-75 Front Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5H9

Mailing Address:
c/o 2147 Bowen Road
Nanaimo, BC V9S 1H8

Phone: 250.753.1124
Email: info@nanaimofoundation.com

www.nanaimofoundation.com

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Building stronger Island communities together.



IslandSavings

GIFT

PROGRAM

WHEN YOU'RE PART OF A COMMUNITY, YOU WORK TOGETHER. Through our Growing Island Families Together (GIFT) program, we support initiatives that empower families and strengthen communities. That is why we are proud to once again partner with the Nanaimo Foundation to bring focus to the wellbeing of the community of Nanaimo through the *Nanaimo's Vital Signs*® report. By working together to increase the quality of life for families on the Islands, we are building a brighter future for generations to come.

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