

SURREY'S

# VitalSigns

2014



- ▶ **What We Love** about Surrey
- ▶ **What We Want** for Surrey
- ▶ How **We** Can **Make a Difference**



**surreycares**

THE FOUNDATION of our COMMUNITY  
[surreycares.org](http://surreycares.org)

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# Introduction



WELCOME TO THE first *Vital Signs* report for Surrey!

Vital Signs is a high-profile national program that has captured the attention of community leaders in a unique way. The annual check-ups, conducted to measure the vitality of communities across Canada, have engaged community foundations in new kinds of discussions about the issues facing our communities.

*Surrey's Vital Signs 2014* is SurreyCares' very first local effort at compiling community knowledge about Surrey. Our report presents a reflection of the quality of life in Surrey.

We studied 11 distinct performance indicators using the methodology established by Community Foundations of Canada. We began with statistical data from Statistics Canada and the City of Surrey and studied research such as the National Health Survey and the Canadian Public Library survey. To ensure we had the full picture, we obtained ratings and comments by local citizens. This includes the responses gathered through an online survey completed by 571 citizens of Surrey.

SurreyCares is grateful for the support of our project partner, the Surrey Board of Trade; our sponsors, Assante Wealth Management, Century Group, Hamilton Duncan Armstrong + Stewart, and Surrey's *The Now* newspaper. We would like to thank Janine

Twist, the Simon Fraser University Master of Public Policy graduate student who demonstrated a pioneer's grit and determination as our very first research coordinator and report writer.

Most importantly, we appreciate the expertise and dedicated work of our many volunteers. Volunteers are the heartbeat of Surrey. Without them, this project could never have happened.

Why did we do Vital Signs? This research helps foundations like ours target local grant-making, leadership, programming, and initiatives. We anticipate that Surrey's *Vital Signs* report will be used by Surrey organizations, philanthropists, and others to identify community needs and strengths.

For more detailed information on the contents of this report, including sources for information reported here, please visit our website at [www.surreycares.org](http://www.surreycares.org).

Jeff Hector  
President, SurreyCares





THIS REPORT AIMS to shed light on Surrey's quality of life, as measured through indicators ranging from housing and safety to transportation and the environment. Measurement of these indicators drew on statistical data obtained from organizations such as Statistics Canada and the municipal government, as well as survey data gathered from 571 respondents to an online survey.

This year's report will serve as a baseline against which future measures of quality of life can be compared. It will also serve as a framework within which SurreyCares, together with local residents, not-for-profit organizations, and community leaders, can focus charitable giving, programming, and other community-based initiatives to strengthen the community as a whole and enhance the lives of the people living in Surrey.

So, what does *Vital Signs* tell us about Surrey in 2014? It paints the picture of a community that is enormously proud of our green spaces, and public amenities such as libraries and recreation facilities. Self-reported health and well-being are mostly consistent with provincial averages. And citizens are optimistic about economic growth. Even more crucially, we are very concerned about the prospects of the 33% of residents aged 24 or younger, as well as the marginalized and impoverished.

As one survey respondent stated, "Our city is slowly being

beautified." While the comment referred to the physical aspects of the city, such as our parks and new development, it could just as easily have referred to the growing depth and range of creative, physical, and emotional assets in the city.

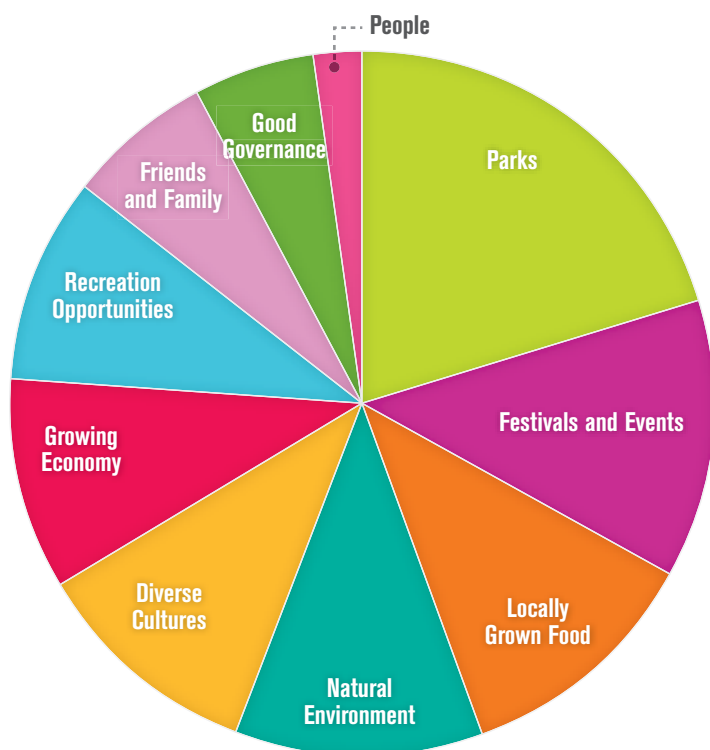
We are not without our challenges, though. As one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, we are certainly feeling some growing pains. There is the changing physical landscape, as development and densification try to keep pace with population growth. Add to that the inevitable 'catch-up' being played by services and transportation networks. There's the evolving cultural face of Surrey, with our ethnically diverse population that includes third-generation residents and First Nations members living alongside the 40% of residents who were born outside Canada. Then there are the ongoing poverty and crime issues that persist in all corners of society.

What becomes clear in *Vital Signs* is that Surrey residents care deeply about our community, both now and for the future. And caring, combined with sensible, constructive, community-based initiatives, is a platform for optimism, change, and growth.

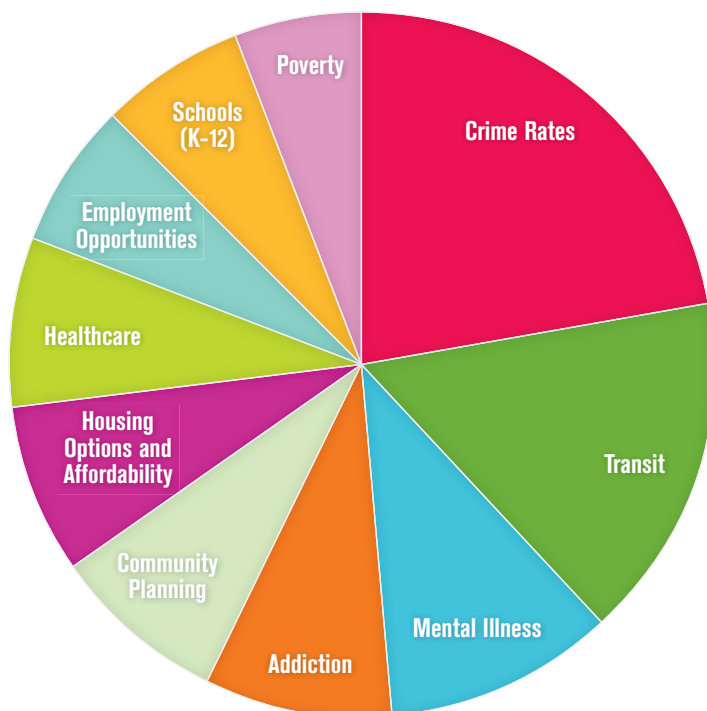
We think this caring will be clear to readers. Together, we can make a difference. ■



## Top 10 Things to Celebrate about Surrey



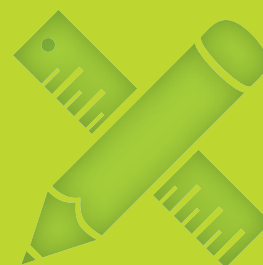
## Top 10 Things to Improve in Surrey



## Vital Signs 2014 Report Card

Topic	Overall Grade	Numerical Average (out of 5)	What the Grade Means	Breakdown of 571 Respondents' Grade Selections					
				A	B	C	D	F	No Opinion
Standard of Living	D+	2.8	Requires Improvement	9	83	260	139	46	34
Safety	D+	2.5	Requires Improvement	6	82	188	157	112	26
Health & Well-Being	C	3.1	Satisfactory	19	176	218	89	32	37
Learning	C	3.1	Satisfactory	21	161	222	70	38	59
Housing	D+	2.8	Requires Improvement	17	123	218	116	66	31
Getting Started	C	3.1	Satisfactory	22	127	223	61	21	117
Arts & Culture	C	3.4	Satisfactory	36	221	195	46	22	51
Environment	C	3.4	Satisfactory	40	231	190	50	33	27
Economy & Work	C	3.4	Satisfactory	39	242	193	58	13	26
Belonging & Leadership	C	3.1	Satisfactory	25	158	227	61	27	73
Getting Around	D+	2.5	Requires Improvement	19	73	171	186	83	39
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>1677</b>	<b>2305</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>520</b>

Grade	What the Grade Means	Numerical Value
A	Excellent, stay the course	5
B	Good, but some improvements could be made	4
C	Average performance, suggest additional effort be made to address this issue	3
D	Below average performance, additional work is required	2
F	Failure, immediate action is crucial	1
No Opinion		0



# Standard of Living



SURREY HOUSEHOLD INCOMES are, on average, pretty good compared to BC and Canadian averages. Also, many of us are earning more than we did a few years ago. Unfortunately, we need that extra income just to keep up with the very high shelter costs characteristic of the Metro Vancouver market. On balance, between income and costs, we're losing ground: a higher proportion of our residents use a local food bank than in either BC or Canada, and many of these people are working but not earning a living wage.

Vital Signs survey respondents recognize the need to reduce the impact of poverty within our city, and feel that we have good

programs to help but still need to do more. Of particular concern are child poverty, a minimum wage that is too low, and the need for more training options for low-income people. Additional survey comments link poverty to immigration, housing affordability, and education.

The data supports the concern respondents feel for child poverty: nearly 1 in 5 children in Surrey lives in poverty, and 41% of Surrey Food Bank users are children. The Vital Signs research team advise that child poverty has implications not only for education and safety but also for breaking the cycle of poverty. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Different charities and organizations work together
- Variety of programs available
- Programs in schools reduce effects of poverty

## Things to Improve

- Improve skills levels/employability for low-income persons
- Increase minimum wage to a living wage
- Reduce child poverty

Grade: 2.8 out of 5 (D+ Requires Improvement)



## After-Tax Household Income (2010)



This graph shows the percentage of households whose income bracket has shifted between 2005 and 2010. The percentage of households in the lower income brackets is shrinking, while the percentage of households in the highest tax bracket is increasing rapidly. This data has been adjusted for inflation.

 Surrey's **after-tax** household income is **increasing by 6.1%** per year (after adjustments for inflation)

## Food Banks in Surrey

**Food banks feed 2.6%** of Surrey's population

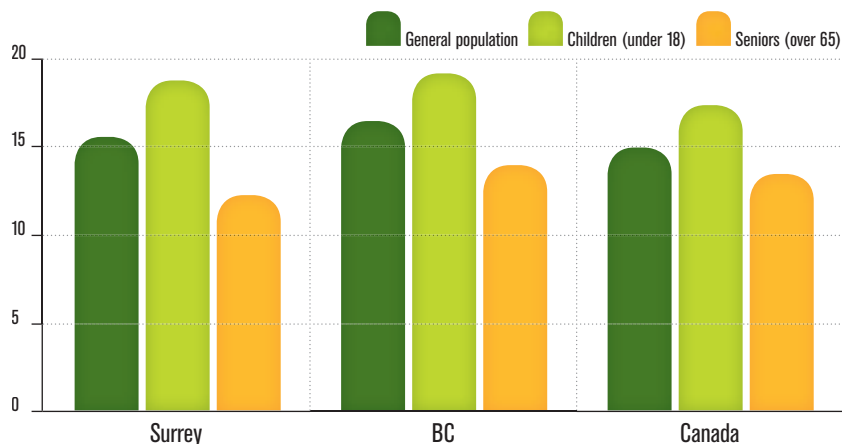
Food banks **rely on donations** from individuals, businesses, and organizations

**10%** of food bank users have employment but earn **less than a living wage**

**Peak food bank usage** is from April to June, and in December

## Percent of people living in poverty (2011 LIM)

**LIM:** A calculation used by Statistics Canada to identify those who are "substantially worse off than average."



## Single-Parent Families in Surrey

**15%** of Surrey's families have one parent

On average, **2.7 people** live in a single-parent household

Earn about **\$41,198** (after tax) per year

Earn **\$20,000 less** than other Surrey households

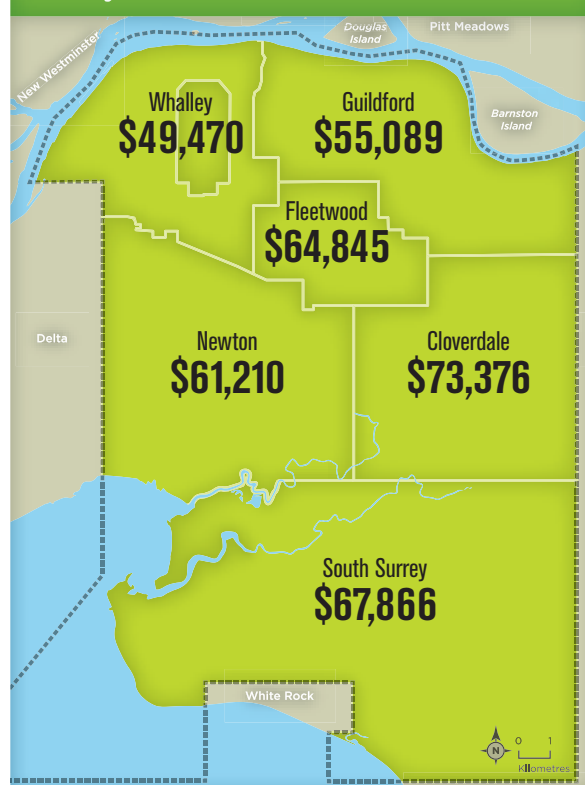
Earn **slightly less** than the Canadian single-family median of **\$42,401**

Earn **slightly more** than the BC single-family median of **\$40,646**



 **Half of Surrey households** earn more than **\$59,999** per year

## Surrey's Median After-Tax Income



# Safety



THE NUMBER ONE challenge facing Surrey today, according to survey respondents, is our high crime rate. Every gender, every neighbourhood, every income group, every ethnicity, and nearly every age group selected crime as the top concern in Surrey.

For many statistical indicators, we exceed provincial rates for criminal activity. We suspect the source of our difficulty can be traced back to homelessness, mental illness, and addiction, and share a perception that our justice system isn't doing enough to deter criminals. Moreover, we feel we simply don't have enough police presence to respond to crime effectively, even though we think the police we do have are doing a good job.

However, it's not all bad news. Our crime rate is falling, with a significant drop of 11% since 2009. Even better, car thefts have decreased by 29%, and violent crime has decreased by 37% in that same time frame. We're going in the right direction, and we appreciate the efforts of local crime prevention organizations in making Surrey a safer place.

And we have even better news: despite our significant youth demographic, Surrey's young people are charged with far fewer criminal offences than youth in BC or the rest of Canada. We think this is so significant for Surrey's future that we've written a longer piece on this subject (see page 30). ■

## Things to Celebrate

- More awareness of crime
- Police are doing a great job
- Crime prevention organizations have a positive impact

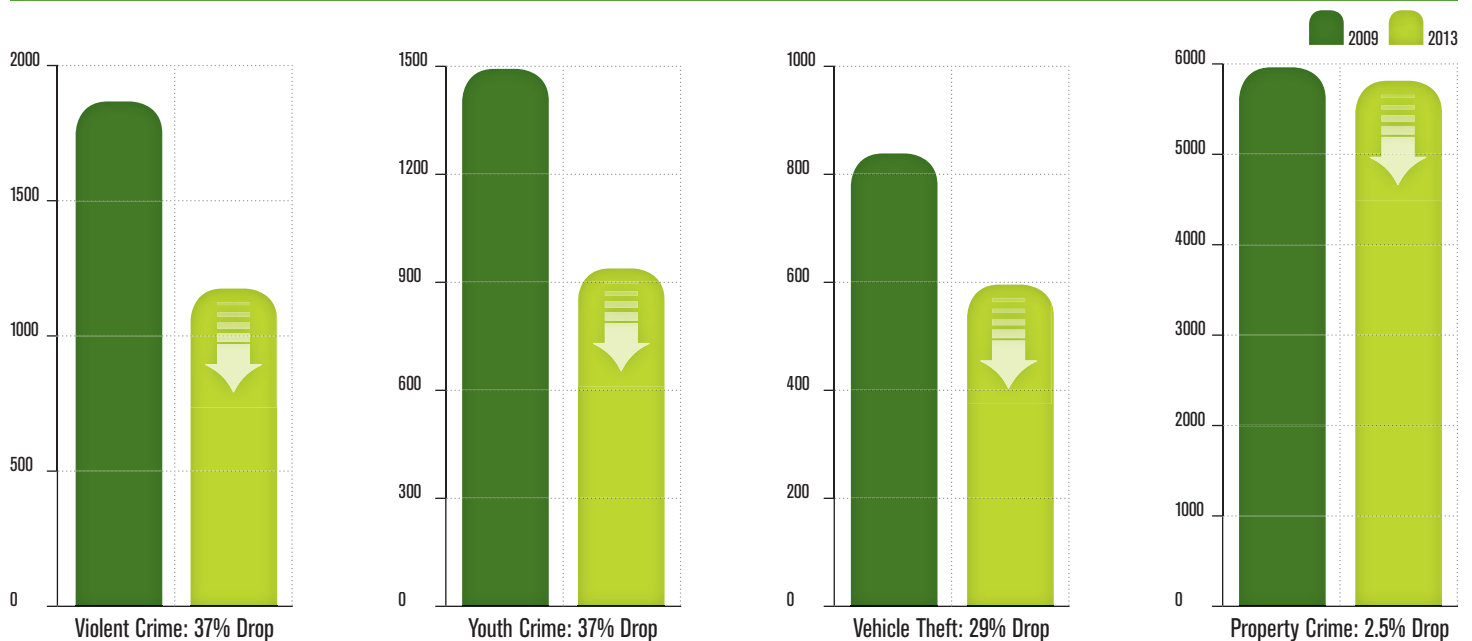
## Things to Improve

- Increase the number of police officers
- Take action on the link between mental health and crime
- Make the punishment suit the crime

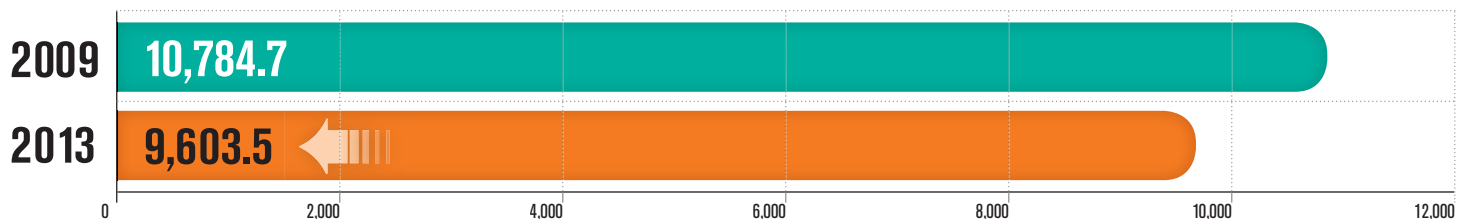
Grade: 2.5 out of 5 (D+ Requires Improvement)



## Downward Trends by Type of Crime



The overall crime rate is dropping (11% drop since 2009)



### Improvements in Issues (2013)

	Surrey	BC	Difference
Youth Criminal Justice	6.28	27.48	77% less in Surrey
Youth Crime	936.7	1454.9	35% less in Surrey
Impaired Driving	254.59	303.91	16% less in Surrey
Drug Violations	479.4	575.84	16% less in Surrey
Weapons Violations	65.82	75.16	12% less in Surrey
Violent Crime	1174.7	1261.6	7% less in Surrey

Our weapons, Impaired driving, drug, violent crime, and **especially youth criminal justice rates** are markedly **below** the provincial rate

### Issues to Keep Working On (2013)

	Surrey	BC	Difference
Overall Crime	9603.5	8592.6	12% higher in Surrey
Identity Fraud	58.33	50.04	17% higher in Surrey
Property Crime	5847.6	4567.6	28% higher in Surrey
Break and Enter	823.11	621.09	32% higher in Surrey
Vehicle Theft	594.9	252.8	135% higher in Surrey
Homicide	5.06	1.66	205% higher in Surrey



In 2013, Surrey had **136 police officers** per 100,000 people compared to **BC's 193** and **Canada's 197**

# Health and Well-Being



SURREY HAS A wealth of active-living resources, from parks to beaches, from ice rinks to soccer fields, from local farms to health food stores. We also have a newly-expanded hospital, now the second largest in BC. We are a young city, and many of us consider our health to be very good to excellent.

Our adults fare better than the BC and Canadian rates for obesity. However, 25% of our young people feel they are already overweight.

In 2013, 64% of us report being at least moderately active, more so than in 2012, and we hope this becomes a trend. We also smoke a lot less and drink a little less alcohol than our fellow Canadians. However, we don't eat so well: only 38% say we eat enough fruits and vegetables despite the

abundance of our locally grown food crops.

Mental health is a concern for survey respondents, and was selected as a top-three issue in both the health and the safety categories. While fewer of us feel as stressed or as troubled as other Canadians, respondents feel there is a need for more services for those of us who do struggle.

When our health fails us, we have a problem. We have far fewer doctors, nurses, and specialists per capita than other BC or Canadian communities. With our medical professionals stretched thin, 4,200 new babies arriving every year, and the busiest emergency room in the province, we feel we don't yet receive timely healthcare. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Recreation centres are accessible and offer many programs
- Many outdoor recreation facilities are often available for free
- Access to physical activities in natural environment

## Things to Improve

- Decrease wait times for procedures and appointments
- Improve mental health services for children and adults
- Increase the number of doctors

Grade: 3.1 out of 5 (C Satisfactory)



## Community Health Opportunities



**8** Outdoor Pools  
**8** Water Spray Parks



**300 kms**  
Walking trails and paths



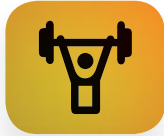
**97** Soccer Fields  
**93** Sports Fields



**253** Parks  
**8** Skate Parks



**9** Dog Off-Leash  
Parks



**13** Gyms  
**17** Fitness/Weight Studios



**8** Ice Sheets



**4** Indoor Pools



## Medical Professionals

PER 100,000 PEOPLE (2011)



In 2012, Surrey had **613** family doctors and **371** specialists—that's **one** family doctor for every **764** people

### Family Doctors

**SURREY 83**  
BC **122** Canada **109**

### Psychiatric Nurses

**SURREY 45**  
BC **45** Canada **43**

### Registered Nurses

**SURREY 407**  
BC **534** Canada **671**

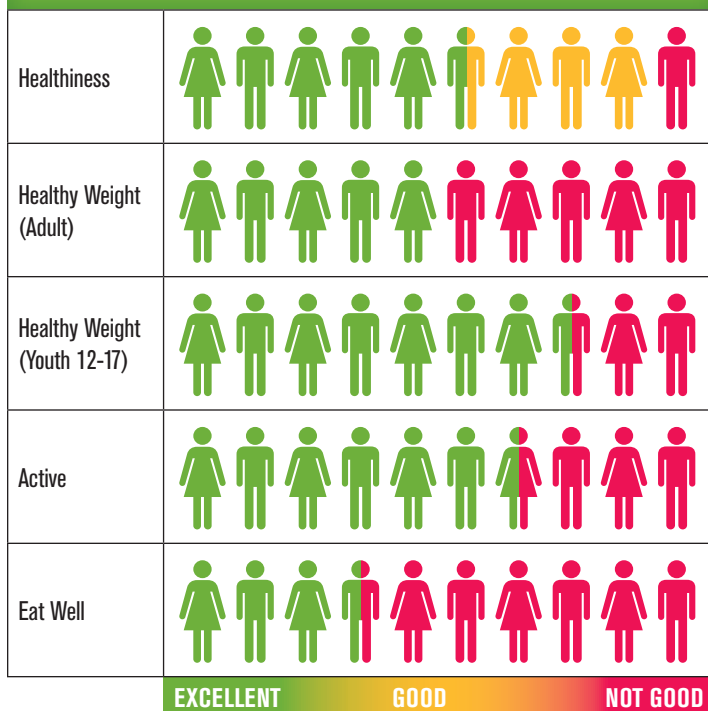
### Specialists

**SURREY 50**  
BC **99** Canada **106**

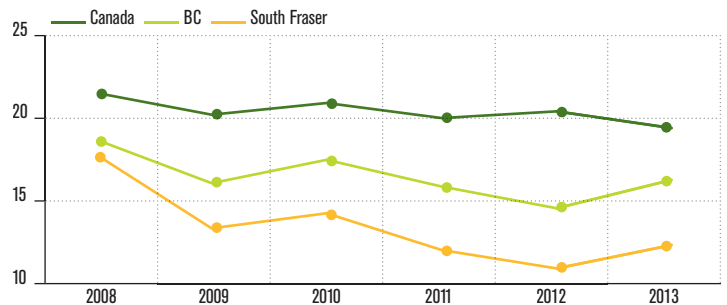
### Licensed Practical Nurses

**SURREY 144**  
BC **180** Canada **237**

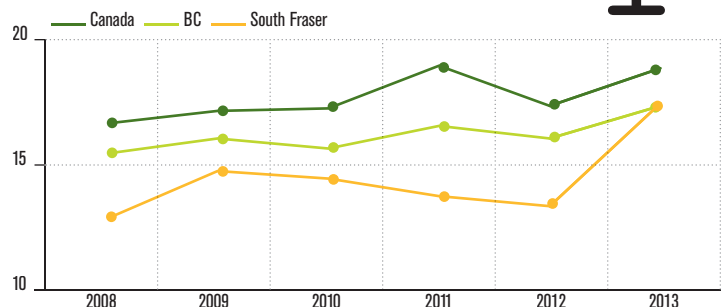
## Individual Health (% of population)



## Smokers (% of population)



## Heavy Drinkers (% of population)



# Learning



WE CARE DEEPLY about education in Surrey. Ours is a city of families, with children in primary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions. As adults, we continue to take part in education to improve our skills, enhance our careers and, after we retire, follow our passions.

Many of our students continue on to higher education, and this is trending upwards in the academic arena. Since 2006, the proportion of post-secondary students who get university degrees or college diplomas has increased. It's held steady for certificates or "less-than-bachelor" degrees, and decreased for apprenticeships and trades certifications. At the secondary level, the number of students completing their high school diploma or equivalency has also increased significantly.

Surrey School District No. 36, which includes White Rock, has more students than any other BC district. We also have the highest number of Aboriginal students in the Lower Mainland. And while the number of students in the public school system has decreased in the province, Surrey's student population has increased.

This rapid student population growth puts pressure on the system. New students have stretched the capacity of many schools, and there are many portable classrooms in use. Insufficient funding for our public schools frustrates us, and we're concerned that providing English as a second language (ESL) in the classroom is a drain on school resources. We'd also like more support for students with learning challenges. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Public library provides good programs for children
- All levels of education available locally
- Public library provides good programs for informal learning

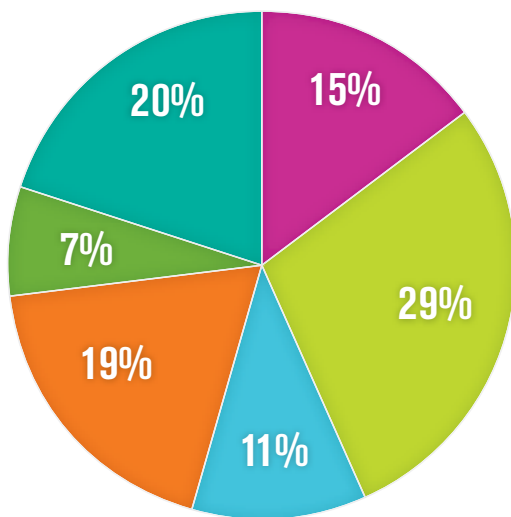
## Things to Improve

- Reduce the overcrowding and portables at schools
- Tie education to the needs of the job market
- Increase the number of spaces in local university, college, and trades training

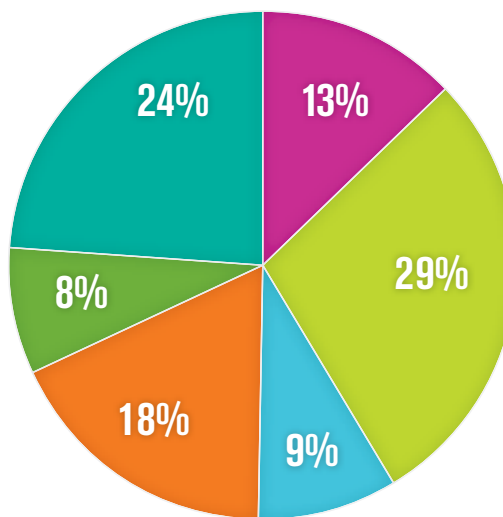
Grade: 3.1 out of 5 (C Satisfactory)



## Highest Education Level Achieved by Percentage of Population (aged 25 to 64 years) in 2006 and 2011 (2011)



**2006** (Population: 214,870)



**2011** (Population: 256,930)

- University certificate, diploma or degree, bachelor and above
- University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level
- College, CEGEP, or other non-university certificate or diploma
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma
- High school certificate or equivalent
- No certificate, diploma or degree

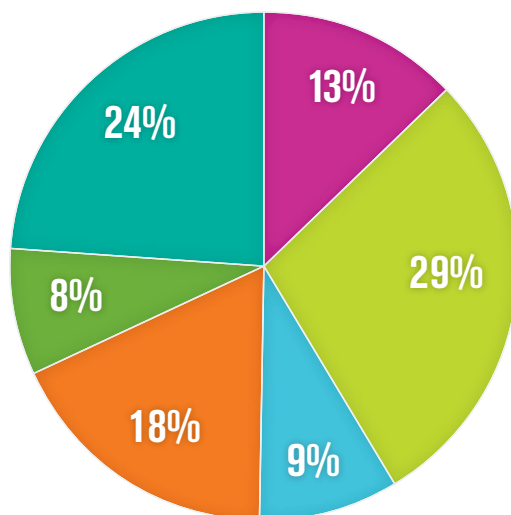


There are about **86,000 students** in Surrey's public and independent schools

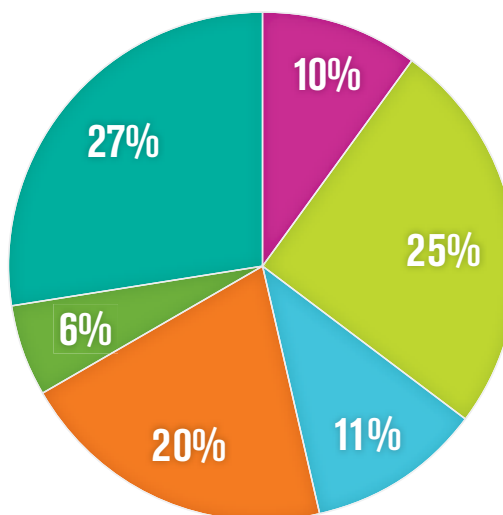


There are about **320 portable** classrooms in use across the Surrey School District

## Highest Education Level Achieved by Percentage of Population (aged 25 to 64 years) in Surrey and BC (2011)



**Surrey** (Population: 256,930)



**BC** (Population: 2,451,615)



**1** out of every **7** Surrey students attends an **independent** school



The Ministry of Education funded **69,372 "full-time equivalent"** students in Surrey in 2013/14



**86%** of our students **graduate** from high school 6 years after starting Grade 8



Surrey student enrollment **grew** by **2.24%** between 2009 and 2013 while BC's **shrank** by **2.28%**

# Housing



SURREY RESIDENTS HIGHLY value our green spaces, and protecting green spaces and trees from urban growth is one of our topmost concerns. We are also very pleased about the variety of housing options we have here, and we like our new City Centre. However, competing pressures can make community planning contentious. We all need places to live, but how do we provide enough shelter while still protecting green spaces?

Compared to most other cities, we pay more for housing out of our household budgets. The high price of home ownership is a major obstacle to first-time buyers, and, if mortgage rates

were to rise or the economy to falter, many of us who do own a home would struggle to keep it. Rents generally rise each year, and the low vacancy rates in the city trap renters in housing situations that no longer meet changing budget, school, work, and transit needs.

Adding to these pressures is the fact that nearly half of Surrey renters live in secondary suites, many of them illegal, which was also a clear concern for survey respondents. Finally, the demand for social housing for low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities is rising dramatically. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Neighbourhood and town centres
- Attractive City Centre is developing
- Variety of housing options

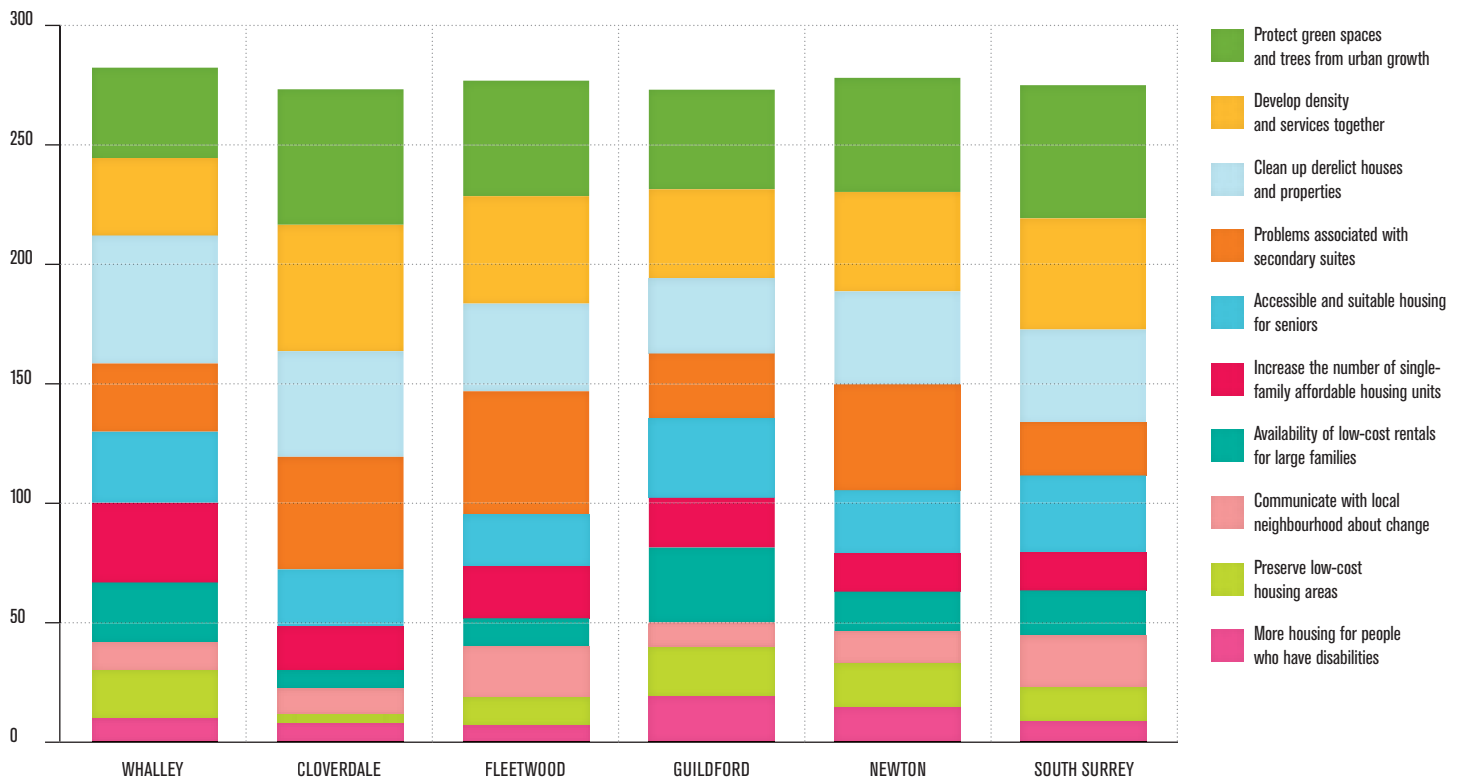
## Things to Improve

- Protect green spaces and trees from urban growth
- Ensure density and services are developed together
- Clean up derelict houses and properties

Grade: 2.8 out of 5 (D+ Needs Improvement)



## Top Issues by Neighbourhood



Survey: All neighbourhoods want **protection of green spaces**, and all want to have services and density developed together

The **average price** of a detached home in Surrey (excluding South Surrey and White Rock) is **\$602,000** (April 2014)



## Housing in Surrey

The **social housing waitlist increased by 46%** from 2009 to 2013

Nearly 40% of **renters** spent more than **30% of their income** on rental payments (2010)

**Vacancy rates** for all types of suites **dropped by 25%** (2012 to 2013)

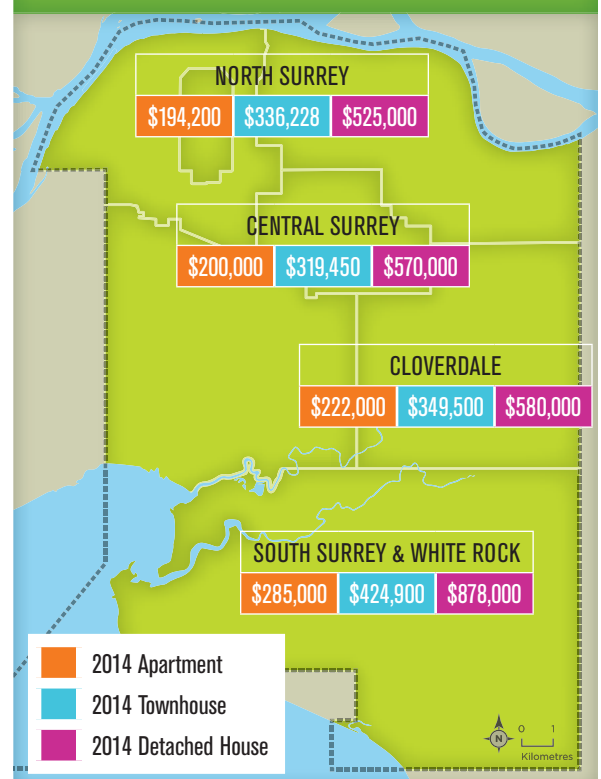
Vacancy rates for **bachelor suites** **dropped by 60%** (2012 to 2013)

Rents range from **\$632** for a **bachelor** suite to **\$1,158** for a **3-bedroom suite** (2014)

Nearly **half** of all Surrey **renters** live in **secondary suites** (2014)

Nearly 30% of **homeowners** spent more than **30% of their income** on mortgage payments (2010)

## Housing Prices



# Methodology and Demographics

THIS IS THE very first *Vital Signs* report for Surrey, and we relied heavily on guidelines provided by the Vital Signs branch of the Community Foundations of Canada and on models provided by other community foundations. We combined and compared statistical data with a public opinion survey to create a snapshot of life in Surrey in 2014. We covered 11 different topics, all of which are reported here.

We gathered statistics from reliable sources, and, as much as possible, used Surrey-only data. South Fraser Health and School District No. 36 were the only exceptions, but Surrey makes up the majority of the population for both of those data sources.

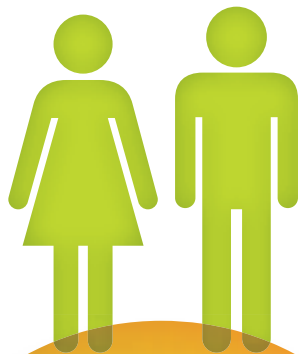
The survey layout followed other communities' surveys and asked three standard questions for each of the 11 areas of life:

overall grade, issues within the area to be improved, and issues within the area to be celebrated.

People responded well to our online survey. A total of 571 Surrey residents who were 15 years and older shared their views, representing all neighbourhoods, genders, and income levels, as well as a broad range of languages and ethnic backgrounds. This survey's sample size and representation is considered acceptable for statistical analysis.

Each section in this report contains a public opinion grade, the top three topics to celebrate, the top three issues requiring improvement, data highlights, and some discussion on each topic. Sources are available on our website, [www.surreycares.org](http://www.surreycares.org). ■

If Surrey were made up of 100 people, this is how we would be represented



14 live in **Cloverdale**  
12 live in **Fleetwood**  
12 live in **Guildford**  
26 live in **Newton**  
16 live in **South Surrey**  
20 live in **Whalley/City Centre**

67 speak English at home  
18 speak Punjabi  
2 speak Mandarin  
2 speak Filipino  
2 speak Hindi  
9 speak "something else"

42 are first-generation Canadian  
27 are second-generation  
31 are third-generation

37.5  
is the median age

49 are men  
51 are women

19 are 0-14 years  
14 are 15-24  
55 are 25-64  
12 are 65+

48 are  
**employed**

55 are married  
6 are living common-law  
26 are single  
3 are separated  
5 are divorced  
5 are widowed

48 are not a visible minority  
31 are South Asian  
6 are Chinese  
6 are Filipino  
3 are Southeast Asian  
2 are Korean  
4 are "something else"

15 live in  
**poverty**



# Surrey's Transportation Challenge



GETTING AROUND IN Surrey is rarely easy. The city's transportation infrastructure has not kept pace with its growing population. Add into the mix an increasing number of car owners and more commuter traffic coming through the city during peak times, and it's no wonder that the movement of people and goods in Surrey ranks as one of the areas most in need of improvement.

For an example of a Surrey resident who has a tough time getting around the city, look no further than Emily Tabor. She works two jobs; she's an early childhood educator at a family daycare in South Surrey, and does the graveyard shift at a branch of Tim Hortons in White Rock. With her husband using the car for his work most days, her only option is to take public transit, which only takes her part of the way to work each morning.

Emily's daily commute involves a 25-minute bus ride from her home in Fleetwood with her daughter, who goes to school in South Surrey. But then Emily has a walk of a further 25 minutes ahead of her to get to the daycare.

## Planned improvements

"Sometimes I can get a ride, but if the weather is nice and I'm not rushing, then I walk," she says. "Otherwise I have to take a taxi. Even if they just put in a small bus that came this way it would make a big difference. In the wintertime it's very hard because it's too cold to walk."

Emily's frustration with getting around is by no means unique, but there is a plan in place to improve things.

"Our biggest challenge for transportation is the rapid population growth and densification from a suburban to urban environment," says Jaime Boan, Manager of Transportation at the City of Surrey. "Surrey's Transportation Plan approaches this from many angles, including putting in place light rail transit along three key routes and expanding the bus service, pedestrian, and bicycle opportunities."

"We have also just opened our state of the art Traffic

Management Centre," adds Jaime. "This allows us to maximize the efficiency of the road network and visually monitor and remotely adjust our traffic signals."

Despite the transportation challenges the city faces, there are positive signs in the *Vital Signs* report. Among them is the expanding cycle network, which is helping Surreyites take care of their health, reduce their environmental impact, and make connections within the community.

## Cycle solutions

The City adopted a new cycling plan in the summer of 2012 that aims to expand and improve the cycling network and promote safe cycling as a healthy, fun, and sustainable way to travel. It is already starting to have a positive impact, according to Gordon Hall, a Surrey resident and member of the cycling advocacy group HUB. He says that there are three key factors that encourage more people to cycle in any city: safe routes that allow cyclists to avoid heavy traffic as much as possible, a well-connected and well-mapped system, and bike parking that is safe and secure.

"The City of Surrey has recognized these things and has made very good progress when it comes to building new bike routes, both on existing roads and shared greenways," says Gordon. "They are also doing more to map the routes and label them clearly. Even so, Surrey's huge size and relative lack of density make it a real challenge to increase and improve the connections between different areas."

"We have new bike racks in many locations and these are, of course, very welcome," Gordon adds. "But there is a lot of theft and vandalism that goes on. We need to see more secure bike parking for short-term users, especially in the city core."

The overall message is that there is plenty of room for improvement. But Surrey's transportation issues are not unsolvable, and efforts are already underway to get the city moving more efficiently. ■



# Getting Started



“GETTING STARTED” IS about what it’s like to begin a new life in Surrey, whether as a new arrival from another community, province, or country, or as a young person setting out in life as an independent adult.

Surrey is a diverse, welcoming community. Nearly 50% of all Surrey residents were born outside Canada, yet only 1 of every 8 residents have not yet received their Canadian citizenship. This suggests that, once here, newcomers make this their new permanent home.

Over half of the respondents to the Vital Signs survey picked the expansion of universities in Surrey as an topic to celebrate. However, there are far more applicants than open seats in most classes, and we still fall far behind the provincial standard for post-secondary seats per 100 youth, so many of

our young people have to leave home in order to study.

It takes about five years for newcomers to find work at rates similar to the community’s employment rates. Moreover, the work they do find is at a lower pay scale (\$33,668) than the community’s median individual pay scale (\$45,642). These struggles affect the housing, standard of living, and education opportunities for those not born in Canada.

Youth would likely stay in Surrey, given the opportunity. Most youth were satisfied with life here, but one-third did not think they would still be here five years from now. This gap indicates that young people would consider Surrey as a place to live, but they face obstacles in Surrey, especially lack of employment opportunities and affordable single family housing. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Universities have expanded in Surrey
- Libraries have resources and programs to welcome newcomers
- Services provided to many culturally and ethnically diverse people


## Things to Improve

- Offer more opportunities for post-secondary graduates to stay in Surrey
- Offer more evening classes for skills improvement
- Provide opportunities for immigrants to be integrated into and educated about Canadian culture

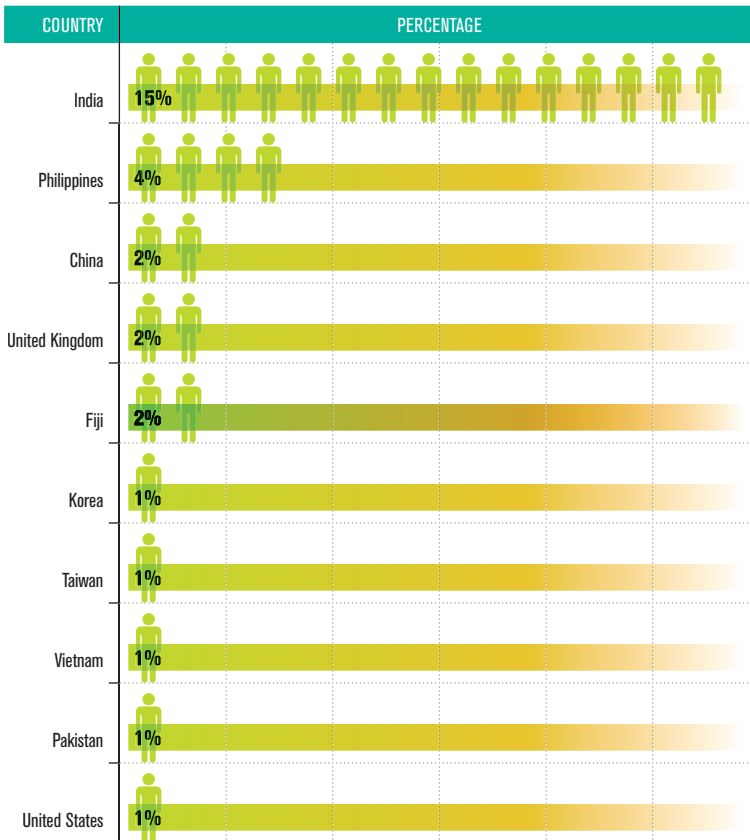
Grade: 3.1 out of 5 (C Satisfactory)



## People on the Move... into Surrey

	Where People Came From				
	Where they live now	Somewhere else in BC	Somewhere else in Canada	Somewhere else in the World	Total
People who lived somewhere else one year ago	Surrey	16,195	2,925	6,015	25,135
	BC	not applicable	45,105	56,425	101,530
People who lived somewhere else five years ago	Surrey	44,655	9,520	29,905	84,080
	BC	not applicable	166,450	213,050	379,500

## Top 10 Countries of Birth (Other than Canada)



 **40%** of Surrey residents were **born** in a **country** other than Canada



 Our **population** has been **growing** at a rate of **19%** per **year**

 Between 2010 to 2012, **555 government-assisted refugees** came to Surrey. The highest number came from **Somalia**, followed by **Iraq**. Most refugees **settle** in **Whalley, Newton** and **Guildford**.

## Surrey's Youth (15- to 24-year-olds)

**17%** of Surrey population are **youth**

There are only **12.7 post-secondary seats** per **100 youth** in Surrey, **compared to 48.7 seats** per 100 youth across **BC**

**One-third did not think** they would still make Surrey their primary residence 5 years from now

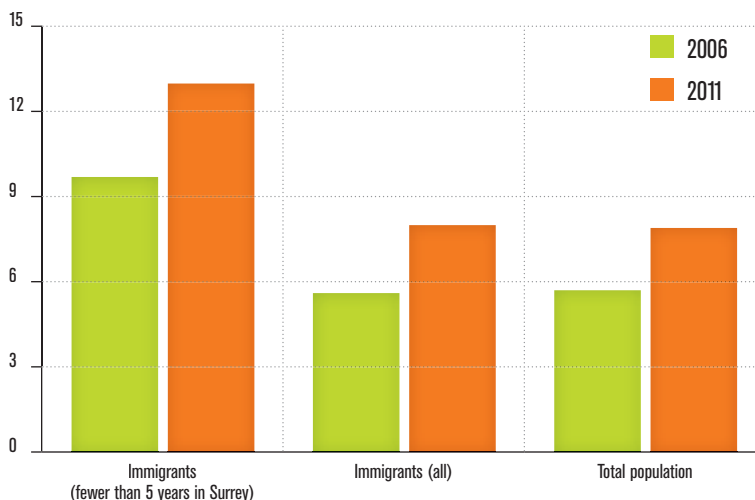
The **top issue** for **youth** is the **lack of local jobs**

There are **21,097 post-secondary students** studying at Surrey campuses

**86%** of Surrey **youth** are **satisfied** with life in Surrey

Lack of **affordable single-family housing** is a **top concern** for Surrey youth

## Immigrant Unemployment Rate



# Arts and Culture



WITH THEATRE AND musical productions, art exhibitions, dance performances, cultural festivals, and celebrations of food available throughout the year, we enjoy a diverse and plentiful arts and culture landscape. Survey respondents say that what's needed, however, is a bit of promotion. More people need to know about the art offerings at venues such as the Surrey Art Gallery, in the Surrey Arts Centre, and Surrey Doors Open, which is an opportunity to visit cultural and historic sites in the city.

Although far fewer people in our community use the library than across BC or Canada, survey respondents see Surrey Libraries as culturally valuable, and especially important for supporting

learning and helping newcomers get started in our community. One place in which we lead is reading clubs—the Surrey Libraries children's reading club has been the largest one in the province for several years.

We appreciate our large festivals and events for which we're known throughout the province, although we do worry about the cost and affordability of them. We're beginning to realize that we don't need to travel far to enjoy the arts, and want more events to happen within our neighbourhoods.

Volunteers are the key to the success of our events; in Surrey, only 2% of the population makes its living in the arts and culture industries. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Good libraries
- Many great festivals
- No need to travel far for events and art

## Things to Improve

- More neighbourhood events and activities
- Affordability of events and activities
- Awareness of existing local arts & culture

Grade: 3.4 out of 5 (C Satisfactory)





**Surrey Library's Reading Clubs for Children** are the **largest** in the province . . . and have been for many years



**33%** of Surrey's population has a **Surrey Public Library borrowing card**

## Some of our Many Festivals



Alexandra Neighbourhood House Festival

Cloverdale Blueberry Festival

Cloverdale Halloween Costume Parade

Cloverdale Rodeo

Crescent Beach Concours d'Elegance

Doors Open

Fleetwood Festival

Halloween in the Forest



Newton Community Festival

Ocean Park Day

Party for the Planet

Summer's End Cask Festival



Surrey is **known** all over the Lower Mainland and BC for its **large festivals** and **events**, which are held throughout the year and attract thousands of people



**2%** of Surrey's **workforce** is **employed** in local **arts, culture, recreation, and sport**



Over **200,000 people** participate in or watch the annual **Surrey Vaisakhi Parade**



Surrey Canada Day

Surrey Fest Downtown

Surrey Festival of Dance

Surrey Fusion Festival

Surrey Greek Food Festival



Surrey International Children's Festival

Surrey International Writers' Conference

Surrey Night Market

Surrey Tree Lighting Festival

Surrey's Santa's Parade of Lights

Vaisakhi Parade



Surrey respondents **want** **Surrey arts and culture venues**, such as the **Surrey Art Galley** and the **Surrey Museum**, to gain a much **higher profile** in the community



BC's only **CFL football team** has made **Surrey** their **home training centre**



# Environment



WE LOVE OUR parks above all else, choosing them as Surrey's best feature overall. Survey respondents also chose locally grown food and our natural environments as two of the top five Surrey features to celebrate.

Surrey's fantastic setting is worth celebrating: it's close to the mountains and the ocean, and has rivers and streams, trees and forests, and a mild climate. Nature takes centre stage in City of Surrey parks, many having large trees and green, open spaces, while others have beaches or botanical gardens.

Our parks allow residents to enjoy a variety of leisure pursuits in a natural setting, and respondents recognized the value of the outdoors for increasing recreation activity and improving health. Parks range from small to large, and serve a wide range of

recreation demands by offering amenities such as playgrounds, spray parks, sport facilities, walking trails, biking paths, dog parks, gardens, and picnic tables.

We want to keep Surrey beautiful, too. Survey respondents felt strongly that trees, agricultural land, and natural areas need to be protected from urban growth. We are also proud of our household waste recycling program, and we actively participate in it, significantly lowering the amount of material that goes into landfills.

Less environmentally friendly is our reliance on gasoline- and diesel-fueled vehicles to get around in Surrey. The need to reduce vehicle emissions was a major theme in the Vital Signs survey comments. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Recycling and food scrap collection for single-family housing
- Many great parks
- Close to the ocean, beach, and mountains

## Things to Improve

- Stop or slow down the loss of trees
- Maintain the protection of agricultural land
- Maintain natural areas

Grade: 3.4 out of 5 (C Satisfactory)



## Surrey's Parks



Survey respondents picked **Surrey's parks** as their **first choice** overall for things to **celebrate** about Surrey



Annual rainfall: **1360 mm**  
Wettest months: **Nov, Dec, Jan**  
Average temperature: **10.5°C**



**Recycling diverted**  
**68%** of Surrey's garbage in  
2013



We've **reduced** our  
**vehicle emissions** by  
**4%** (2007-2010)

Surrey has 253 parks, and here is some information about 2 of them

### Tynehead Regional Park

- 644 Acres
- Spawning River for Coho, Chum, and Chinook
- Trails
- Nature Program
- Group Campsite



### Surrey Nature Centre at Green Timbers

- Guided Nature Tours
- Summer Day Camps
- Preschool Field Trips
- Learn-to-Fish Programs for Children
- Elementary School Programs
- Fishing for Adults



**20,000** people attend Surrey's  
**Earth Day** Celebrations **every year**



## Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

Agricultural Land Reserve  
**protects 9,290 hectares**  
(1 hectare=10,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of Surrey's  
land mass

**53%** of ALR land is **actively farmed**  
**25%** of ALR land is in a **natural state**

**Greenhouses** only cover **1%** of Surrey land  
and provide us with **fresh fruits** and  
**vegetables locally, year-round**





# Economy and Work



IN GENERAL, WE'RE satisfied with the economy in Surrey. Survey respondents from every income level think the city has great potential, and that more local employment opportunities and improved transit to business and industrial areas will help us realize this potential. More jobs for the disabled, cleaning up the city, and promoting local shops and buying locally are other priorities for us.

We're closely matched with the provincial and federal rates when it comes to employment and unemployment. While individually we earn less than the rest of BC or Canada, our family income (the total income for all members in a family) is higher. One explanation for this is that there are more employed people per family in Surrey than in BC or Canada.

Our businesses, industries, and employers are diverse and are a part of the marketplace that operates throughout the region. They draw employees from communities outside Surrey; likewise, many Surrey residents commute out of the city to work. Our workers are employed in a variety of industries, the top five being retail trade, healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing, construction, and transportation and warehousing.

Nearly 15,000 businesses operate in Surrey, with those selling services accounting for the largest share. The variety of businesses and services was cited by respondents in the public survey as one of the top reasons to celebrate Surrey's economy. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Potential for growth
- Large youthful population
- Variety of industries and businesses selling goods and services

## Things to Improve

- Increase jobs and employment available locally
- Service industrial and business areas with transit
- Clean up the city

Grade: 3.4 out of 5 (C Satisfactory)

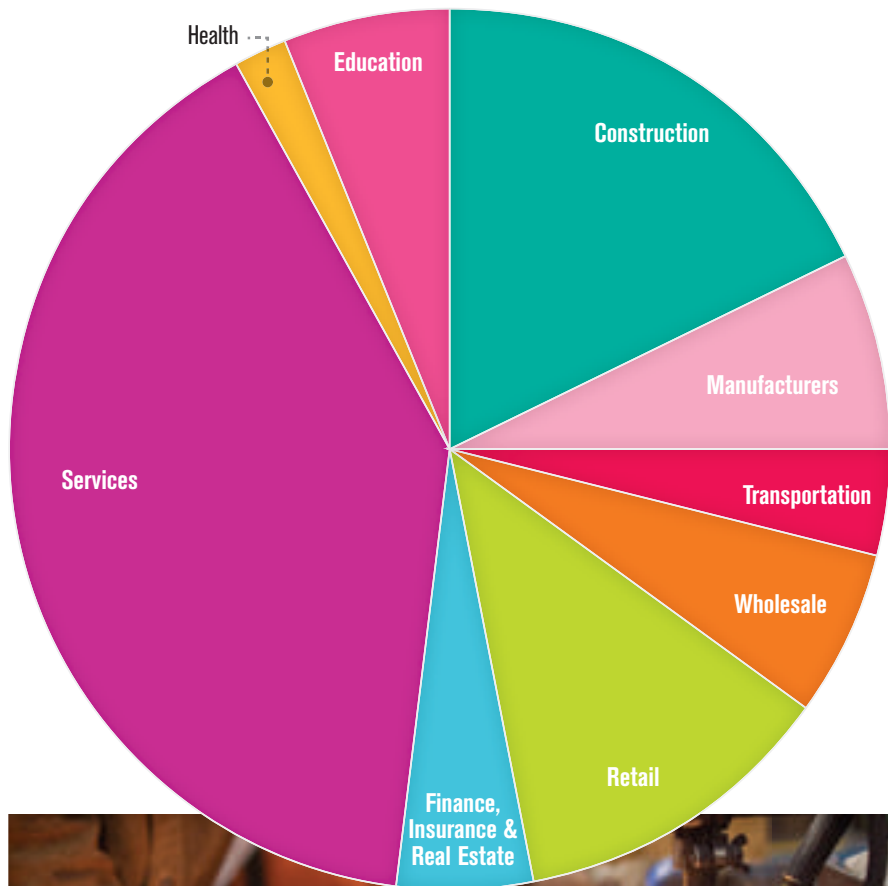
## The 10 Largest Employers in Surrey

- 1 Surrey School District
- 2 Fraser Health Authority
- 3 City of Surrey
- 4 Canada Revenue Agency
- 5 Loblaws
- 6 Coast Mountain Bus
- 7 Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- 8 Insurance Corporation of BC
- 9 Fortis BC
- 10 Kwantlen Polytechnic University

## Stats on Employment

YEAR	TOPIC	STATISTIC
2011	Working population	245,640
2011	Unemployment rate (Surrey)	7.99%
2011	Unemployment rate (BC and Canada)	7.8%
2010	Average pre-tax income	\$53,208
2010	Median pre-tax income	\$45,642
2011	% of full-time workers earning less than \$20,000 per year	40%
2011	% of full-time workers earning less than \$30,000 per year	54%

## Businesses in Surrey by Sector



## Unemployment Rate



The **“unemployment rate”** is the percentage of persons in the labour force who are not currently employed but are actively looking for employment

	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
Area	All	Men	Women
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.6</b>
BC	7.8	8.1	7.4
Canada	7.8	8	7.4

## Participation Rate



The **“participation rate”** is the percentage of the population, aged 15 years and older, who are working or looking for work

	PARTICIPATION RATE		
Area	All	Men	Women
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>60</b>
BC	64.6	68	60
Canada	66.0	71	62



# Belonging and Leadership



BELONGING IS ABOUT how strongly we feel connected to our community. In Surrey, almost three-quarters of us feel like we belong, and we credit organized activities like municipal recreation programs, local events, and volunteering with playing a significant role in our experience of belonging. Where we'd like to see stronger connections, however, is within our own neighbourhoods and between diverse cultural groups. This concern has been recognized in Surrey, and many not-for-profit organizations work at bridging cultural differences and in teaching English to newcomers.

Our satisfaction with life also exceeds the average BC

resident's. According to the Vital Signs survey, 84% of respondents from across Surrey said that they are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their lives, although this score does vary by community and by age group. In a different survey, a remarkable 94% of Surrey respondents said they were content.

Despite our satisfaction, we're less engaged in the political electoral process than the average Canadian or BC resident: only 25% of us voted in the last civic elections, held right here in our own city. Voting in government elections is an indicator of the extent to which residents feel they have a civic duty and a voice in saying how things are run in the city, province, and country. ■

## Things to Celebrate

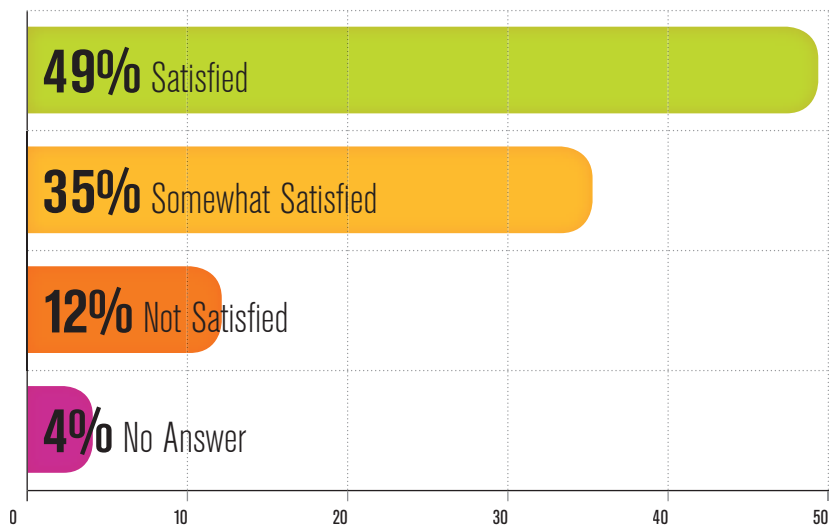
- Recreational activities and programs available
- Non-profit organizations are connected and care about the people they support
- City Centre activities and hub development

## Things to Improve

- The feeling of being connected to community
- Increase understanding between cultural groups
- Increase voter turnout

Grade: 3.1 out of 5 (C Satisfactory)

## Satisfaction with Life in Surrey



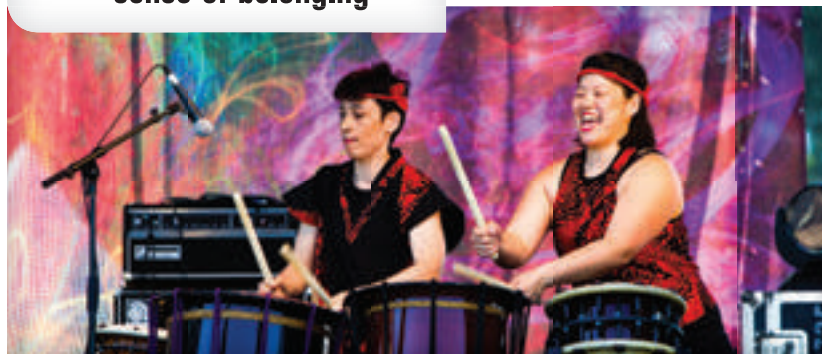
**83% of satisfied residents** said they **plan to be** in Surrey **5 years from now**



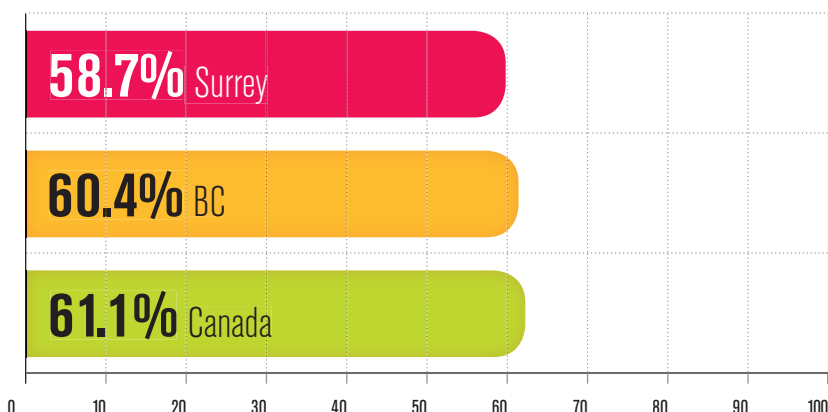
People in **Fleetwood, City Centre, Cloverdale, and Guildford** would like **more opportunities** to **know their neighbours**



All neighbourhoods said **recreational activities and programs** created a **sense of belonging**



## 2011 Federal Election Voter Turnout

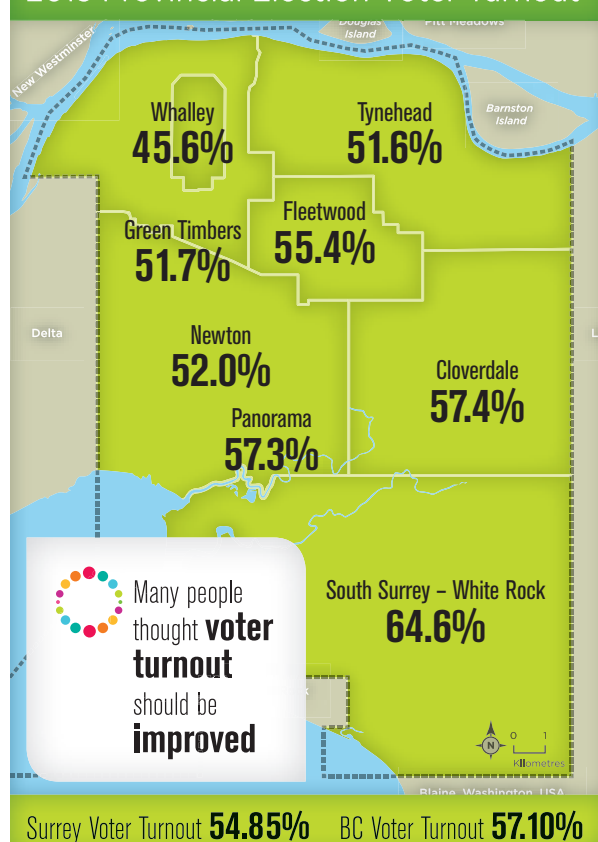


The **need to improve understanding between cultural groups** was stated for all neighbourhoods but was **strongest** for **Newton, Fleetwood, and City Centre**



All neighbourhoods felt **non-profits** were **connected** and **care** about the **people they support**

## 2013 Provincial Election Voter Turnout



Many people thought **voter turnout** should be **improved**



# Getting Around



THERE ARE NO two ways about it, getting around in Surrey is hard. This report gives us a clear indication of the transportation challenges we face. A rapidly-expanding population means that we have more cars on our roads and a greater demand for public transit than ever before. Perhaps it's no surprise that there are more than 34 vehicle collisions in the city on an average day, our commute to work is 10 minutes longer than the BC average, and we commit more than our fair share of traffic violations.

But when you come to understand a problem fully you can begin to start solving it. For example, the road improvements made to Highway 1 have resulted in fewer collisions along that

stretch. And the city has already begun work on a plan to improve our roads, expand public transit, and promote healthy transportation alternatives such as cycling and walking.

We'll no doubt be complaining about bridge tolls, the need for more neighbourhood bus services, bumpy roads, and gridlocked traffic on King George Boulevard for a while yet. But this report gives us great insights on what our fellow travellers think could be done to get our city moving more efficiently, and that's a great place to start.

For more on this topic, please see "Surrey's Transportation Challenge" on page 17. ■

## Things to Celebrate

- Dedicated left-turn lanes
- Progress on cycling-path and bike-lane system
- UPass for students (tie)
- New overpasses and bridges for traffic (tie)

## Things to Improve

- Transit options within Surrey and to points eastward
- Make bridge tolls affordable and fair
- Run SkyTrain and buses later at night

Grade: 2.5 out of 5 (D+ Requires Improvement)

## How Do People Get to Work?



**77%**  
Drive



**7%** Ride  
as Passengers



**13%** Take  
Public Transit



**3%** Walk  
or Cycle

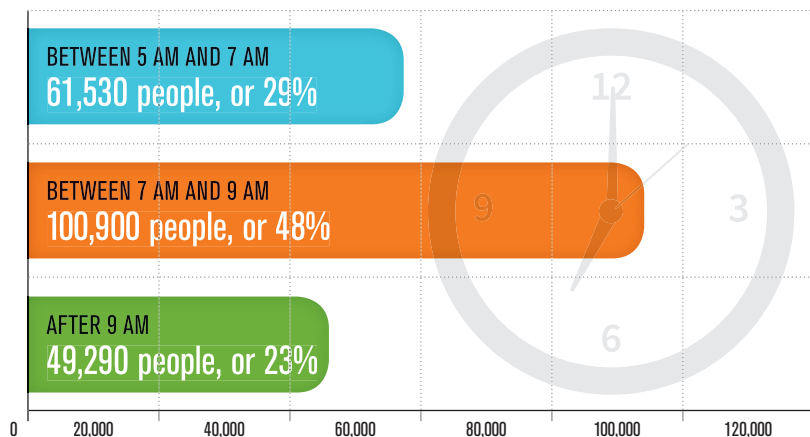


**1%** Travel by  
Other Methods



From **2009** to **2012**, the on- and off-ramps on Highway 1 located at 152nd, 176th, and 160th were consistently in the **top 10 list of accident hot spots** in Surrey; starting in **2013**, these intersections no longer made the list

## What Time Do People Leave for Work?



**60%** of Surrey workers **travel outside of Surrey** to get to work every day



The **average commute** time in Surrey takes **half an hour**...that's **10 minutes longer** than average in the rest of BC or Canada

## Traffic Accident Hot Spots (2013)



- 1 88th Ave. & King George
- 2 128th St. & King George
- 3 72nd Ave. & King George
- 4 64th Ave. & King George
- 5 152nd St. & 56th Ave.
- 6 128th St. & 88th Ave.
- 7 120th & 72nd Ave.
- 8 Hwy. 10 & King George
- 9 64th Ave. & Fraser Hwy.
- 10 96th Ave. & Fraser Hwy.



In 2013, **12,568** **traffic accidents** were reported to ICBC from Surrey



# Surrey Takes Action on Community Safety



SURREY'S HIGH CRIME rate is the number one issue of concern for residents. More crime is committed here than in the rest of BC, and it's having a serious impact on the community. Crime rates are falling, but, particularly when it comes to violent crime, Surrey has a long way to go.

The report paints a mixed picture, though, with the low rates of youth crime a reason for optimism. Surrey youths commit fewer crimes than those in the rest of BC and Canada. Why? One reason could be the proactive efforts that are being made to reach out to young people and help them to make better choices in their lives.

## Inspiring example

There's clear evidence that programs designed to help youth deemed to be at risk in the community are starting to have a positive impact. The Community Safety Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program, run by the Surrey Crime Prevention Society, is an inspiring example.

The society works with the Surrey School District to identify gifted students who are looking to strengthen their leadership skills. They are then paired with specially-trained mentors, and together they work with youth at risk as identified by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Pacific Community Resources.

### **"He is now not afraid to ask for help."**

"The young people we work with want to make positive changes in their lives or are looking to receive some guidance," says Michelle Kumar, the program's mentorship coordinator. "The idea is that these young people come to feel a sense of inclusion in their community while doing something productive at the same time. We wanted it to be about giving back to the neighbourhoods where they live, and the City of Surrey more generally."

For a period of between three and six months, participants

take part in the society's programs around the city, which include an anti-graffiti program, community safety tours, and road safety initiatives such as Speed Watch and Cell Watch. Participants set goals for themselves and monitor their progress over the course of the program.

Manbir Renthey lives in Surrey and is a student of criminology at the Justice Institute of BC. He hopes to get into policing, and he's been volunteering for a year and a half in the Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program and the Traffic Safety program.

## Developing skills

"The young guy that I had was waiting for his court date and trying to improve himself," says Manbir. "As a mentor, my job was to guide him along the right path, advising him to get back into school and helping him to develop his work and social skills."

"From day one he was very timid and very shy," Manbir adds. "But from week to week I saw a lot of positive changes in his attitude. He became much more open; he began to discuss life choices with me and to ask my advice. He also made an effort to change his appearance to make it more appropriate for a professional setting."

The young man has now completed the program and signed a peace treaty as part of his rehabilitation. By coincidence, Manbir knows his older brother, so has been able to follow his progress.

"It was a very positive experience for him and he has a better idea now of what he wants to do with his life," Manbir says. "The biggest change that I saw in him was that he is now not afraid to ask for help. It's a great initiative, and I think young people that don't have positive role models in their lives have really benefited a lot. It's a chance for youth in Surrey to really get involved in the community and develop themselves as people."

So while crime in Surrey remains the city's most troubling problem, programs like this one are starting to make a difference. If the city's low youth-crime rate can be maintained, there's hope for the future. ■

# Together, We Can Make a Difference



Help build our Smart and Caring Community Fund at [www.surreycares.org](http://www.surreycares.org)  
Ask what else you can do in an email to [info@surreycares.org](mailto:info@surreycares.org)

VITAL SIGNS BEGAN with an explosion of data and opinions from every corner of Surrey. Although the report is broad reaching, SurreyCares discovered two powerful points in every comment:

- We are passionate about our community.
- We want positive change.

Surrey is brimming with issues. It can be overwhelming to know where to start. Should we put in any effort when things are so complex and the community is growing so fast?

The answer is Yes!

Whether we get involved or not, our decisions impact our community. The bigger question we must ask ourselves is:

- “What will my role be?”

The answer is different for all of us. Regardless of your answer, there are ways in which your role will be one that creates positive change for our community.

Here are 10 things that each of us can do

- 1. JOIN** Collaborate with others who care about the same thing you do. Together you'll be more effective.
- 2. LEAD** Communities define leaders as anyone who wants to help. That's you! Form a group to clean the shoreline, recruit people to cook meals for seniors, or organize a playground watch.
- 3. START** Don't wait for perfection or for someone else to do it. Now is the best time, and you are the best person to get the ball rolling.
- 4. UNITE** Take a leadership role in bringing people together. We all have something in common.
- 5. VOLUNTEER** Whether you do it formally or informally, sign up for organizations that support your passions. Give your time, an invaluable gift.
- 6. ENCOURAGE** Coach your neighbour's child, send a teacher an inspiring note, or stop to thank a Speed Watch volunteer. Your recognition of someone's talent, potential and effort may be the lift they need.

**7. INCLUDE** Surrey's diverse opinions, ages, and backgrounds are one of its strongest assets. Find ways to engage others and you will always have better results.

**8. BE GOOD** From buying groceries to making recreation choices, consider what will have the best impact on our community. Let this ethical question guide you: “What is the right thing to do?”

**9. BE KIND** Open a door, pay for the next person's coffee, visit a lonely neighbour. Thoughtful communities thrive because people care about each other.

**10. DONATE** Give what you can; you'll be surprised at how powerful your dollars are when multiplied with others'.

In other words, give more of yourself to bring about positive change in the community cause that matters most to you.

By reading *Vital Signs*, you've already identified yourself as someone who is interested in our community. You are part of a movement.

Thank you for your efforts thus far. We are now asking you to do even more to make the Surrey of tomorrow a community that engages, inspires, leads . . . and cares. ■

## Tips for Non-Profit Organizations and Causes

**CONNECT** your cause to our movement. SurreyCares is a hub that connects others, like you, who are doing good things for Surrey.

**GROW** SurreyCares helps charities grow by pooling and managing your financial resources. Let our Infrastructure help you expand your dollars and accomplish more.

**RECEIVE** Apply for a SurreyCares community grant. Do more with our help.



# A Message to Businesses from the Surrey Board



THE SURREY BOARD OF TRADE is very pleased to partner with SurreyCares on the first *Vital Signs* report.

The Board is a vibrant, growing organization providing a forum for debate on critical issues. We are an innovative public policy solution provider and a destination for networking with other members of Surrey's regional business community. We are led by a dedicated team of board directors, volunteers, and staff.

We bring in new ideas for the benefit of and value to our members, and to elevate Surrey's profile. We speak for the business community at public hearings and to the media. The Board is a recognized voice of business.

We continue to push the boundaries and innovate the organization through projects, community involvement, and advocacy initiatives that put Surrey at the forefront of discussion.

As we look into the future of the Surrey Board of Trade and our region and ask ourselves what it could be, we consider the important issues, questions and opportunities for us in new economic times. We are not the organization that we were

10 years ago, nor could we have stayed that way, and been relevant. Certainly it isn't easy to please everyone.

In our comprehensive strategic plan we implement our action plans based upon the following questions:

1. Can Surrey achieve new standards of economic vitality and livability that are equal to or beyond that enjoyed by other successful areas?
2. Can we develop the range of quality economic, cultural, and educational opportunities needed to move our region forward and become one of the nation's most livable areas?
3. Can we engage the business community in maintaining a laser-like focus on strategies that will indeed create a higher standard of livability for Surrey?

Our marketplace is constantly changing—paradigms are shifting—and economic conditions are dynamic with new demands, which create new expectations for proactive and responsive leadership by the Surrey Board of Trade. *Vital Signs*



report gives us the foundation to build our government advocacy and support our business community in new and innovative ways.

Your Surrey Board of Trade offers existing and new value-added services, programming, and leadership, which accelerates the demand for new and expanding resources. This is leadership.

Our Business Plan Goals for the year include:

1. Economic Development Business Attraction (Creative Economy)
2. Business Research (Economic Scorecard)
3. Business Training, Business Centre, International Centre
4. Policy Development and Advocacy
5. Workplace Development (Skills Shortage) and Youth Entrepreneurship

We have aligned events with these initiatives and that of the Advocacy Teams. We don't just have a speaker event for the sake of having a speaker. Every program that you see aligns with the growth of this organization through a certain theme that is promoted, such as Environment, International, Innovation,

Transportation, and more. It is all to do with driving the economy of your business and for Surrey.

Let's continue to power up our entrepreneurial success in Surrey. Let's continue to risk, care, dream, and expect, and to expand our networks, locally, nationally, and internationally.

If you are not a member, I invite you to join the Surrey Board of Trade, the business organization that works for business and for Surrey.

Anita Huberman  
CEO, Surrey Board of Trade  
anita@businessinsurrey.com  
604-340-3899

 **SURREY BOARD of TRADE**  
[www.businessinsurrey.com](http://www.businessinsurrey.com)



# About SurreyCares

## Who are we?

SURREYCARES works with others to make Surrey a stronger, more vibrant community. We were created, and are funded and run by locals who are passionate about Surrey. And yes, SurreyCares is a registered, non-profit charity. We do three things:

- grow money
- give money
- strengthen others

## We grow money

SurreyCares helps organizations and individuals realize their vision for the community. We offer a simple and affordable way for anyone in Surrey to provide legacy funds for causes they care about.

We have established a general Smart and Caring Community Fund to which individual donors can contribute even small amounts and that we can use to respond to changing community needs over time.

We also administer funds for partners such as Surrey Libraries and the Surrey Arts Centre. We accept donations on behalf of partners and safely invest them; we also hold endowments in trust. Partners' initial investments are not touched, while earnings on the investments finance many initiatives throughout our community.

By efficiently pooling the various funds we manage, we've been able to generate a greater rate of growth at a lower administrative cost—effectively stretching everyone's money further.

Some people choose simply to contribute to the Smart and Caring Community Fund. Other individuals, families, community groups, and businesses choose to create their own funds to:

- support a particular cause
- support an organization's ongoing needs
- remember special people who have passed on

## We give money

One of our favourite things to do is give away money. Through our Annual Grants Program, we award grants of up to \$5,000 to initiatives that we believe will have the greatest impact on the community's vitality.

Some of our partners award grants themselves. The Surrey Retired Teachers Association, for example, awards student scholarships every year. The Association chooses who will receive their award; SurreyCares does all the administration.

Some partners rely on SurreyCares to do the decision-making for them, either according to specific guidelines laid out in the original endowment or according to our awareness of current community needs. We usually award from the latter type of fund, as with our Smart and Caring Community Fund, to services, projects, and events that:

- benefit Surrey residents
- enhance community capacity
- rely on community involvement
- are sustainable

We also provide grant recommendation services for other organizations, such as the City of Surrey's Community Grants Program, providing an arm's-reach assessment of their applications.

## We strengthen others

Sometimes our charities get so busy that we're working in isolation; we might not know that another charity exists or that we are competing with it for resources. SurreyCares has begun to bring like-minded people together, and to provide skills training to organizations.

We've hosted communications and social media workshops to help groups make new connections, build a following, and keep supporters engaged. We also hosted a forum, "Community is the Answer!" The forum brought together people from every sector of the city, to come up with innovative, sustainable solutions to our community issues and talk about our dreams for our community.



## How it all started

We have Francisca and Edwin Darts to thank for seeding our very own community foundation. The couple wanted to make sure that the stunningly beautiful Darts Hill Garden Park they created could be enjoyed for generations to come.

The Darts created a trust for the land to be preserved as a botanical garden for a millennium. They then asked us, a newly-formed community foundation, to protect the money they had set aside to maintain and develop the garden.

Their original endowment of \$200,000, which got the Surrey Foundation going, now stands at \$4 million. With our management, their legacy will provide an estimated \$4 million in interest over the next 25 years, monies that will finance improvements and upkeep in the garden. Meanwhile, their original investment will remain intact, and the income will continue for succeeding generations.

## Why it works so well

Giving to the community through SurreyCares and having us manage your gift has many benefits. Your money:

- remains independent while providing charities with needed funds
- allows charities' workers to focus on fulfilling their mandates instead of spending time on money management
- stays right here in Surrey

What's more, the money you give supports the cause you care about, over time. Most charitable organizations serve a particular community need, but they might stop serving the cause you support—or even fold. The community foundation model ensures that your money continues to support your chosen cause; SurreyCares will redirect your grant to another charity of your choice, or will choose one according to your wishes.

## We're not alone

Other great places like Victoria, Vancouver, and Calgary also have community foundations. In fact, there are 191 community foundations across Canada. We all belong to a supportive network, Community Foundations of Canada. This network gives us strength, and gives our fundholders security. We share ideas and discoveries, too; Vital Signs is a great example of a program that has been created and improved by our network.

Together, we are a powerful Canadian movement for community vitality. As the needs of Surrey grow, so will the need for SurreyCares. By putting the philanthropy of our many caring residents to good use, we can make sure our community continues to be a great place to live, learn, work, and play. ■

### SurreyCares Board of Directors

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# SURREY'S VitalSigns

2014



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### Vital Signs Sources

Canadian Institute for Health Information  
Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Canadian Urban Libraries Council  
Centre for the Study of Living Standards

City of Surrey

CivicInfoBC

Community Foundations of Canada

Data BC

Elections BC

Elections Canada

Fraser Valley Real Estate Board

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Surrey North Delta Leader

Simon Fraser University

Sources BC

Statistics Canada

Surrey Board of Trade

Surrey Food Bank

Surrey Libraries

Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation

Tourism Surrey

Welcoming Communities Project

For more details  
please visit our website,  
[surreycares.org](http://surreycares.org)



SMART & CARING  
COMMUNITIES



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA

VITAL SIGNS IS a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Special thanks to the

Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept and Community Foundations of Canada for supporting a coordinated national Vital Signs initiative. For more information visit [vitalsignscanada.ca](http://vitalsignscanada.ca).