

ABBOTSFORD'S

# VitalSigns

2016



What's important in your community?



ABBOTSFORD  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# Methodology

The 2016 Vital Signs Survey in BC was conducted on-line by over 7,000 BC residents by the Vancouver Foundation using the Mustel Group. A link to the survey was distributed by BC's Community Foundations, including the Abbotsford Community Foundation. Approximately 70% of interviews were collected by Mustel Group and 30% by Community Foundations,.

Respondents were provided their choice of language to complete the survey (English, Chinese, or Punjabi). The final sample was weighted to match Statistics Canada census data on the basis of gender, age and region of residence.

To enable Community foundations to review the findings for the communities they serve, major centres, including Abbotsford, were listed in the survey for residents to select from. Based on weighting, the data gathered where communities had 200 or more actual interviews is considered a sufficient number to be representative.. For Abbotsford, 216 actual interview were conducted.

Fraser East includes Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Agassiz and Area. There were 250 actual interviews in total from Fraser East.

The survey was open from June 14<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Visit [www.vancouverfoundationvitalsigns.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundationvitalsigns.ca) to read the provincial report and regional Vital Signs reports published by Vancouver Foundation.**

## How to Read this Data:

- Rounding and “prefer not to say” responses may result in numbers not adding up to 100%
- Some responses included “select all that apply” or “select up to three options”.

## How to Use this Report

- Ask if the findings mirror your own experience, and think about where you might be able to get involved to make a difference in your community.
- Use this report as a conversation starter within your networks .
- Consider volunteering with an organization that is making a difference on an issue important to you.
- Consider donating to a cause that inspires you
- Take part in a festival or neighbourhood gathering. Welcome newcomers.

## What do you like most about living in your community?

Community Asset	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
1. Natural Beauty/Scenery	43%	45%	36%
2. Overall Quality of Life	34%	33%	30%
2. Cost of Living/Affordability	34%	32%	16%
2. Friends and Family Close By	34%	34%	27%
3. Parks and Public Spaces	22%	23%	16%
4. Sense of Community	9%	11%	13%

## What are the three most important issues or concerns for you in your community?

Issue	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
1. Safety	52%	50%	35%
2. Housing	38%	41%	41%
3. Transportation	32%	36%	32%

## Which of all the issues is the most important issue?

Issue	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
1. Safety	33%	32%	18%

## Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving safety?

Priorities	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
1. Reducing Use of Illegal Drugs	47%	46%	33%
2. Reducing Levels of Gang Violence	44%	39%	25%
3. Reducing Levels of Violent Crime	33%	31%	26%
4. Increasing visible police presence	29%	32%	26%

**Respondents who chose housing as the most important issue in our community also answered the question “Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving housing?”**

Priorities	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
1. Improving the affordability of rental housing	44%	27%	46%
2. Improving the affordability of ownership housing	43%	63%	56%
3. Providing housing for the homeless	28%	19%	16%

**Thinking about the last 12 months, indicate if you have done any of the following in your community.**

Activity	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
Visited local library or community centre	64%	66%	72%
Donated to a cause	73%	66%	67%
Volunteered	52%	50%	50%
Unpaid help to non-family member	43%	45%	47%
Signed a petition	31%	29%	43%
Attended community meeting	27%	24%	32%
Attended Cultural or Ethnic event	28%	31%	31%
Attended faith based service/activity	37%	33%	22%
Community Project (clean-up/garden)	12%	11%	18%



## How would you describe your sense of belonging to the local neighbourhood?

	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
Strong	67%	68%	66%
Weak	31%	30%	32%

## How would you describe your sense of belonging to groups/activities?

	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
Strong	61%	56%	65%
Weak	33%	38%	32%

## If you wanted to contribute/be more involved in community, would you know what opportunities exist?

	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
Strong	77%	75%	71%
Weak	22%	25%	29%

## If you wanted to be more involved in your community, what would you likely do?

Activity	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
Volunteer	64%	66%	72%
Neighbourhood/community project	73%	66%	67%
Attend neighbourhood/community meeting	52%	50%	50%
Join club/sports group	43%	45%	47%
Donate to a cause	31%	29%	43%
More involved in electoral process	27%	24%	32%
Attend a faith-based activity	28%	31%	31%
Don't want to be more involved	37%	33%	22%

## How many people do you have in your network you could confide in?

	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
Number of people	5.5	5.7	5.9

## Do you feel safe walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark?

	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
Yes	68%	71%	78%
No	27%	24%	19%

## If you don't feel safe, what is your main concern?

	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
Violent Attack	26%	25%	19%

**If you lost a wallet with \$100, how likely do you think it would be returned, with the money, by one of your neighbours?**

	<b>Abbotsford</b>	<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>Across BC</b>
Likely	64%	66%	70%
Not Likely	36%	33%	30%

**In general, to what extent do you feel content? (10 most content, 1 least content)**

	<b>Abbotsford</b>	<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>Across BC</b>
Average	7	7.3	7.1

**In general, how often do you feel positive (10 most positive, 1 least positive).**

	<b>Abbotsford</b>	<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>Across BC</b>
Average	8	7.6	7.4

**In general, to what extent do you feel you lead a purposeful and meaningful life? (10 most meaningful, 1 least meaningful)**

	<b>Abbotsford</b>	<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>Across BC</b>
Average	8	7.6	7.4

**When someone new moves onto my street, they are welcomed into the neighbourhood**

	<b>Abbotsford</b>	<b>Fraser East</b>	<b>Across BC</b>
Agree	50%	48%	45%
Neither Agree or Disagree	33%	33%	34%
Disagree	17%	19%	20%

## How many years have you lived in your current community?

	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
2 years or less	7%	8%	15%
3 – 5 years	12%	14%	14%
6 - 10	19%	18%	16%
11 - 15	11%	14%	13%
16 - 20	10%	10%	11%
21 - 30	21%	20%	17%
More than 30	18%	15%	15%
Average # of years lived in community.	19	18	16

## If you moved within the past 5 years, what was the reason?

Reason	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Across BC
1. Be Closer to Family	20%	30%	11%
3 – 5 years	12%	14%	14%
6 - 10	19%	18%	16%
11 - 15	11%	14%	13%
16 - 20	10%	10%	11%
21 - 30	21%	20%	17%
More than 30	18%	15%	15%
Average # of years lived in community.	19	18	16



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Vital Signs* is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. The Vital Signs trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.

Special thanks to Vancouver Foundation for coordinating and funding the provincial research for this report for the benefit of all BC communities.



### Abbotsford Community Foundation

Abbotsford Community Foundation encourages and stewards endowment donations that provide income to support local charities as well as scholarships and bursaries for Abbotsford high school grads. Since 1979, ACF has provided approximately \$14 million in grants and student awards.

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