



2015

GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA'S

VitalSigns®

MEASURING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA



AND NOW, FOR THE REST OF THE STORY...



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Northwestern Alberta

INSIDE

WE GATHERED THE FACTS AND DATA
YOU TOLD US WHAT MATTERS MOST

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON LIFE IN
THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA PG. 28

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

HOW LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE
CFNWAB ARE MAKING A VITAL IMPACT IN OUR
COMMUNITIES

YOUR COMMUNITY MAKES YOU, AND YOU MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY.

The Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta helps connect people with local and regional organizations and causes that they care about. We help people like you enrich the lives of others in a meaningful and satisfying manner.

We are unique because we encompass all areas of community. Everything we do is designed to help build more vibrant, healthy and resilient communities across the entire Northwestern Alberta region. Through the generosity of our donors and their gifts of all sizes, we build a lasting impact with the creation of legacy funds that will continue to give forever.

YOU ARE INVITED... TO THE REST OF THE STORY.

We're growing. We're changing. But just what does that change look like and how do we ensure that we're on the right path to being vital, caring communities?

The Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta's 2015 Vital Signs project provides a snapshot of the Grande Prairie area, delving deep into 11 interconnected subject areas that affect the quality of life of each one of us.

We asked for your perceptions on life around you – and you responded in record numbers! Thank you! Then we gathered factual data – the rest of the story – to compare the two. Together this information helps us uncover what our greatest priorities and needs are, and highlights what's working well, so we can continue to build upon our successes.

We know that every individual can make a difference in their community. The Community Foundation also understands that there is great strength when we collectively – as citizens, governments, businesses, organizations and institutions – work together to create the communities we want for ourselves and for future generations. Vital Signs is a valuable tool to help us accomplish that.

We invite you to read the report – share it with others, talk about the findings, debate the issues, and most of all, be inspired to take action on what matters most to you.



Tracey Vavrek
CEO



Ryan Blais
Chair, Board of Directors



Connect People.
Build Community.
For Good and Forever

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WHAT IS GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA'S VITAL SIGNS®?

As part of a national initiative being undertaken by community foundations across Canada, Vital Signs® is a biennial check-up conducted by the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta that measures the vitality of the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie and the surrounding area. The project provides insight and education into local quality of life through the in-depth collection of data as well as surveying for citizen perceptions.

The Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta provides leadership by using this report to inform our work in grantmaking, to educate our donors to facilitate charitable giving, and to convene the community to discuss and effectively address local needs.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT:

BECOME INFORMED	SPARK DIALOGUE	DONOR CHOICES	TAKE ACTION
<p>Become More Informed. Read the data to get a better understanding of the issues and the organizations already at work to create a smart and caring community.</p>	<p>Spark Dialogue. Behind each number is a story. Talk to neighbours, co-workers, friends and elected officials about the real impact on the community.</p>	<p>Make Informed Donor Choices. Vital Signs connects donors like you to local needs and opportunities allowing you to direct your support where it is most needed.</p>	<p>Take Action. What issues matter to you? Where do you want to make a positive difference and get involved?</p>

METHODOLOGY

VITAL SIGNS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

A volunteer panel of representatives from the City of Grande Prairie and County of Grande Prairie provided expertise and guidance throughout the production of the report, ensuring Vital Signs represents the trends and priorities unique to our communities and our region.

CITIZEN OPINION SURVEYS

Two surveys were conducted:

1. The Vital Youth & Young Adults Grande Prairie Area online survey was conducted in fall 2014 to give voice to young people aged 15-24 from the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and surrounding communities.
2. The Vital Signs Grande Prairie Area survey was conducted in spring 2015 within the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and surrounding communities. The online survey targeted the general public, predominantly 18 years and older.

The surveys were voluntary. Questions were asked on a number of topics including economy, health, arts, culture, environment, learning, connection to community, things to do and more.

It was promoted through email, social media, community newsletters, local business intranets, and visits to schools, post-secondary institutions and community facilities. Teachers also helped promote the survey in their classrooms.

INDICATOR DATA SOURCES

Data used in Vital Signs was collected from national, provincial and local sources. The Grande Prairie Regional College provided research expertise. Community Foundations of Canada retained the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to undertake national research.

INDICATOR SELECTION

Factors that determine indicators are:

- Credibility of the source
- Availability of up-to-date data
- Potential for future updates
- Relevancy to the community and perceived public interest

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

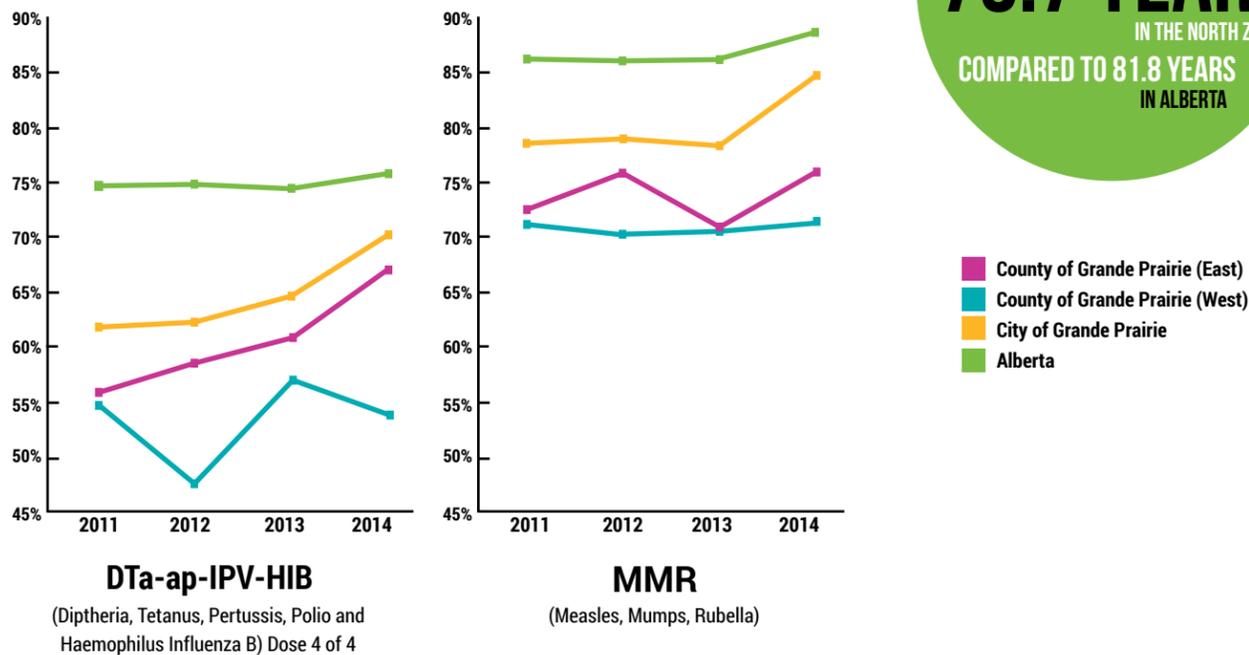
Most of the indicators of the Grande Prairie Area's Vital Signs report on the City of Grande Prairie and the County of Grande Prairie. However, many report on larger areas that include the City and County in their boundaries. It is important to note the geographical area when reading each indicator.

For a full list of sources and geographical areas, please see our online version at www.buildingtomorrowtoday.com.



GETTING STARTED

CHILD IMMUNIZATION BY AGE 2



LIFE EXPECTANCY IN 2014...
79.7 YEARS
 IN THE NORTH ZONE
 COMPARED TO 81.8 YEARS
 IN ALBERTA



Members of the small community of Horse Lake reserve are working to help youth achieve their goals through the creation of the Horse Lake Education Fund. Your Community Foundation is proud to work with the members of the Horse Lake First Nation in creating this fund, which helps educate and ensure success for their students who chose to continue on to post-secondary education. Of the 938 Horse Lake band members, 436 members reside on the Horse Lake reserve located just outside of Hythe.

DEMAND GROWS FOR PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

70+ CHILDREN are on the growing waitlist for the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre's Aboriginal Head Start Program. Filled to capacity, Head Start has served 64 children each year since 2012. Head Start is a school readiness and culture program.

CHILDREN ARE READING MORE THIS SUMMER

Date	Active Participants	Circulation of Children's Items
2015 (July)	365	19,000+
2014 (July)	266	15,500

UP 99
ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

UP 3500+ BOOKS

At the Grande Prairie Public Library's Summer Reading Game, children log hours spent reading. By July 2015, circulation had surpassed the 2014 rate for the same time period.

Prior to 2015, children recorded their hours online. This year, hours must be recorded in person at the library.

NEW CANADIANS LEARNING ENGLISH

The Council for Lifelong Learning offers a range of English classes for adults and families. In 2014, 347 individuals participated in the classes (funding /space limits restrict class sizes).

Currently in 2015, there is a combined wait list of 159 individuals for three programs.

2015 VITAL SIGNS SURVEY

36% (City) and 41% (County) respondents feel that the Grande Prairie area is doing enough to welcome new Canadians. Another 50% (City) and 49% (County) were unsure. This is mostly unchanged from 2013.

"Frankly, and somewhat embarrassingly, I haven't a clue how we welcome new Canadians. But I would like a way to reach out to them and make them feel at home. Just not sure how to do that."
 ~2015 Vital Signs Survey Comment

FIRST YEAR OF CULTURAL INTEGRATION ACADEMY A SUCCESS

100% of participants feel that the program will increase their integration into our community

"My family and I did not feel we belonged to this community until we participated in this program. Having an opportunity to speak directly with the police officers and other professionals has positively impacted me. Every immigrant needs this opportunity." ~New resident from Jamaica

Grande Prairie Crime Prevention commenced its Cultural Integration Academy in 2014 to enhance the integration of immigrant youth and families through:

- Education on topics such as law enforcement, education, mental health, parenting and more.
- Family Mentorship, with participants matched with local families that volunteer as mentors.
- Community Support - a Community Support Worker connects with the families and provides support, information and referrals.

IMMIGRANT EDUCATION LEVELS & EMPLOYMENT (2013)

More international immigrants to Alberta (58.2%) were post-secondary graduates than individuals born in Canada (50.5%). However, immigrants to Alberta with post-secondary certificates/diplomas had an unemployment rate of 4.7%, higher than that for non-immigrants with similar education (3.5%). Immigrants with university degrees had an unemployment rate of 4.5%, compared to 2.8% for non-immigrants.

IN THE KNOW

In the City of Grande Prairie, citizen-organized Neighbourhood Associations work to create a connected, safer community.

In August 2014, there were 12 Associations, an increase from 6 reported in August 2013.

12 
 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS IN GRANDE PRAIRIE



INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

It takes a community to raise a child. Our Community Foundation understands the value of investing in children during early childhood – a time of rapid development and change. The 1-2-3 You and Me Program in Sexsmith gives children 0-6, as well as their parents, an opportunity to interact with other parents and children, and partake in various activities, crafts and stories.

LEARNING

GPRC FEMALE APPRENTICESHIP STUDENTS INCREASE

77% INCREASE
BETWEEN 2011-12 & 2013-14

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE (GPRC) APPRENTICESHIP STUDENTS

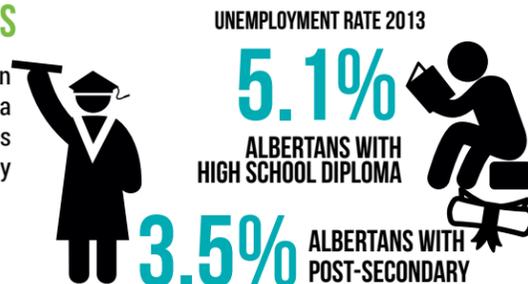
	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Female	61	89	108
Male	876	1,015	1,194
Total	937	1,104	1,302

APPRENTICESHIP SEATS INCREASE

Apprentice seat offerings at GPRC increased from 1,573 in 2013-14 to 1,773 in the 2014-15 academic year, an increase of 200 seats. Over the past five years, the Apprenticeship program has increased seat offerings by 46% to meet regional demand.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

In 2013, Albertans (15 years and older) with a post-secondary credential had an unemployment rate of 3.5%, compared to 5.1% for those with a high school diploma as their highest level of education. The spike in unemployment rates during years of economic slowdown is larger among high school graduates than post-secondary graduates.



TRANSITIONING TO POST-SECONDARY (2014)

Alberta's high school to post-secondary transition rate of 40% is one of the lowest in Canada, resulting in a comparatively low post-secondary participation rate of 18% compared to the national average of 24%. GPRC's stewardship region high school to post-secondary transition rate is 6.5% lower than Alberta's transition rate, with 61% of those students who graduate choosing to attend GPRC.

GPRC PART-TIME & ABORIGINAL ENROLMENT RISES

Year	Total	Part-Time	Full-Time	Aboriginal*
2013-14	3,893	2,452	1,441	472
2012-13	3,874	2,409	1,465	457
2011-12	3,795	2,328	1,467	462
2010-11	3,764	2,215	1,549	482

*self identified

Between 2009 and 2013, information on the development of kindergarten-aged children was collected across Alberta as part of the first province-wide, population-based study of child development in the early years. Information on 70,206 children was analyzed and reported at the provincial, community and subcommunity levels.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Early Development Instrument (EDI) information collected in Alberta between 2009 and 2013 shows that more than one in five children have a diagnosed disability or delay by the time they reach kindergarten.

IN THE KNOW

6 new allied health programs will commence at GPRC when the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital opens.

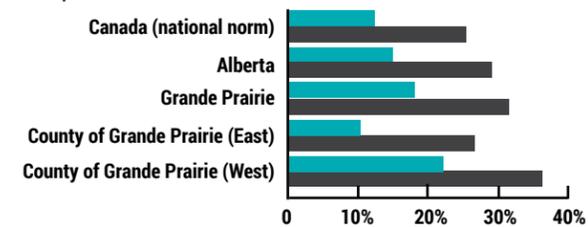
More than **1 IN 5 CHILDREN** diagnosed with a disability or delay...

Starplot Areas of Development

Physical & Well-being; Social Competence; Emotional Maturity; Language & Thinking Skills; Communications & General Knowledge

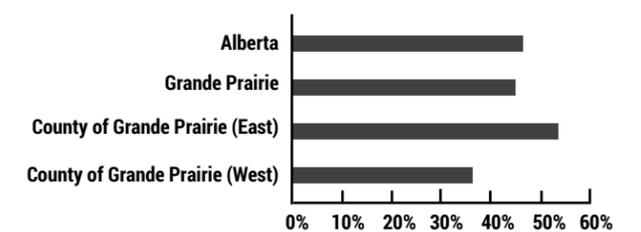
KINDERGARTEN-AGED CHILDREN EXPERIENCING GREAT DIFFICULTY

Lighter bar represents experiencing great difficulty in two or more areas of development
Darker bar represents experiencing great difficulty in one or more areas of development



KINDERGARTEN-AGED CHILDREN DEVELOPING APPROPRIATELY

Percentage of kindergarten-aged children developing appropriately in all areas of development



HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETIONS VARY ACROSS THE PROVINCE

High School Completion Rate by Service Region (2012-13)

Geographic Region	3-year rate	5-year rate
Calgary	78.1%	84.3%
Central	78.4%	83.9%
Edmonton	73.3%	80.3%
Grande Prairie Div 19	69.9%	79.3%
Keyano	74.2%	83.6%
Lakeland	75.4%	84.5%
Lethbridge	77.0%	83.1%
Medicine Hat	76.3%	83.0%
Northern Lakes	60.5%	68.7%
Portage	62.8%	74.6%
Alberta	74.9%	81.7%

69.9% of Grande Prairie region (Division 19) students complete high school within three years of entering Grade 10. As the length of time after entering Grade 10 increases, so does the completion rate, with 79.3% of students from the region completing high school within five years of entering Grade 10.



WORK & ECONOMY

OVERVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE REGION

2014	Grande Prairie Area	Alberta	Canada
Unemployment rate	3.3%	4.7%	7.0%
Working Age Population	67,100	3,281,000	28,955,000
Labour Force	54,200	2,386,200	19,121,400
Employment	52,400	2,274,600	17,792,700
Unemployment	1,800	111,700	1,328,700
Participation rate	80.7%	72.7%	66.0%

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME (2011)

\$117,318 IN THE COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

\$106,993 IN THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

HOUSING STARTS

From January to June 2015, housing starts in the City of Grande Prairie were 76, down from 186 during the same time period in 2014. From January to June 2015, housing starts in the County of Grande Prairie were 161, up from 157 during the same time period last year.



Although retail spending by local Grande Prairie residents alone is \$862 million, the total Trade Area lying within a two hour drive time is estimated at \$3.5 billion.



In our 2013 Vital Signs publication, Grande Prairie Regional College reported that many of their students are juggling studies with jobs to make ends meet. As the average student age increases, this in turn means that some students may also be supporting children. Through the generosity of our donors, your Community Foundation has been able to award thousands of dollars to post-secondary students from our region. In December 2014 alone, we awarded over \$37,000 to post-secondary students.

TRADING AREA SUPPORTS LOCAL ECONOMY

The City of Grande Prairie conservatively services a trading area of almost 260,000 people spanning northwestern Alberta, northeastern British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

BUILDING PERMITS

From January to July 2015, the City of Grande Prairie gave out 18 industrial/commercial building permits with a construction value of \$45.1 million. In 2014, during this same period, 36 permits were given out.

The County of Grande Prairie gave out 67 industrial/commercial building permits from January to July 2015, with a construction value of \$41.4 million. This is up from 51 permits for the same period last year.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN ALBERTA BY GENDER (JULY 2015) (AGES 15-24)

The industries that employed the largest number of FULL-TIME youth:

Females – Retail trade 18,600

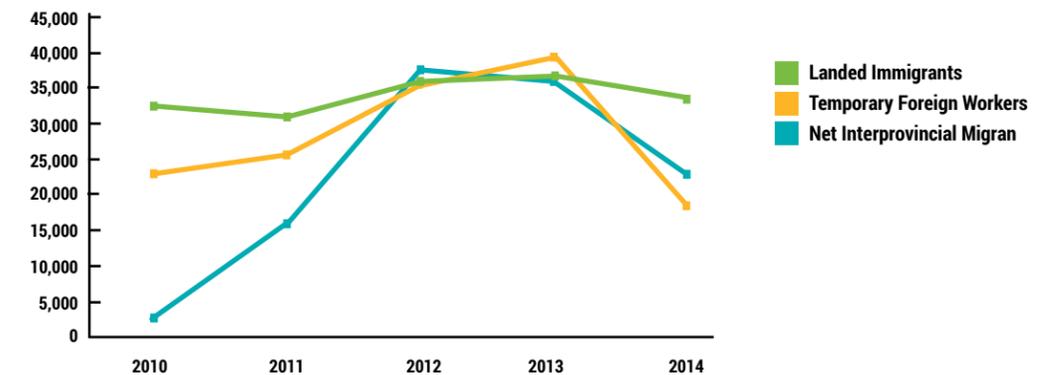
Males – Construction 38,400

The industries that employed the largest number of PART-TIME youth:

Females – Retail trade 19,700

Males – Retail trade 16,000

LANDED IMMIGRANTS, INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION, TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS 2010-14



2014 data on net migration and landed immigrants based on first three quarters. Temporary foreign workers based on first two quarters.

FOOD SERVICES JOB VACANCY RATE REMAINS UNCHANGED

In May 2015, about 1.8% of all jobs in the province were unfilled. However, by sector, Alberta's food and accommodation businesses continue to have the highest job vacancy rate at 6.2%. This rate has not changed much for the industry, even as the economy has slowed.

IN THE KNOW

The National Bee Diagnostic Centre (NBDC), located in the County of Grande Prairie, is the first comprehensive laboratory in Canada to provide a full array of diagnostic services for honeybee pests, diseases, and parasites. The NBDC is the result of a partnership between the GPRC-CRI and the Beaverlodge Research Farm (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada).

Of 100 crop species that provide 90% of the world's food, over 70 are pollinated by bees.

IN THE KNOW

There are 3,195 farm residences in the County of Grande Prairie, and 1,293,699.4 acres of farmable land and hayland.



ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

WORLD-CLASS DINOSAUR MUSEUM OPENS

In September 2015, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum opened in the County of Grande Prairie. The museum features galleries with an array of prehistoric skeletons, a research lab, educational programs and more.

The Aykroyd Family Theatre is the first and only theatre in Canada to hold a partner agreement with National Geographic, which enables the museum to show National Geographic films. The Pipestone Creek Bonebed is the densest bonebed site for horned dinosaurs in the world.

"I'd like to see better promotion of school band programs and community bands such as marching band."
~Vital Youth & Young Adults survey respondent

HEALING ARTS PROGRAM

The Centre for Creative Arts' HAPI creates a healthier more vibrant community through offering art classes to underserved populations that face barriers that would otherwise keep them from participating. In 2014, HAPI served over 700 students between the ages of 3 and 94.

OVER 84% OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED AWARENESS OF LARGER ANNUAL EVENTS
WHILE UNDER 60% OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED AWARENESS OF YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES

WHAT'S IN MY BACKYARD?

A 2015 Grande Prairie Regional Tourism survey asked City and County residents about their knowledge of local events. Most respondents reported awareness of larger annual events such as Bud Country Fever (88%), Pomeroy Guitars & Wagons (84%), Grande Prairie Stompede (95%) and the Grande Prairie Street Performers Festival (86%).

Respondents were less knowledgeable about year-round activities/facilities such as local trails (50%), water falls (34%), cultural facilities and art/museums/homesteads (9%-60%).

ART GALLERY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE GETTING BUSIER



The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie is one of the largest galleries in Alberta.

ARTS IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

A Canadian study showed that, compared to non-participants, cultural participants:

- Had higher volunteer rates
- Are more likely to report very good or excellent mental health
- Are more likely to have done a favour for a neighbour in the past month

IN-PERSON VISITS INCREASE BETWEEN 2012-2014:



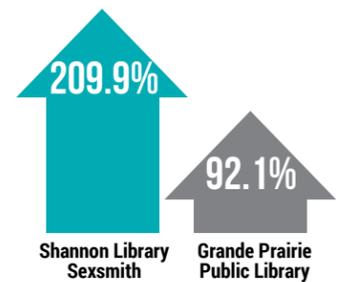
RURAL & URBAN E-BOOK LOANS SOAR

Between 2012-2014:

The Grande Prairie Public Library saw a 92.1% increase in e-book loans (29,563 in 2014). The Shannon Library in Sexsmith saw a 209.9% increase in e-book loans (3,393 in 2014).

IN THE KNOW

Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) is the only post-secondary institute in Canada to have an On-Campus Friendship Centre. The Centre, a partnership between GPRC and the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, was created to support a smooth transition for college students entering the community.



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DECLINING IN THE NORTH ZONE

Percent of population in the North Zone reporting being physically active or moderately active during their leisure time



"There seems to be lots of sports and recreation opportunities for kids in the area."
~2015 Vital Signs survey respondent

IN THE KNOW

The Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools plans to build a new 350-seat performing arts theatre in its new City-County junior-senior high school, opening in 2017.



Arts trigger happiness. Giving local talent a place to call home, the Grande Prairie Live Theatre Society wows with yearly theatrical productions and provides people of all ages an opportunity to experience live theatre in their own community. A Canadian study showed that the highest-rated benefits of the performing arts in communities are energy and vitality, improved quality of life and a more creative community. Our Community Foundation invests in the Theatre, helping to enhance the richness and vitality of our communities.



ENVIRONMENT

BOTTLED WATER USE DECLINING

In 2014, Aquatera Utilities Inc. reported that customer use of bottled water has dropped 33.0% since 2011. Aquatera customers include the City and some areas of the County.

WATER CONSUMPTION

In 2014, Aquatera customers used 21.0% less water than in 2006. Customers are in the City and the County only customers on Aquatera's water distribution system.

STYROFOAM RECYCLING RECORD INCREASE

In 2014, a record 16.4 metric tonnes of Styrofoam recycling was diverted from the landfill with Aquatera's thermal EPS condenser, an 18.0% increase over 2013 (13.9 metric tonnes).

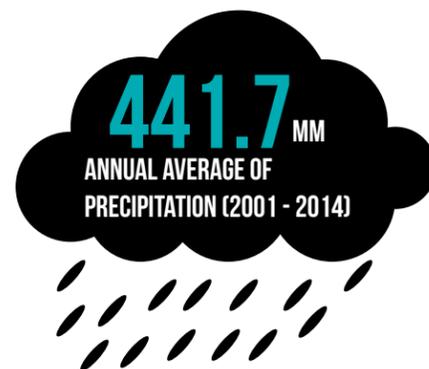


IN THE KNOW

The County of Grande Prairie is home to Alberta's first biobed – 1 of only 5 biobeds in Canada. A biobed is a herbicide disposal system that is essentially an organic filter system, breaking down the herbicide so it poses no threat of contamination.

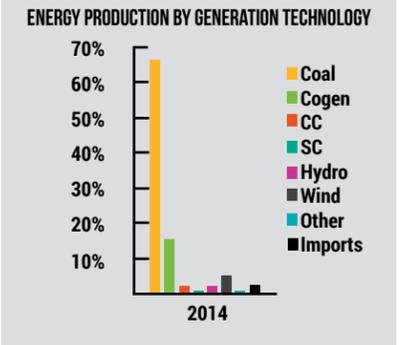
TOTAL ANNUAL PRECIPITATION

Measured at the Grande Prairie Airport
 2014 - 374.3 mm
 2013 - 562.6 mm
 2012 - 507.4 mm
 2001 - 2014 average - 441.7 mm



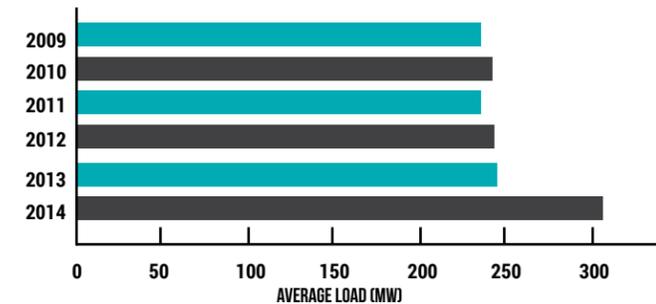
COAL GENERATION SERVES MOST ALBERTA ELECTRICAL DEMAND

Production share represents the percentage of total energy delivered to the Alberta electric system by each generation technology, including imports. In 2014, Coal generation produced the majority of energy (67.6%) used on the system. Other Generation: Cogen Generation (15.7%), Combined-cycle (3.0%), Simple-cycle (1.0%), Hydro (3.0%), Wind (5.6%), Other (1.0%), Imports (3.3%)



ELECTRICAL USAGE IN NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA

(includes the City and the County and surrounding region)



The jump in load between 2013 to 2014 is due to new industrial load growth in the area.

IN THE KNOW

In 2014, Aquatera's Eco Centre was awarded the Alberta Recycling Collection Site of the Year.

BUILDING HOMES, SAVING THE LANDFILL

In 2014, ReStore celebrated over one million pounds of diversion from the landfill. ReStore Grande Prairie sells donations of new and used building supplies, with proceeds used to fund Habitat for Humanity.

DUNES CLEAN-UP

During the 2015 annual Dunes clean-up, over 21 metric tonnes (46,800 pounds) of garbage was collected. This weight does not include over 25 burned vehicles hauled out of the area.



LOCAL CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

THE COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE OPERATES

9 CAMPGROUNDS & DAY USE AREAS

There are also provincial campgrounds and several private campgrounds in the Grande Prairie area.



Raising environmentally conscientious kids is one of the goals of the Grande Prairie School District Education Foundation. Your Community Foundation provided a grant to help fund recycling and green house programs, teaching children and staff how to better care for their community and reduce their environmental footprint. These are essential ingredients not only for the care of our planet, but teaching children how to be better connected to their environment and the community around them.

CITY DOG PARKS

The City of Grande Prairie has 1 fully-fenced off-leash dog park, and 3 new neighbourhood off-leash areas (opened 2014).

1 FENCED OFF-LEASH DOG PARK &
3 NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD OFF-LEASH AREAS



HEALTH & WELLNESS

NUMBER OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS (PER 100,000 RESIDENTS)

In the North Zone, the total number of family physicians was 82 per 100,000 residents in 2013. The provincial rate is 113 and national rate 111 physicians.



FAMILY DOCTORS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT IN THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA

Between August 2012 to August 2015, Alberta Health Services North Zone staff, with the support of community partners and organizations such as the Health Advisory Council, Independent Community Physician Attraction and Retention Committees and the Rural Physician Action Plan, recruited 37 physicians to the City of Grande Prairie/County of Grande Prairie area.

Specialty	2012-2015	Specialty	2012-2015
Family Medicine (Beaverlodge)	1	Ophthalmology - Pediatric	1
Family Medicine (Grande Prairie)	16	ENT	1
Family Medicine, Obstetrics Low Risk	1	Anesthesiology	1
Family Medicine, Emergency	1	Surgical Assistant	3
Psychiatry	3	General Surgery	1
Psychiatry - Child/Youth	1	Orthopedics	1
Internal Medicine	3	Diagnostic Health-Medical Imaging	1
Pediatrics	1	Urology	1

2.2%

INCREASE FROM 2013

OBESITY RATES RISE (18 & OVER)

The 2014 obesity rate of individuals 18 and over in the North Zone was 29.8%, a 2.2% increase over 2013. The provincial rate was 21.5% and national rate was 20.2%

SELF-REPORTED OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY RATE - YOUTH (12 - 17 YEARS)

In 2014, 32.3%.of youth (12-17 years) in the North Zone self-reported they were overweight or obese. The provincial rate was 27.7% and the national rate was 23.1%.

POPULATION (12 YEARS+) NOT EATING ADEQUATE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (2014)

The recommended intake of fruits and vegetables is five times daily. Percentage of the population consuming less than this daily:

North Zone	69.3% (highest rate to date)
Provincial	61.2%
National	60.5%

SENIORS (65 YEARS+) EATING MORE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (2014)

The recommended intake of fruits and vegetables is five times daily. Percentage of the population aged 65+ consuming less than this daily:

North Zone	68.4% (highest rate for seniors was 71.7% in 2011)
Provincial	63.6%
National	57.1%

QUALITY OF LIFE RATING

The percentage of City and County residents rating their quality of life as good or very good is:

90% of City of Grande Prairie 2015 Citizen Satisfaction survey respondents
95% of County of Grande Prairie 2014 Citizen Satisfaction survey respondents

YOUTH HELPING YOUTH

The Suicide Prevention Resource Centre Community Helpers program identifies “natural helpers” who youth already identify with when they have a mental health issue or are facing a life challenge. Youth and young adult helpers receive training to improve their capacity to help others. 75% of all helpers reported they had supported a peer within one month of taking the training. Issues addressed include: bullying, self-esteem, self-harm, family/friend issues, stress and anxiety.

SMOKING RATES DECLINING (POPULATION 12 YEARS & OVER)

Rates for current smokers in the North Zone have seen a relatively constant trend downwards since 2003 (27.5%) to the 2014 rate of 24.4%. The 2014 provincial average is 19.0% and the national average is 18.1%.

IN THE KNOW

The Grande Prairie Regional Hospital, currently under construction, will provide a wide range of health care services to the northwest region, including surgery, cancer care and emergency services. It will have 200 single inpatient rooms, including medical, surgical and rehabilitation, intensive care, cardiac care, obstetrics, neonatal intensive care, pediatric and mental health beds; an education facility in partnership with Grande Prairie Regional College; a state-of-the-art cancer centre with two radiation vaults; and outpatient programs.



“Camp was my getaway, my second chance, like a friend that would never let you down. Camp saved my life.”

This child’s powerful words sum up why your Community Foundation invests in Camp-Heal-A-Heart and its campers. The bereavement camp is for children who have experienced a loss through death, divorce, separation, or not living with their biological families, and is unique in Canada. Programming focuses on identifying feelings and improving coping-skills and self-esteem. It’s estimated that up to 75% of adulthood depression is linked to unresolved grief issues. By helping children deal with grief issues now, they will be healthier individuals in the future.



IN THE KNOW

Approximately 30-40 Grande Prairie Rotarians helped out at the Salvation Army Foodbank Drive as part of the 600 volunteers (120 teams) that canvassed Grande Prairie, Sexsmith and Clairmont. Over 33.7 tons of food was collected.

VOTER TURNOUT

PROVINCIAL GRANDE PRAIRIE-WAPITI & GRANDE PRAIRIE-SMOKY ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

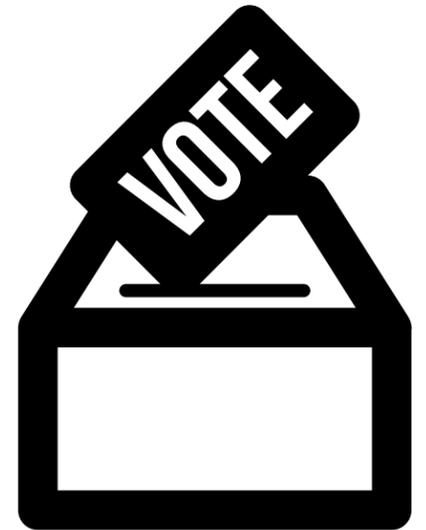
In the 2015 election, voter turnout was 52.3% (GP-Wapiti) and 55.6% (GP-Smoky) below the provincial average (58.3%). Voter turnout in 2012 was 47.8% and 45.6% respectively.

FEDERAL PEACE RIVER ELECTORAL DISTRICT

In 2011, voter turnout in Grande Prairie was 49.0%, up from 2008 (44.2%). This is lower than the 2011 provincial average (55.8%) and national average (61.1%).

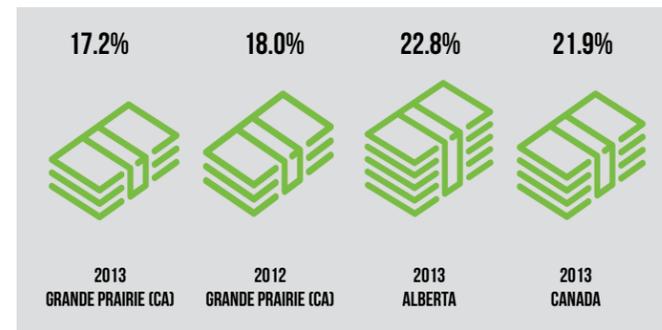
CITY AND COUNTY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

In 2014, the City of Grande Prairie voter turnout was 21%. Voter turnout in the County of Grande Prairie was 25%.

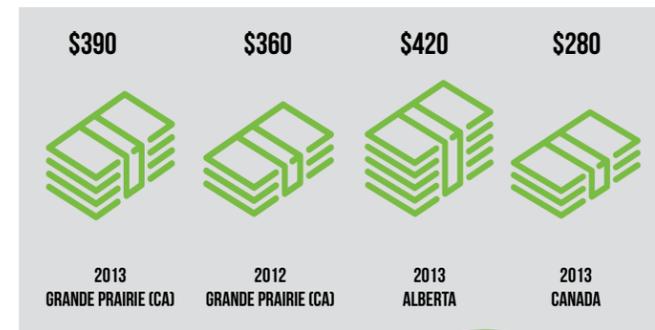


BELONGING & LEADERSHIP

CHARITABLE GIVING DOWN SLIGHTLY



MEDIAN CHARITABLE DONATIONS INCREASE



% OF TAX FILERS MAKING CHARITABLE DONATIONS

MORE THAN 4 IN 10 CANADIANS VOLUNTEERED IN 2013

In 2013, 12.7 million Canadians or 44.0% of people aged 15 years and older did volunteer work. That's about 1.96 billion volunteer hours = a volume of work equivalent to about 1 million fulltime jobs.

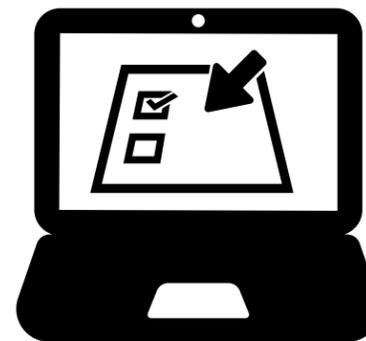
1.96
BILLION
VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2013

YOUNGER PEOPLE MOST LIKELY TO VOLUNTEER

Younger Canadians aged 15 to 19 are, by far, the most likely of all age groups to do some volunteer work, as two thirds of them did so (unchanged from 2010). This may be due to "mandatory" volunteering. In 2013, 20.0% of Canadian volunteers aged 15 to 19 reported that they were required to volunteer (required to graduate, etc.).

OLDER VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE THE MOST HOURS

Seniors who volunteered contributed the highest average annual hours in 2013. Volunteers aged 65 to 74 spent about 231 hours volunteering, almost double the number of hours (122 hours) of those aged 35 to 44.



ONLINE VOTING – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In the 2015 City of Grande Prairie Municipal Census, 27,301 residents indicated they would vote online in the 2017 municipal election.

HOW CONNECTED DO YOU FEEL TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

	Spring 2015 COMMUNITY Survey	Spring 2013 COMMUNITY Survey	Fall 2014 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS survey	Fall 2012 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS survey
Very	19%	23%	18%	19%
Somewhat	61%	60%	55%	51%
Hardly	17%	12%	18%	17%
Not at all	3%	5%	9%	13%
# of respondents	1,238	605	1,435	703

The Community surveys were distributed among the general population (predominantly 18+) in the City and County. The Vital Youth & Young Adults surveys targeted 15-24-year-olds in the City and the County.



In the midst of our hectic, busy lives, Random Acts of Kindness Day (RAK) gives us the "nudge" to remind us to take a few moments and reach out to friends, family, coworkers, neighbours . . . even strangers . . . with some act of kindness. In November 2014, your Community Foundation engaged students from schools as far north as Peace River and as far south as Grande Cache who embraced the spirit of the day – doling out kindness to those around them. No matter how big or small the gesture, those actions created a powerful chain reaction. The result? A stronger, engaged and better community for all!



GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR

The City of Grande Prairie's Housing First initiative moves individuals experiencing homelessness into a housing support program to find and maintain housing, then provides needed supports to maintain housing once they are stable and safe in a home

REDUCTION IN HOMELESSNESS

Since the development of the City of Grande Prairie's Multi Year Plan to end homelessness in 2009, 833 people have been housed by Housing First. This is estimated to be 65% of those experiencing homelessness in Grande Prairie.

ABORIGINALS IN HOUSING FIRST

40% of Housing First clients are Aboriginal
10% of Grande Prairie's population is Aboriginal.

EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS SEEKING HOUSING SUPPORTS

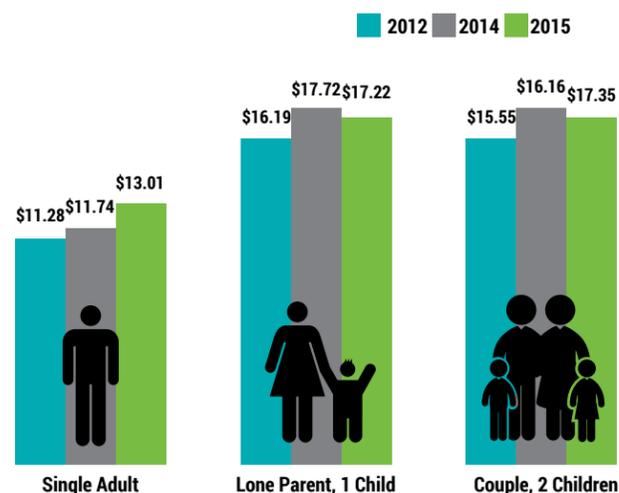
27% of clients accessing housing supports through the Grande Spirit Foundation (includes rent subsidies and social housing) are employed and a larger number are on AISH, Alberta Works or other means of income.

43% of people who are on the wait list as needing affordable housing with the Grande Spirit Foundation are employed.

#GPAB LIVING WAGE
\$17.35
PER ADULT PER HOUR
for a family with 2 working parents & 2 children without employer benefits

GRANDE PRAIRIE'S LIVING WAGE

The living wage is the amount of income an individual or a family requires to meet basic needs and maintain a safe and decent standard of living.



COMMUNITY GROUPS SERVE MEALS TO THOSE IN NEED.

The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre's "One Window Resource" served 17,351 individuals from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. This includes 7,195 hot meals served.

Many other community groups also provide meals. St. Joseph Church volunteers, for example, provide supper once/month over 10 months. In 2014, 600 hot meals were served.

\$25,293
ASSISTED
182
INDIVIDUALS

UNITED WAY EMERGENCY FUND 2014-15

About 75% of the funds provided emergency assistance for those in crisis with rent and food & basic necessities.
35.5% Rental Assistance
40.0% Food & basic necessities



Feeding those in need, the Salvation Army Grande Prairie Community Church helps provide hot meals and nourishment to those in need through their soup kitchen and food bank initiatives. By investing in these important initiatives, your Community Foundation helps nurture more than the physical health; when people gather, they create community. That is an investment into the well-being of those in need, in an atmosphere of hospitality and dignity.

EASING ACCESS TO RECREATION

By the end of June 2015, 426 Low Income Recreation Access passes had been given out to low income individuals. This is up from the total in 2014 (353).

LIRA provides a \$300 credit to City operated recreation facilities, up from \$100 in 2014.

TRANSIT PASSES FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS

By the end of June 2015, 481 City residents had been approved for free monthly transit passes (LITA).
LITA - Low Income Transit Access

KIDSPORT (2014)

Kidsport Grande Prairie & Area provided \$63,100 in support to 258 children and youth (up to 19 years) to participate in organized sport.

\$63,100
SUPPORTED
258

CHILDREN & YOUTH TO PLAY IN ORGANIZED SPORTS

LONE PARENT FAMILIES WITHOUT FOOD

40% of lone parent families in Alberta experience food insecurity. That would mean in the City of Grande Prairie, 890 lone parent families were not able to afford food at some point in 2013-14.

FOOD BANKS: USE IS ON THE RISE

	2015	2014	2013
Beaverlodge Area*	164	253	248
Sexsmith/Clairmont Area**	237	275	141
Hythe & Area ***	130	250	N/A

*Includes Elmworth and Goodfare.

**Includes Sexsmith, Webster, LaGlance, Teepee Creek, Spirit River, Bezanson. Clairmont added June 2013

*** 75% of clients are from Horse Lake First Nation

IN THE KNOW

The City of Grande Prairie is the only city in Canada to offer a completely free monthly transit pass to low income earners who qualify.



REGIONAL FACILITY TO PROVIDE SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In fall 2015, the Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association will open the Odyssey House Supportive Housing Project to help transition victims of violence into the community. The 14-suite apartment-style facility, the next step in the continuum once women have left the emergency shelter, will offer programming and be home to 60 women and children.

EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR YOUTH

118 YOUTH (12-17) RECEIVED SHELTER AT SUNRISE HOUSE IN 2014

Top reasons for referral (including self-referral) were:

	Youth
Parent-teen conflict	54
Family violence	20
Substance abuse	19
Depression/Mental Health Disorders	16
Child neglect	15
Homelessness	15

WILLOW PLACE

Willow Place is a 57 unit apartment building run by Canadian Mental Health Association Alberta Northwest for people who are dealing with mental health challenges. Since it opened in 2002, the units have been filled to capacity.

SENIORS WAIT FOR HOUSING

In August 2015, the number of seniors (households*) in the Grande Prairie area waiting for housing with the Grande Spirit Foundation:

- 96 Lodges
- 192 Apartments (independent living)
- 70 Enhanced apartments (independent living with 1 meal/day)

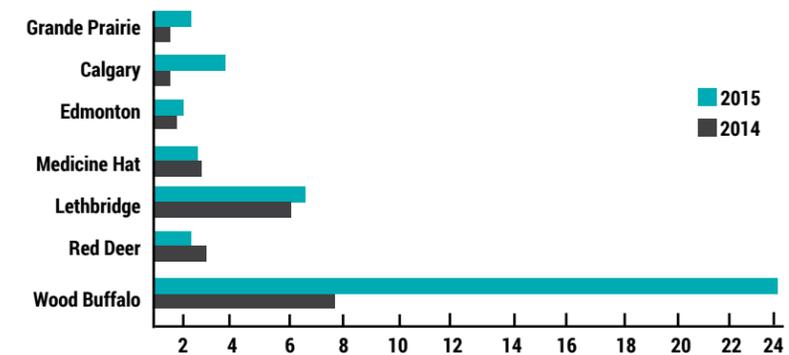
*households may be individuals or couples

NEW SENIORS' HOUSING UNDERWAY

In spring 2017, the Grande Spirit Foundation will open a new 150 unit facility in Clairmont, with 72 lodge units and 78 enhanced apartments.

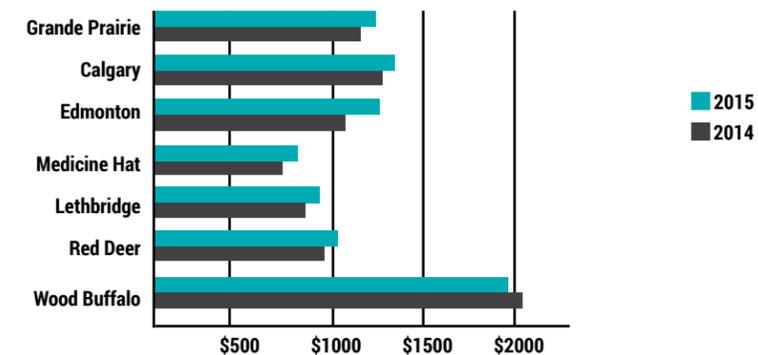
RENTAL VACANCY RATES INCREASE (%)

2 Bedroom April 2014 & 2015



MONTHLY RENTAL COSTS INCREASE (\$)

2 Bedroom April 2014 & 2015



IN THE KNOW

In March 2014, the City of Grande Prairie's Multi Year Plan to End Homelessness reported that 275 of the aimed at 550 affordable housing units either have or are being created.

HOUSING

HOME SALES AUGUST 2015

Home sales numbered 202 units in August 2015. This was a decline of 26.5% from the all-time August record set a year earlier. Residential sales in all of Alberta were down 19.2% from a year earlier in August.

AVERAGE HOUSE PRICES AUGUST 2015

The average price of Grande Prairie homes sold in August 2015 was \$311,688, edging down 0.1% from the previous August. At \$388,551, the provincial average price for homes sold in August was down 2.3% from a year earlier.

ROTARY HOUSE

Rotary House provides shelter and support to homeless and hard to house families and individuals.

Year	Bednights	Mat Intox program
2011-12	41,883	3,222
2012-13	36,401	5,205
2013-14	39,558	9,025
2014-15	36,222	9,754

WOMEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER FULL

In 2014, 235 women and 317 children were turned away from Odyssey House Women's Shelter because it was full.



She arrived in the night with her young son. The language barrier was immense, but fear and hopelessness in her eyes transcended languages. Through a translator, Odyssey House staff heard her story. She was trapped in a volatile relationship, needing help to break the cycle. With much support from shelter staff, she would one day be able to gain independence and confidence. This is another example of why the Community Foundation's Impact Grants are important to our community. Organizations like Odyssey House receive funding for programs and initiatives that are "on the ground" making a difference.



GETTING AROUND

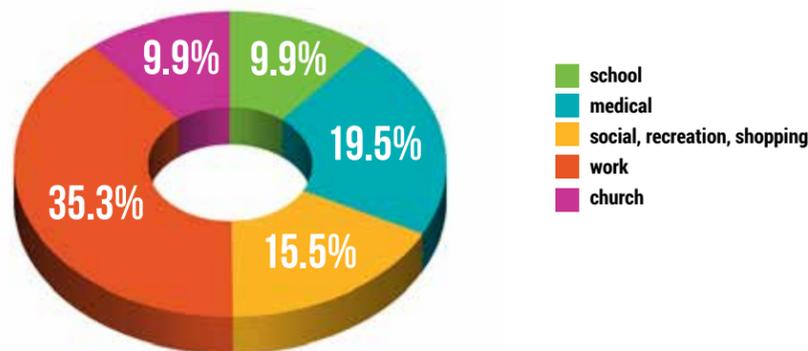
WALK, RUN & CYCLE PATHS

As of December 2014, there were 94.5 km of trails (paved, gravel, dirt) in the City of Grande Prairie, a 22.2 km increase since 2013. Along with an array of trails throughout the County, the County of Grande Prairie has about 18* km of paved trails in subdivisions in close proximity to the City.

*several additional County subdivisions have paved trails

SENIORS AND DISABLED TRANSIT USE ON THE RISE

The Disabled Transportation Society (DTS) of Grande Prairie serves the City and the population about 5 km outside the City limits, and provides public transportation to seniors and disabled individuals unable to use regular transit. Ridership in 2012-13 was 32,328. Already, in the first 7 months of 2015 (January to July), ridership is at 30,144.



Note: About 2/3 of the work sector is work subsidized by social groups for mentally challenged individuals.

YOUNG CYCLISTS HAD HIGHEST CASUALTIES (2013)

In Alberta, most casualty crashes (39.4%) involving bicycles occurred during the evening rush-hour period of 3:00 p.m. - 6:59 p.m. on weekdays. Bicyclists aged 10 - 14 had the highest casualty rate.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

CF

Experts promote the importance of after school programs, like Cool Aid Society's youth drop-in programs, which provide positive alternatives to risky behaviours. The Community Foundation supports the youth program by providing funds to help Cool Aid bus youth to the Eastlink Centre during the school year to go swimming. The activity was a tremendous success! Tweens made new friends, they enjoyed swimming with the youth workers and talked more freely with them, and they had a good time in a safe, friendly environment that promoted good health.



AIR TRAVEL SLIGHTLY DOWN

While the first two months of passenger arrivals and departures at the Grande Prairie Airport in 2015 was up from last year, March to June have shown slight decreases. In the first half of 2015, overall passenger movement was 215,557, a 1.2% decrease from the same period last year.

A total of 445,685 passengers moved through the airport in 2014, a 7.9% increase over 2013.

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST FREQUENT METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION FOR YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS TRAVELING TO SCHOOL, WORK OR OTHER ACTIVITIES?

RESPONDENTS LIVING IN THE COUNTY AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

15-17 YEARS	18-24 YEARS
1. 47.7% RIDE THE SCHOOL BUS	59.8% DRIVE MY OWN VEHICLE
2. 27.1% DRIVE MY OWN VEHICLE	17.8% WALK
3. 21.4% WALK	6.5% CARPOOL/GET A RIDE

RESPONDENTS LIVING IN THE CITY

15-17 YEARS	18-24 YEARS
1. 27.1% CARPOOL/GET A RIDE	66.6% DRIVE MY OWN VEHICLE
2. 26.3% DRIVE MY OWN VEHICLE	19.4% WALK
3. 20.6% RIDE THE SCHOOL BUS	10.3% RIDE GP TRANSIT

2014 VITAL YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS SURVEY

Over Half of Youth/Young Adults Own or Have Use of Cars/Trucks

In the 2014 Vital Youth & Young Adults survey, 57.0% (City) and 59.8% (County and local communities) of respondents aged 15-24 say they own, or have regular use of a personal vehicle.

"We need a more public bus schedule and more busing. It's hard to find a schedule of where buses go and what time. A more public and accessible info timeline would be appreciated."
~Vital Youth & Young Adults survey respondent

IN THE KNOW

On September 1 and 2, about 120 elite cyclists from around the world competed in the Tour of Alberta in the City (Stage 1) and County (Stage 2). The race – Canada's first and highest ranked professional road cycling stage race – follows a nearly 900 kilometre long six-stage route that will feature a Team Time Trial, two mountain top finishes, and race that contains six sectors over dirt.

2014 VITAL YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS SURVEY

WHAT WOULD MOST MOTIVATE YOU TO WALK OR CYCLE FOR TRANSPORTATION MORE OFTEN?
(Respondents could choose more than one response.)

	County of Grande Prairie	City of Grande Prairie
Snow cleared off sidewalks	55%	70%
Improved conditions of sidewalks (ie. repair cracks)	35%	49%
Sidewalks that link to shopping/restaurant districts	33%	47%
Increased safety	30%	45%
More cycling routes to major destinations	43%	43%
More bike/walking paths that link the City and County	31%	35%



SAFETY

CITIZENS HELP CREATE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

In 2014, 81 reports of drug houses placed by citizens were received by Grande Prairie Crime Prevention, down from 97 in 2013. Over two years, 2012 and 2013, there were two complete closures.



CAUSES OF FIRES

The Grande Prairie Fire Department reports that the leading causes of home fires in the City are cooking (#1) and smoking (#2).

TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME VIOLATIONS (PER 100,000 PERSONS)

	2014	2013
Grande Prairie Municipal	9,871	9,610
Grande Prairie Rural	4,733	3,895
Provincial	4,309	
National	3,096	

CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE POLICE RESOURCES INCREASING

Over the next three years, the Grande Prairie RCMP will add 12 new municipal officers to their force (4 each year).

IN THE KNOW

Locally there are four Rural Crime Watch Associations: Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge, Debolt, and Grovedale. Citizen's on Patrol (COP) is active in Grande Prairie and Sexsmith, with a program being established in La Glace.

In my area, vandalism/ graffiti are getting to be real problems.
~2015 Vital Signs survey respondent

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY BOYS' CLUB

Boys' Club is a 14-week, group style program for boys aged 12-17 aimed at building resiliency among our next generation by exploring healthy self images, relationships, lifestyles, and communication skills.

TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMINAL CODE VIOLATIONS (PER 100,000 PERSONS)

	2014	2013
Grande Prairie Municipal	2,608	2,497
Grande Prairie Rural	870	994
Provincial	1,244	
National	1,039	

REDUCING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Grande Prairie Crime Prevention's Child and Youth Intervention Program works with children and youth aged 8 to 17 and their families to reduce risky behaviours. In 2014, 133 young people were served and in 2013, 141 were served.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT RATE (PER 100,000 PERSONS)

	2014	2013
Grande Prairie Municipal	1,030	851
Grande Prairie Rural	903	651
Provincial	402	
National	208	

UNIQUE ENFORCEMENT MODEL

The County of Grande Prairie's Regional Enforcement Services Department consists of a Patrol Unit, Bylaw Unit (Bylaw Enforcement Officers and Animal Control Officers), and an Enhanced Policing Unit, with 4 enhanced RCMP officer positions (including 1 new officer in 2015). The County was the first Alberta municipality to have RCMP members working for them and integrated into their service delivery model under one roof.



Injuries are the leading cause of death for Alberta children and youth between 1 and 19 years of age. The Grande Prairie and Area Safe Communities' Youth Program educates youth on injury prevention, including distracted and impaired driving, first aid skills, alcohol and drug addictions and bullying and suicide. Your Community Foundation's investment in the program is a step in helping ensure children learn about safety in all areas of their lives.

"Programs for teaching kids how to deal with and stop bullying should be increased."
~Vital Youth & Young Adults 2014 survey respondent

IN THE KNOW

Grande Prairie Crime Prevention presents monthly lunch and learns to shed light on challenges that people in our community face daily. Having an understanding of what someone else's life is like can help our communities and each of us be more compassionate, more caring and possibly able to help in some way.

SURVEY 2015

GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA'S

VitalSigns®

We've read the data. Now let's see what communities think about their quality of life.

In spring 2015 (April-May) we distributed our third Vital Signs® engagement survey to people living in the City of Grande Prairie and the County of Grande Prairie (most respondents were 18 years and over). Our first and second surveys were conducted in 2011 and 2013. The survey asked about quality of life in our community and our region – gathering a snapshot of what impacts people on a daily basis. We know that while statistics tell one part of the story, thoughts and opinions are also an important measure of where we are and where we need to go. And now for the rest of the story.

1238
RESPONDENTS

WHO RESPONDED?

AGE

Years	County	City
13-17	2%	2%
18-30	20%	23%
31-44	37%	37%
45-64	38%	34%
65+	3%	4%

OCCUPATION

COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE:

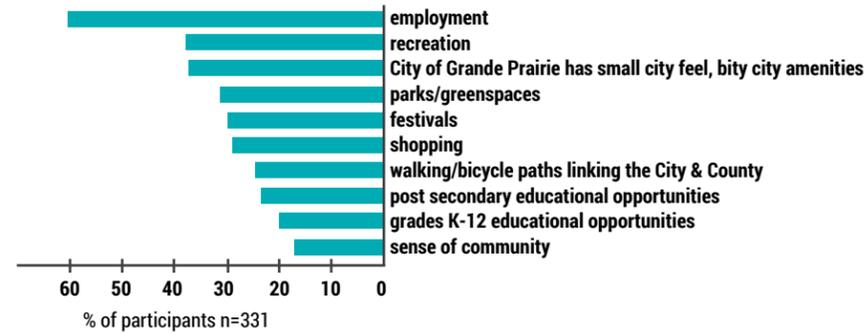
- 87% EMPLOYED
- 4% UNEMPLOYED
- 4% STUDENTS
- 5% RETIRED

CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE:

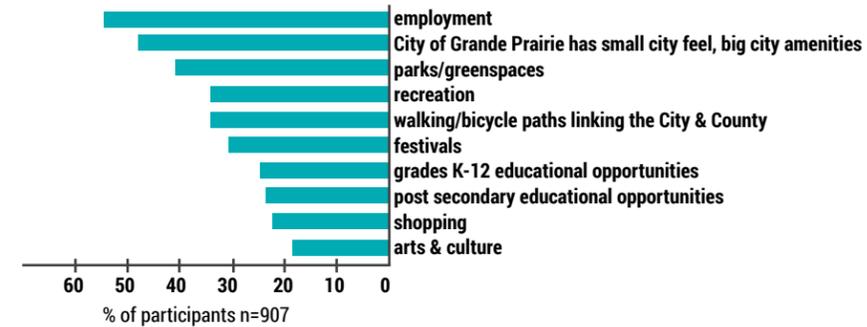
- 86% EMPLOYED
- 3% UNEMPLOYED
- 4% STUDENTS
- 7% RETIRED

TOP 10 GREATEST STRENGTHS OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA

COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE RESPONDENTS



CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE RESPONDENTS



WHAT DO THE GRAPHS TELL US?

Similar to results from the 2011 and 2013 surveys, survey respondents feel employment opportunities are our greatest strength. The "City's small city feel, big city amenities" category, new in 2013, also continues to rank high, as do recreation-related choices.

WHERE DO WE LIVE

COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE MADE UP 27%

(includes surrounding communities of Hythe, Beaverlodge, Wembley, Teepee Creek, La Glace, Bezanson, Sexsmith, Clairmont, Elmworth, Valhalla, Wedgewood, Grovedale <1%)

21% MALE
79% FEMALE

331 PEOPLE

75% have lived in the County for over 10 years
12% have lived in the County for 6-10 years

10% have lived in the County for 2-5 years
3% have lived in the County for 1 year or less

CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE MADE UP 73%

23% MALE
77% FEMALE

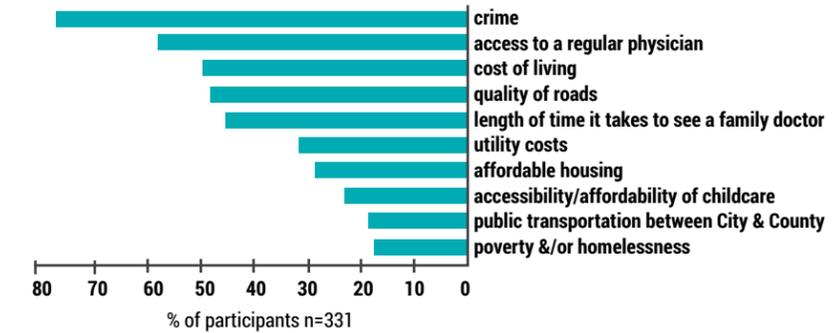
907 PEOPLE

64% have lived in the City for over 10 years
16% have lived in the City for 6-10 years

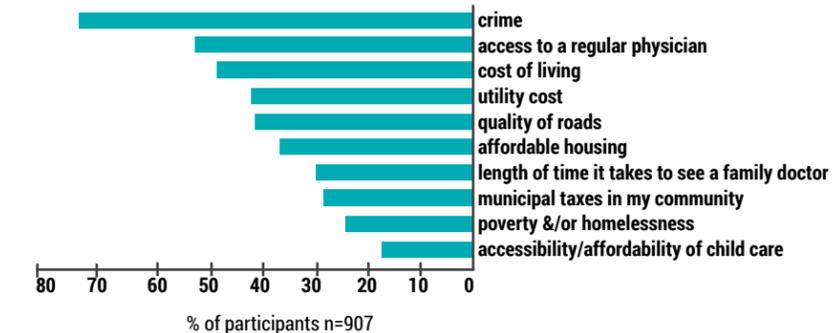
17% have lived in the City for 2-5 years
3% have lived in the City for 1 year or less

TOP 10 MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA

COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE RESPONDENTS



CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE RESPONDENTS



VOLUNTEERING

HOW OFTEN DID PEOPLE VOLUNTEER IN THE PAST YEAR?

20% of County respondents and 15% of City respondents volunteer at least once per month.
23% of County respondents and 30% of City respondents did not volunteer at all in the past year.

TOP 3: WHY DID PEOPLE VOLUNTEER IN THE PAST YEAR?

	County	City
To contribute to a particular cause	76%	73%
To enhance quality of life in my community	61%	64%
To socialize with friends and acquaintances	29%	27%

WHY DIDN'T PEOPLE VOLUNTEER IN THE PAST YEAR?

LACK OF TIME was listed as the #1 reason people in the County (56%) and City (55%) have not volunteered in the past year.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS BELONGING TO A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:

COUNTY - 59% CITY - 53%

RENT OR OWN?

OWN 85% County **RENT** 11% County
77% City 21% City

PURCHASING A HOME

Of respondents that rent, 35% (County) and 43% (City) plan to buy a home in the area within the next 5 years. 24% (County) and 36% (City) are unsure.

WHAT DO THE GRAPHS TELL US?

In our first survey in 2011, "crime" ranked 6th in most important issues. This jumped to 2nd place in 2013. In both years, access to a regular physician was the top issue for respondents. However, in 2015, both City and County respondents named crime as their top issue, with access to a regular physician still a priority, but falling to second place. As in the two years prior, cost of living categories and quality of roads continue to rank high.

LIVING IN THE AREA

DO YOU FEEL THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA IS A GOOD PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY?

YES 71% County
62% City

RETIREMENT

30% (County) respondents and 22% (City) respondents – most who are under age 65 – feel the Grande Prairie area is a good place to retire. In contrast, over half of all seniors who responded feel it is a good place to retire.

DO YOU FEEL THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU LIVE IS WALKABLE?

YES 58% County
53% City

I KNOW MY NEIGHBOURS WELL ENOUGH TO ASK FOR HELP OR ASSISTANCE

	Strongly agree	Agree
County	28%	35%
City	18%	37%

TOP 4: HOW DO WE MOST OFTEN CONNECT WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS?

COUNTY	CITY
66% Chats in the yard/over the fence	78% Chats in the yard/over the fence
24% Socialize in homes	18% I do not connect with my neighbours
20% Community events	15% Neighbourhood parks
12% Community facilities	14% Socialize in homes

VITAL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SURVEY 2014-15

Vital Youth & Young Adults 2014-15 is a snapshot of the experiences and perspectives of young people living and working in the City of Grande Prairie and the County of Grande Prairie. From October to November 2014, we conducted a six-week online engagement survey, inviting youth and young adults aged 15-24 to have their say.

WHO RESPONDED?

 43% MALE
 57% FEMALE

68% ARE 15-17 YEARS OLD
32% ARE 18-24 YEARS OLD

1435 RESPONDENTS

WHERE DO WE LIVE



35% have moved at least once in the past year
58% have lived in the region over 10 years
16% have lived in the region for 6-10 years
17% have lived in the region for 2-5 years
9% have lived in the region for 1 year or less

95% REPORT THAT ENGLISH IS THE MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE?

	18-24 Years	15-17 Years
Immediate family	64%	53%
Friends*	17%	28%
Extended family	8%	7%
Coach/Youth Leader/Teacher	5%	6%

*including boy/girlfriend

I KNOW MY NEIGHBOURS WELL ENOUGH TO ASK FOR HELP.

	Strongly agree	Agree
County	19%	32%
City	11%	27%

DO YOU VOLUNTEER?
47% YES NO 53%

SCHOOL & WORK

70% GO TO HIGH SCHOOL
13% ARE IN POST-SECONDARY

Most unemployed young people reported being too busy with school for a job.

12% WORK FULL-TIME
35% WORK REGULAR PART-TIME
11% WORK CASUAL

34% of 18-24-year-olds working casual or part-time would prefer to be working full-time.

OUR TOP THREE

WHAT ONE THING DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA?

1. The people, including my family and friends.
2. The trees and open space in the County and its quick access from the City.
3. Availability of jobs and opportunity.

WHAT ONE THING WOULD MOST IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA?

1. Safer communities, safer roads. (1/3 of safety concerns related to bad driving behaviours.)
2. More hang out places and more affordable recreation, arts and social activities.
3. More walking and cycling trails connected to major destinations.

For the following categories, respondents had the option of choosing more than one answer. As well, respondents had several options to choose from. Only the options selected the most frequently were reported.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS VOICE

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS ABOUT HOW YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A VOICE AND INFLUENCE IN LOCAL PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

- Increase opportunities where young people can have a say 42%
- Make elections and politics more relevant and meaningful for young people 31%
- Improve access to information about government decisions 26%
- Hold youth forums where decision-makers hear directly from young people 24%
- Satisfied and would not recommend any changes 24%

HEALTH & WELLNESS

IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

- More walk-in medical clinics 48%
- More mental health and addiction support services 40%
- More youth who are trained to recognize stress and turmoil in other youth 34%
- Easier access to counselling services 33%
- Easier access to confidential physical health information 27%

EDUCATION & TRAINING

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION & TRAINING WITHIN THE CITY AND COUNTY, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

- Lower tuition costs 41%
- Flexible course schedules to fit busy lives 38%
- Greater knowledge of post-secondary options 33%
- Smaller class sizes 32%
- More post-secondary programs in Grande Prairie (college, university, trades, etc.) 31%
- High school courses in budgeting & personal finance 29%

29% HIGH SCHOOL COURSES IN BUDGETING & PERSONAL FINANCE

EMPLOYMENT

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS IN THE AREA OF EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE CITY AND COUNTY, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

- Support finding jobs that match your skills and/or education 46%
- More information about, and guidance through, the range of job and career opportunities 30%
- More help with resume and interview preparation 30%
- Better on-the-job training 26%

46% SUPPORT FINDING JOBS THAT MATCH YOUR SKILLS AND/OR EDUCATION

SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

WITHIN THE CITY AND COUNTY, IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS ABOUT SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

- Affordable "hang out" space with a coffee house atmosphere 55%
- Greater variety of activities for young people 52%
- More affordable youth/young adult activities 49%
- More neighborhood parks designed to include young people's interests (not just playground equipment) 33%
- Easier access to recreation facilities 32%

ARTS & MUSIC SCENE

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS ABOUT OUR LOCAL ARTS & MUSIC SCENE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

- More festivals 43%
- More public places for young artists and musicians to showcase talents 35%
- More places for young artists and musicians to gather and "hang out" 34%
- Better promotion of youth/young adult arts & music events 31%

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS AROUND HOUSING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CITY AND COUNTY, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

23% OF RESPONDENTS HAVE NO OPINION OR DO NOT KNOW

HOUSING

- Lower rent or housing prices 60%
- More housing options for youth/young adults living on their own 43%
- Lower utility costs 44%

HOMELESSNESS

- Longer stays in shelters 17%
- More short-term transitional housing for youth that provides a variety of supports 12%

"I know of kids in harmful environments at their homes but could not move out because of housing/living costs and attending high school full time."

CULTURE, IDENTITY & BELONGING

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS TO ENSURE THE CITY AND COUNTY ARE MORE WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

- Create more events highlighting our different cultures and cultural associations 34%
- Get to know your neighbours better 33%
- Educate communities about LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) issues and challenges facing local young people 32%
- Create more short-term volunteer opportunities for young people 32%

Due to the context-specific nature of the following three categories, responses are provided for the County and the City.

GETTING AROUND

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS TO HELP ENSURE THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU LIVE IS SAFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

COUNTY

- Public transportation between County towns and the City of Grande Prairie 36%
- More bike/walking paths that link the City and County 35%
- Link bike paths to major areas in the City of GP 31%
- More affordable taxi cabs 29%
- Safer taxi cabs 28%

CITY

- Improve the GP Transit system 49%
- Safer taxi cabs 44%
- More bike/walking paths that link the City and County 43%
- More affordable taxi cabs 42%
- Public transportation between County towns and the City of Grande Prairie 33%

GREEN SCENE

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS ABOUT THE AWARENESS & ACTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU LIVE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

	County	City
More green spaces/ trees	42%	54%
More recycling bins in and around public buildings	36%	52%
Better public transportation	33%	46%
More garbage bins in and around public buildings	31%	45%
Make it easier to use walking/cycling trails to get around	30%	43%

SAFETY

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO THINGS TO HELP ENSURE THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU LIVE IS SAFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

	County	City
Safer walking/biking trails	33%	54%
Safer downtown area	32%	54%
Anti-bullying initiatives	29%	38%
Safer taxi cabs	27%	50%
Greater presence of law enforcement	22%	31%

ABOUT US OUR POPULATION

COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE NO. 1
20,347*
 BASED ON 2011 FEDERAL CENSUS

The last federal census was conducted in 2011. This is the most recent official census data available for the County of Grande Prairie.

MEDIAN AGE - 36.8 YEARS OLD
51% MALE 49% FEMALE

MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION: UNDER THE AGE OF 39 YEARS

LARGEST SINGLE AGE GROUP: AGE 50-59 - 16.5% OF THE POPULATION

* Between 2006 (federal) and 2012 (unofficial population count conducted municipally), the County of Grande Prairie grew about 18% overall, with some divisions growing as much as 26% and 34% over that time period.

CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE
68,556
 BASED ON 2015 MUNICIPAL CENSUS

In April 2015, the City of Grande Prairie conducted a municipal census. The City of Grande Prairie population data* was collected from this census.

45% MALE 43% FEMALE 12% NO RESPONSE

36.5% INCREASE IN POPULATION OVER 8 YEARS (BETWEEN 2007 AND 2015)

52,387 RESPONDENTS INDICATED CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP BY BIRTH

POPULATION HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE 1994 (29,242)

(The 2011 Federal Census population – 55,032)

Based on the 2015 municipal census, the City of Grande Prairie is now the fifth largest city in Alberta, behind Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer and Lethbridge, having surpassed St. Albert and Medicine Hat.

ALBERTA & CANADA
 BASED ON 2011 FEDERAL CENSUS

In Alberta, net migration was 7,723 in the first quarter of 2015, down 60% from 19,326 a year earlier. Alberta continued to experience net outflow of temporary foreign workers and reduced inflows of interprovincial and international migrants.

Net migration is the difference between total migration into a region and migration out of the same region. Migration includes both international and interprovincial migration.

	POPULATION INCREASES SINCE 2006	MEDIAN AGE
ALBERTA	10.8%	36.5
CANADA	5.9%	40.6

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- Devon Wardley, Treasurer
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- James Robinson – Grande Prairie Public School District
- Kathleen Turner – County of Grande Prairie FCSS
- Kim Gravengard – Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta
- Leanne Beaupre – County of Grande Prairie
- Ray Noble – Grande Prairie and Beaverlodge RCMP (retired superintendent)

PRODUCTION TEAM



CFNWAB STAFF: Tracey Vavrek, Heather Coney, Lindsey McNeil



PROJECT MANAGER: April Weavell, Regatta Communications



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Community Foundations of Canada

International Institute for Sustainable Development



Vital Signs is a national program led by community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada that leverages local knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities and supports action towards improving our quality of life. Started by the Toronto Foundation in 2001, today more than 65 communities across Canada and around the world use Vital Signs to mobilize the power of community knowledge for greater local impact.

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Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canadian Mental Health Association Alberta Northwest
City of Grande Prairie
Citizens on Patrol
County of Grande Prairie No.1
Disabled Transportation Society of Grande Prairie
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Grande Prairie & Area Council on Aging
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National Bee Diagnostic Centre
Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum
Rural Crime Watch
Sexsmith FCSS
Statistics Canada
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Sunrise House (GPYESS)
Sexsmith Shannon Library
Tour of Alberta
United Way Alberta Northwest
Valhalla Community Library
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Wapiti Dorm Society



2nd Floor Centre 2000
200, 11330-106 Street
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 7X9

PH: + 780 538 2820
buildingtomorrowtoday.com
info@buildingtomorrowtoday.com
[facebook.com/cfnwab](https://www.facebook.com/cfnwab)
twitter.com/cfnwab

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