



Belonging

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of Northwestern Alberta

NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA'S
Vital Signs.
2019

A Snapshot of Life in the:
City of Grande Prairie
County of Grande Prairie
MD of Greenview

Table of Contents & Welcome!

From the CEO and Chair	2
How to use this report	3
Reconciliation	4
Population Snapshot	5
Learning	6
Work & Economy	8
Arts, Culture & Recreation	10
Environment	12
Health & Wellness	14
Belonging & Leadership	16
Gap in the Standard of Living	18
Housing	20
Getting Around	22
Safety	24
Vital Signs Survey 2019	26
Belonging	31

A sense of belonging...

... is one of the building blocks of healthy, vibrant communities. *Belonging, in a community sense, is how connected and valued people feel.* Vital Signs draws links to how our sense of belonging – and our individual and community wellbeing – are influenced by factors such as safety, income, educational attainment, recreation and cultural opportunities, and much more.

We invite you to look through the report and decide what needs to be prioritized. Vital Signs should spur conversations – encourage all of us to share our ideas about how we can work individually and collectively to shape communities where people feel welcome and have a strong sense of wellbeing.

Anything we do locally impacts us globally. We are proud that by aligning the work of our Vital Signs with the SDGs, our report can be a tool for making that link between the local to the global. While the SDGs are ambitious goals, it is when we work together – one step at a time – with those beyond our local borders, that we can create a sustainable future that includes us all.

Tracey Vavrek, CEO Natasha Collins-DeCoste, Board Chair

Find the SDG colour wheels on pages 6 to 31 as they relate to Vital Signs



Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture.



Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Goal 4: Ensure equitable, quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities.



Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources.



Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Goal 15: Protect and promote terrestrial ecosystems, forests, land, and biodiversity.



Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.



Goal 16: Promote peaceful societies, accountable institutions, and access to justice for all.



Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive economic growth, full employment, and decent work for all.



Goal 17: Strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development.



Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.



Sustainable Development Goals: Targeting economic, social & environmental development

In 2015, the United Nations launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the aim of shifting the world toward a more sustainable and resilient path by 2030. This year, we are measuring our communities' wellbeing with the help of the SDG lens. The goals align well with Vital Signs. By connecting our actions here at home with those occurring at a global level, we're better able to understand our work as part of a larger effort.

A greater sense of belonging . . .

. . . has the capacity to transform our lives and the places we live. It translates into safer, more resilient and inclusive communities; is integral to our health and well-being; creates a flourishing and diverse culture; and inspires relationship-building and community participation.

What is Northwestern Alberta's Vital Signs®?

Northwestern Alberta's Vital Signs brings together research – statistics and community perceptions – along with community action to provide a snapshot of our communities and the people who live here. This knowledge-driven tool highlights where our strengths are as communities and where the gaps lie. Vital Signs invites every citizen and leader to identify priorities, start conversations, and make informed decisions to drive positive change – where no one is left behind.

How to use this report

Become More Informed	Spark Dialogue	Make Informed Donor Choices	Take Action
Join citizens and leaders who use Vital Signs as a tool to better understand life in Northwestern Alberta to shape resilient vibrant communities.	Behind each number is a story. Talk to those around you about the real impact of the data on our communities.	Vital Signs connects donors to local needs, so you can direct your support where it is most needed.	What issues matter most to you? Vital Signs is a knowledge-tool aimed at supporting informed action to improve our collective quality of life.

The Methodology: How did we develop the report?

Vital Signs Leadership Committee

A volunteer panel of community representatives provides expertise and guidance throughout the production of the report.

Online Citizen Opinion Survey

Conducted in Spring 2019, the voluntary survey targeted citizens ages 15 and older in the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, and the MD of Greenview. It was promoted in schools and through email, media and social media, community newsletters and local organizations.

Indicator Data Sources

Data was collected from national, provincial and local sources. 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 communities
- Perceived public interest

For the purposes of this report:

We use the term 'Indigenous' to be an inclusive term that encompasses all who identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit, while recognizing their unique cultural identities.

We use the terms City, County and Greenview to refer to the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview respectively.

View the full report with all data and sources

www.buildingtomorrowtoday.com

Land Acknowledgements

Why we recognize we are on Treaty 8 Territory

When you attend public events, it's likely you have heard it acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of Treaty 8. You may not, however, understand what this means. In preparing this Vital Signs, we are grateful for the guidance and support of the **Grande Prairie Friendship Centre**. We also appreciate the opportunity to share with you the Land Acknowledgement Resource created by the **Grande Prairie Aboriginal Circle of Services (GPACOS)**.

As noted in this resource: "GPACOS recognizes that this area is full of wonderfully diverse and unique Indigenous peoples and histories, and respects that this resource may not suit everyone. We encourage those utilizing this resource to reflect on the wording and engage in dialogue with other Indigenous folks."

Please see the Vital Signs sources on the CFNWAB website for a link to this document.

Land Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the homeland of the many diverse First Nations and Métis people whose ancestors have walked this land since time immemorial.

We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Treaty 8. Formal for more formal settings, bigger groups, or longer meetings.

We acknowledge the Indigenous people and ancestors whose land we are on.

Short for more casual occasions or after someone has already made the formal acknowledgement.

The following can help us better understand the Land Acknowledgements:

Homeland for First Nations & Métis:

Often, homeland is used only for Métis peoples within the area. However, the term homeland also encompasses the various First Nations people of the area. As such, it has been used for both First Nations and Métis acknowledgement.

Homeland before Treaty:

Often, acknowledgement of the Treaty is first within a Land Acknowledgement. However, the Treaty is an agreement that was made with settlers later in history - the Indigenous peoples had been on this land since time immemorial. As such, we feel it is important to recognize the homeland before the Treaty.

Acknowledging our Ancestors:

While certain groups of people continue to live on this land, there are many no longer present today that have a strong history and tie to the land. Thus, we acknowledge the people and the Ancestors.

First Nations:

Sometimes specific First Nations are acknowledged within the area, such as Cree and Beaver. However, this potentially leaves out important groups. Instead, we have chosen the term First Nations to encompass the various peoples of this area.

Métis Region:

Sometimes the Métis Region is acknowledged for Métis peoples. However, some Métis peoples are tied to their settlements not the region. Instead, we have chosen the term homeland to encompass the lands in which the Métis peoples whose land we are on.

Acknowledging Treaty:

In some cases, Indigenous people reject the term Treaty due to the oppressive and colonial history of treaties. While this is an educational piece to share, Treaty 8 still exists and continues to affect the lives of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people today. Thus, we feel it is important to acknowledge and recognize that we are in traditional territory of Treaty 8.

Gratitude:

We have added that "we are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Treaty 8." This ties the past to the present and recognizes where we stand today. It also expresses necessary gratitude and brings a good feeling to the acknowledgement.

A treaty is a historical agreement between First Nations people and the Canadian government that outlines how the land would be shared by all. It was agreed by all parties that the terms of Treaty 8 would be followed for "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow". On June 21, 1899, the eighth treaty between the Indians of North America and the Queen of England was signed. The signatories of Treaty 8 agreed to its terms for reasons of peace and friendship – ensuring what they thought would be a partnership.
<http://www.treaty8.ca/>

POPULATION SNAPSHOT

Recognizing the **unique socio-demographic profile** of a region is an important first step in understanding the needs and circumstances of its residents.

Alberta

Population
4,067,175

Median Age
36.7

Population Growth
11.6%***

Canada

Population
35,151,728

Median Age
41.2

Population Growth
5.0%***

City of Grande Prairie

Population Growth*** 13.5%

Population (federal census) **63,166**

Indigenous Identity 10.6%

Visible Minority 11.9%

Immigrant 10.7%

Median Total Income* \$118,026

Average Household Size 2.6

Median Age 31.9

Male: 50.8% **Female:** 49.2%

Age
0-14: 21.7% 15-64: 71.2% 65+: 7.1%

Top Places of Birth:

Immigrants
Philippines, India, United Kingdom
United States, Germany

Recent Immigrants
Philippines, India, Nigeria, Mexico,
United States

Population (2018 municipal census)
69,088

County of Grande Prairie No.1

Population growth*** 13.5%

Population **22,303**

Indigenous Identity 6.9%

Visible Minority 2.0%

Immigrant 4.6%

Median Total Income* \$134,049

Average Household Size 2.9

Median Age 36.7

Male: 51.5% **Female:** 48.5%

Age
0-14: 23.3% 15-64: 67.7% 65+: 9.0%

Top Places of Birth:

Immigrants
United States, Germany, United
Kingdom, Netherlands, Philippines

Recent Immigrants
Philippines

MD of Greenview No. 16

Population growth*** 5.4%

Population **5,583**

Indigenous Identity 13.4%

Visible Minority 1.3%

Immigrant 4.0%

Median Total Income* \$102,016

Average Household Size 2.6

Median Age 39.9

Male: 52.1% **Female:** 47.9%

Age
0-14: 20.4% 15-64: 66.0% 65+: 13.6%

Top Places of Birth:

Immigrants
United States, Germany,
Belize, Mexico

Recent**

On January 1, 2019, the former Town of Grande Cache became designated as a hamlet administered by the MD of Greenview

Hamlet of Grande Cache
(based on 2016 federal census)

Population
3,571

Median Age
36.5

Learning

Communities that thrive encourage a thirst for knowledge – at every age and stage of life. As the world changes, education at all life stages helps Canadians adapt to new challenges.

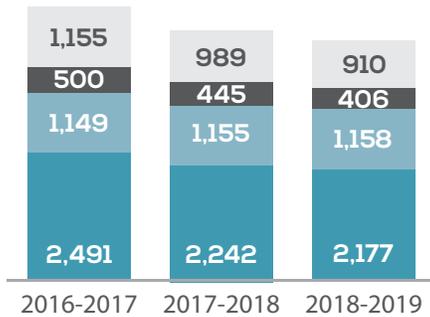
Investing in our Communities

The YMCA of Northern Alberta's After School Learning Adventure provides a fun, comfortable social environment for youth to complete their school work, which encourages peer tutoring and promotes the importance of literacy and skill-building through educational initiatives.



Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) Enrolment

● Full-time ● Part-time
● Indigenous (self-identified) ● Apprenticeship



Mean age of students: 25.2 years (2018-19)

FACT:

91% of Canadians believe sports participation teaches children important life skills.



Investing in Students to Help Them Achieve their Post-Secondary Goals

Since 2005, the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta has invested in 252 post-secondary students to assist them with costs of education. In 2018, 33 post-secondary students were recipients of

\$34,990 in financial support.

Did you know?

Research suggests that children who experience a greater sense of holistic well-being are more likely to

learn effectively,

engage in healthy social behaviours, and invest in other's well-being.

Canadian Youth & Current Affairs

Canadian youth (ages 15-30) who stated they rarely or never follow news & current affairs:

12% (2003) **23%** (2013)



Of those youth who follow the news/current affairs, 77% use the Internet, more than 2X the rate of older Canadians.

Art Gallery of Grande Prairie Learning Programs on the Rise

13,337 participants in 2018-19, up

30.1%

over 2015-16

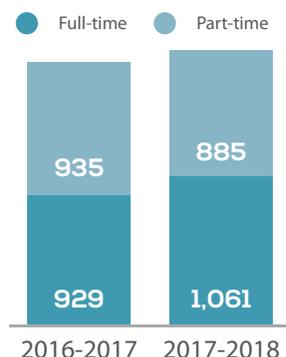


School Mental Health Support

County of Grande Prairie Community School Liaison Counsellors provided service to 839 students (2018-19) and 668 students (2017-18) either one on one or in a group setting.

Themes centre around issues creating increased anxiety for students.

Northern Lakes College Students in Credit Programs



Sleep Boosts Brain Health

Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of Canadian school-aged children & youth meet the sleep recommendation within the Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children and Youth. 84% of 3-4-year-olds meet the sleep recommendation.



Building Relationships and Understanding

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise program is a unique, participatory history lesson – developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators – fostering truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

This past year, the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre hosted several Blanket Exercises, including a barrier-free exercise in partnership with Spinal Cord Injury Alberta.

LIBRARY 2018	VISITS	ELECTRONIC CONTENT <small>% Increase 2016</small>	PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS CHILDREN, TEENS, ADULTS
SEXSMITH SHANNON	21,807	3,430 12%	2,016
GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC	235,546	51,741 3.5%	14,535
LA GLACE COMMUNITY	5,424	N/A	995

Libraries: Community Hubs to Learn and Connect

Today's libraries are more than just hard cover books. They are community hubs, providing important

lifelong learning opportunities

as well as places to engage, thereby strengthening community bonds.



Canadian Women Majority in Health Fields

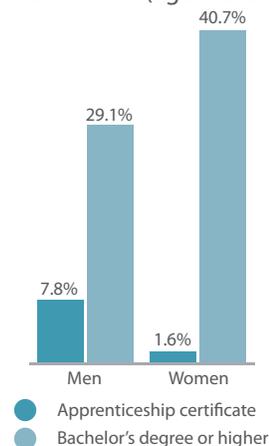
In 2016, women accounted for 92.7% of young nursing graduates (ages 25-34) at the bachelor's level & 64.4% of young graduates with medical degrees.

Most graduates (2016) in health fields (all education levels) were women & they found work matching their studies.

Apprenticeship Certificates, 2016

Compared with other provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan had the highest proportion of men (ages 25-64) with apprenticeship certificates in the skilled trades.

Canadians (ages 25-34)



In a Canadian workplace study, volunteer activities were cited by managers as boosting employee morale. What's more, volunteering often augments the skill sets and experience of volunteers, helping their own labour market success and the business success of their employers.

Investing in our Communities

Low literacy skills are directly linked to poverty, poor health and high unemployment. Frontier College's network of volunteers provides excellent and effective programming to improve literacy in communities.



Economic Impact of Alberta's Charitable Sector

Charitable organizations in Alberta

spend approximately **\$18.4** billion on salaries and other compensation, and contribute

a total of **\$33.4** billion in total expenditures to our economy. Sector employees are well educated,

with **70.0%** having a post-secondary education.



Local Food in Alberta:

\$1 billion growing market

- Farm retail purchases: \$303.7 million (2016), up from \$154.3 million (2012)
- Farmer's market purchases: \$924.5 million (2016), up from \$724.0 million (2012)
- Market value of restaurants chosen for serving Alberta food ingredients: \$395.6 million (2016), up from \$373.9 million (2012)

Local food purchases Alberta households, 2016

- 78% purchased at a farmers' market
- 36% purchased at a farm retail
- 23% chose restaurants because they use Alberta food ingredients

Entrepreneurial City

Grande Prairie was named the 6th most entrepreneurial community in Canada (2018) by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Women in Trades (Canada)

20.7% of female apprentices were in male-dominated programs. In contrast, 0.5% of male apprentices chose a female-dominated program.

Factors associated with female apprentices selecting a male-dominated apprenticeship:

- Canadian-born
- Older in age
- Father with a trades certificate
- Participant in Youth Apprenticeship program or trade, vocational or technical program in high school

Indigenous Businesses

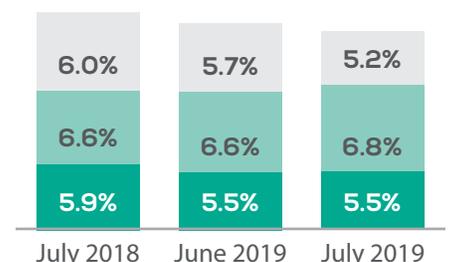
As of Jan 2017, there were **1,725** businesses in Alberta Indigenous communities (9% of total Indigenous businesses in Canada).

Alberta's share of total revenue generated by businesses in Indigenous communities:

- 26% (\$390 million) non-employer businesses
- 3% (\$1.1 billion) businesses with employees

Unemployment Rate

● Canada ● Alberta ● Grande Prairie City Grande Prairie County Greenview Economic Region**



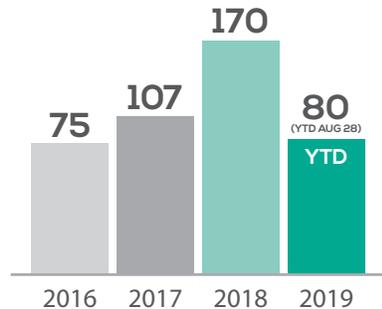
One half of Canadian youth ages 25-30

conduct transactions on the Internet at least weekly – almost twice that of older Canadians.



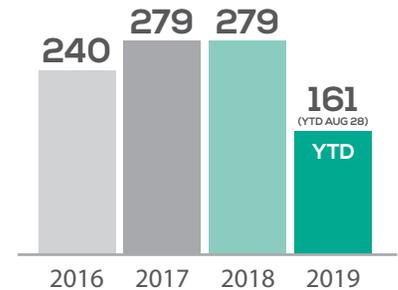
Drilling Rig Moves County of Grande Prairie

Drilling Rig Moves are a helpful tool to measure exploration activity.



Service Rig Moves County of Grande Prairie

Service Rig Moves are a good indicator of the service industry overall, such as wells completed, maintaining operating wells, etc.



Debt and Canada's Youth Millennials are now the largest generation of people in Canada.

They're the most educated and diverse generation, but they face unique challenges. They have higher assets and net worth than young Gen-Xers, but they also carry

more debt.

81% of Albertans that died of opiod poisoning (2017) were employed in the following occupations:

- 53% Trades, transport & equipment operators
- 16% Sales & services
- 8% Natural resources & agriculture
- 4% Business, finance & administration

About 18% of employed Albertans worked in the trades, transport & equipment operators category (2016).

2019 Vital Signs Survey of those survey respondents who are post-secondary students,

Employment Opportunities

65%

was their top choice when selecting community strengths.

Recreation

47%

was their second choice.

Growing Trade Area, 2018

The Grande Prairie area's total market size exceeds

\$4.7 billion

in retail spending, mainly due to its large and growing trade area population of almost 290,000.



Smaller Community Organizations Face Higher Risk of Stress

Almost **2/3** of community organizations in Grande Prairie have 10 or fewer employees.

Research shows that organizations with fewer paid staff (< 10) are more likely to experience stress, compared to those with larger numbers of employees, or those that are entirely voluntary.

Indigenous knowledge—including language, traditions and ceremonies—contributes in significant ways to Indigenous people’s sense of identity and belonging. It’s an important activity and key aspect of well-being.

First Nations Information Governance Centre, National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health

Investing in our Communities

The Elder’s Caring Shelter Society of Grande Prairie Youth and Elder Retreat connects Indigenous elders with youth locally, facilitating a connection between the generations and sharing of the heart of their community with each other through arts and culture.



Parks, trails and greenspaces provide opportunities for residents to be active, connect and strengthen feelings of belonging.

Local: In a local recreation survey,

91% of respondents agree that recreation brings the community together.

National:

98% of Canadians believe that recreation and parks are essential services.

Gap:

According to Statistics Canada, children who live in unsafe neighborhoods, children of new immigrants and children coming from low-income families are less likely to participate in sports.

Opportunity:

For children, joining a sports team is an opportunity to learn, create new friendships, and develop fundamental skills.

Breaking Records in 2019 Art Gallery of Grande Prairie

The recent exhibition *Itchiku Kubota: What Do the Mountain Spirits Ponder?*

November & December 2018
Record breaking attendance

January 2019
Highest attendance in gallery’s 44-year history

Best selling exhibition catalogue in gallery’s 44-year history

Sports for people with developmental disabilities reduces isolation

for athletes and their caregivers alike.

Around 1/3

of Canadian 3-21-year-olds with severe developmental disabilities play team sports. Fewer program options exist for children, youth & adults transitioning into work or community programs than for kids ages 0-6.



Walking With Our Sisters (WWOS)

In June 2018, the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie worked with the Grande Prairie Aboriginal Circle of Services and the Walking with our Sisters Committee to host a

9-day memorial exhibition

honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two spirited individuals.

Lakes, Rivers and “Catch” Opportunities

A diverse set of waterways throughout Greenview offers anglers a fishing experience for walleye, whitefish, jackfish or rainbow trout. The area offers catch and release fishing for bull trout, Arctic grayling, walleye, pike and Rocky Mountain whitefish.



Alberta Culture & Sport Sector Employment

66,584 Albertans were employed in the Culture & Sport Sector in 2017.

Between 2014 & 2017:

Culture sector jobs decreased by

8.4%

Recreation sector jobs increased by

4.4%



More “Urban” Fishing Opportunities

The County Sportsplex Pond, new in 2018, offers all-ages recreational angling. The catch and release pond, a partnership with the Alberta Conservation Association, is annually stocked with about

2,220
rainbow trout.



The **Muskoseepi Pond**, located in Grande Prairie, is stocked seasonally with trout by Alberta Fish and Wildlife.

Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum Visitors, 2019

26%

Greater Grande Prairie area

30%

rest of Alberta

25%

British Columbia

13%

rest of Canada

6%

outside of Canada.

Record Visitor Numbers, 2019

On International Museum Day (May), a free admission day was held in cooperation with two City of Grande Prairie museums. The PJCDM had

1,930 visitors,

the single most number of visitors in one day since the soft opening in September 2015.

Camping Popular Among Locals

68%

of Grande Prairie Area Recreation Master Plan survey respondents indicated their household participates in camping.



Moving the Body in Mindful Ways



Green View FCSS partners with the schools in Valleyview and surrounding areas to offer students in Grades 3 and 6 a MindUp program that bring awareness to issues such as healthy relationships, coping with challenging emotions, broadening perspectives, and moving the body in mindful ways.

Annual Canadian Death Race, Grande Cache Alive and Well

1,100 runners in 2019

Up from 800 in 2018 &

600 in 2017



(Not including child participants.)

Art Gallery of Grande Prairie visits increase 2018/19 season

24,600 visitors

(15% increase over year prior)



Physical Activity and Canadian Children and Youth

Only 35% of

5-to-17-year-olds are reaching their recommended physical activity levels as outlined in the Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children and Youth.

Just 62% of

3-to-4-year-olds are achieving the recommended activity levels for their age group.

Building Relationships Through the Arts

People who frequent arts venues have high rates of volunteering - up to

2x higher

than non-attendees - report better physical and mental health, and report higher satisfaction with life.

Environment

From the resources that fuel our economy to the medicines that heal us, and the happiness of outdoor enthusiasts to the lessons that guide many religious or spiritual beliefs, the wellbeing of people depends on the state of the environment.

Investing in our Communities

A GPRC student research project currently underway, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta, is building knowledge of the environmental sector in Northwestern Alberta by creating an inventory report to address environmental issues, educate citizens and identify local opportunities for change through stewardship and action.



Waste to Power

In 2018, Aquatera's Bioreactor Landfill produced enough electricity to

power 926 homes and heat 90 homes for one year.

Alberta's first commercial-scale geothermal facility, to be located in the MD of Greenview, will generate

5 megawatts

of electricity annually (enough to power about

6,800 homes)

and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about

20,000 tonnes per year.

Paleontological Activity Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum

2019

Over 250 fossil specimens collected at 4 major sites +
Pipestone Creek Bonebed

2018

238 fossil specimens collected at 3 major sites +
Pipestone Creek Bonebed

Bottle Donation Program 2018

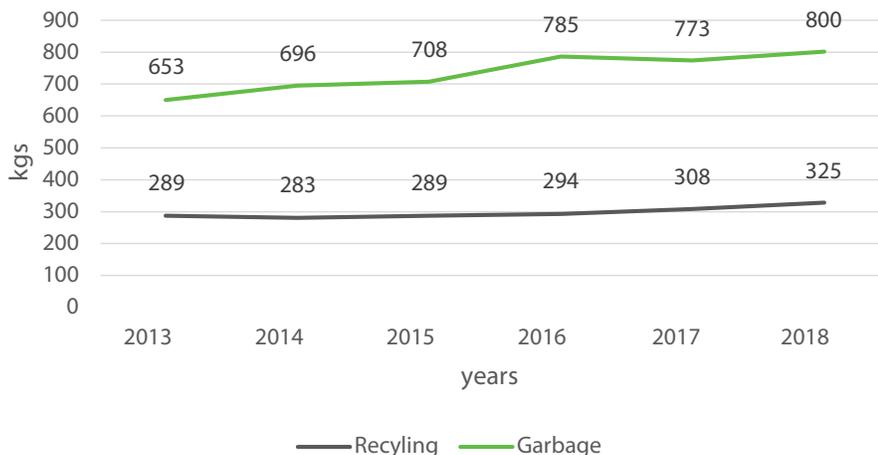
Keeping bottles out of the landfill and putting dollars into the community. Bottles donated raise funds to support community organizations.

Aquatera

\$56,000



Aquatera Total Residential Per Dwelling Recycling & Garbage Collected



Eco-Industrial Park in Greenview

The Tri-Municipal Partnership (TMIP) is a proposed world-class heavy eco-industrial park - a partnership between Greenview, the County, and the City - that aims to **responsibly & sustainably** blend industrial development with the natural environment.



Connecting Science Class to the Real World

1,200 local Grade 6 students visited Wapiti Ski Trails in 2018 to learn about the forest industry & sustainability practices.



Planting Livable & Edible Communities

272 fruit trees, bushes & plant varieties planted by City staff (2018)

110 trees/shrubs planted by City volunteers on TD Tree Days (2018)

TD Tree Days Goal: 1 million trees planted in Canada & the US by 2030

Urban Litter Increasing

In 2018, the City Parks Department disposed of 219 tonnes of litter found around parks & public areas.

Up 32% from 2017.



Roadside Clean-Up

In 2019,

30 non-profit organizations

participated in the County Roadside Clean-up, helping remove several tonnes of garbage over several hundred km of ditches. \$50,000 was raised for their programs.



Energy Efficiency

Since the creation of Energy Efficiency Alberta in 2017,

nearly **8%** of Grande Prairie homes have been upgraded with energy-efficient products.

A substantial part of Canadian agriculture, honey bees contribute approximately

\$4.6 billion

annually from pollination services and bee products. Over recent years, the declining health of honey bees has resulted in some beekeepers losing up to

25%-35%

of their colonies over winter.

Did you know?

Every year, **over 20**

eagles spend the winter at the Aquatera Landfill, leaving in late Spring.

Grande Prairie City Council set

emission reduction targets

of 20% for the organization (to be reached by 2019) and 6% for the community (to be achieved by 2030).

Change in GHG emissions: City Operations

11% reduction from a 3-yr average (2014/15/16) to 2017

Community

3% reduction from a 3-yr average (2014/15/16) to 2017

National Honey Bee Health Survey

From 2014-18, the National Bee Diagnostic Centre in Beaverlodge conducted a National Honey Bee Health Survey, the

first study of its kind in

Canada. The study will provide baseline data for bee health for use in future analysis.

According to the Journal of Public Health, an increased sense of community belonging is just as important as developing healthcare policies and programs that meet the needs of individuals.

A 2018 Conference Board of Canada report showed a link between positive health outcomes and volunteering. Researchers found that people who volunteered showed improvements in health issues like mortality, mental health and life satisfaction.

Investing in our Communities

The Suicide Prevention Resource Centre's Breakfast Club is a co-ed program for youth ages 9-17-years-old that helps participants deal with mental health issues. The fun and interactive program gives them tools and strategies to cope with feelings such as stress and anxiety, and the opportunity to interact with peers.



Proportion of Population 12 years and over without a Regular Medical Doctor 2015-16

Access to a family doctor is a more effective means of sustaining good health than is the episodic use of emergency care.

North Zone	27.3%
Alberta	18.7%
Canada	17.5%

Persons Living with Disabilities

22.3% of Canadians* 15 years & over have a disability. The most common types of disabilities are pain-related, flexibility and mobility.

*Disability information is not currently available at the community level for our area.

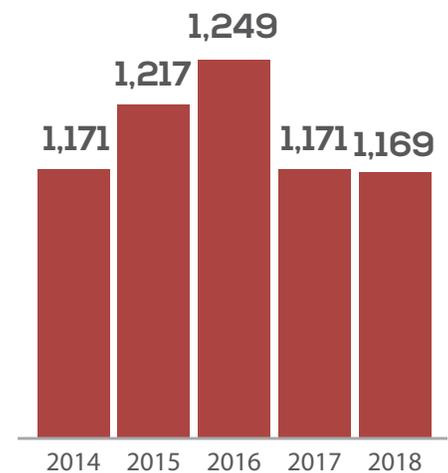


Vaping in Canada (2017)

23% of youth (15-19), 29% of young adults (20-24) & 13% of adults (25+) had tried vaping.

Youth vaping rate remained the same compared to 2015. Adult vaping increased from 11% (2015)

Births - Grande Prairie



Sexually Transmitted Infections

3,405 STI/HIV cases were reported in the AHS North Zone.

	% Increase or Decrease compared to 2017	
	North Zone	Alberta
Chlamydia	NO CHANGE	4.8 ↑
Gonorrhea	15.2 ↑	5.3 ↑
HIV	17.2 ↓	13.2 ↓
Infectious syphilis	324.5% ↑	187.1% ↑

Most Common Types of Disabilities in Canadians

Seniors: pain, mobility and/or flexibility, and hearing

Ages 15 & over: mental health disabilities (7%) are ranked 4th in prevalence.

Youth: mental health-related (8%) are the most common type, followed by learning (6%) and pain-related (4%)

Youth Accessing Walk-In Clinics

48% of Alberta youth rely on walk-in clinics

for their health care needs.

3/4 of youth were "uncomfortable" or "very uncomfortable" discussing their trans status and trans specific health care needs with doctors at a walk-in clinic.

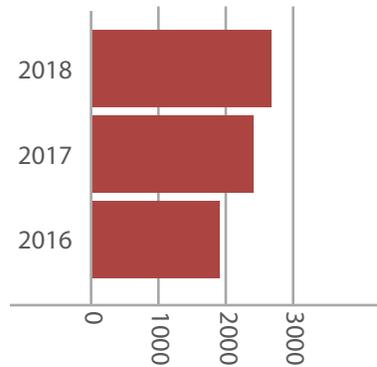
Support in our Homes

Local Home Support programs provide services like light housekeeping to assist people when it becomes difficult to manage their homes, increasing overall wellbeing and independence, and improving quality of life.

As our senior population grows, so does service demand. Seniors are a large percentage of local program clients.

- 86%** County Home Support
- 70%** City Home Support
- 89%** Green View Home Support

Number of Suicide-Related Calls to Alberta Health Services Health Link Alberta (2015-2018)



Cyberbullying on the Rise

Nearly 100% of Canadian youth ages 15-30 use the Internet daily or own a smartphone.

(similar across all provinces & household incomes)

17% of youth ages 15-30 said they were cyberbullied or cyberstalked within the past 5 years.

More Options for Childbirth

In November 2018, Grande Prairie became the first area in the Alberta Health Services North Zone to contract midwives.

Currently,

three resident midwives

serve the area.

Suicide in Alberta

In 2018, **7,254** Albertans visited the emergency department for suicide attempts.

- 50% of all emergency room visits were made by youth ages 0-24.
- 3 out of 4 suicide deaths are male. Almost 50% are ages 40-64.

Cyclists ages 12 and over Who Always or Most of the Time Wear a Helmet While Cycling

North Zone	46.5%	(2017)
	37.5%	(2015)
Alberta	66.0%	(2017)
	60.3%	(2015)



Accidental Fentanyl Related Poisoning Deaths in Grande Prairie Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2019

The City of Grande Prairie had the highest rate of accidental fentanyl-related poisoning deaths at 59.0 per 100,000 population, followed by the City of Lethbridge (36.7).

GRANDE PRAIRIE			
2016	2017	2018	2019 Q1
RATE	RATE	RATE	RATE
13.4	23.4	32.4	59.0 (11 COUNT)

Supervised Consumption Site

This year, Northreach Society opened Grande Prairie's first site, and Alberta's only mobile supervised consumption site.

March 11 to June 30, 2019:

- 2,326 visits by 129 individuals
- 287 referrals to health & social services
- 57 overdoses responded to by staff with 0 fatalities
- 2,158 needles dropped off for disposal

Belonging can perhaps be best understood as something people experience when they feel accepted and valued for who they are, regardless of the norms by which our culture assigns worth, such as income level, educational attainment, ethnicity, and/or health status.

Investing in our Communities

The Centre for Creative Arts Society of Grande Prairie Healing Arts program is designed to enrich the lives of local community members that face a variety of barriers. Through art instruction, discussion, studio time and exhibition opportunity H.A.P.I allows individuals a chance to express themselves, build self-esteem, find hidden talents and experience a sense of positive accomplishment.



Vital Signs Survey 2019

Respondents ages 65 & over:

88.4% always vote in elections (compared to 74.1% of all respondents 18 & over)

31.6% volunteer at least once per week (compared to 11.4% of all respondents)

Canadian Youth and Civic Engagement

Canadian youth (15-30) are less likely to vote but still socially & civically engaged:

67% are members of a group or association vs. 65% for the general population

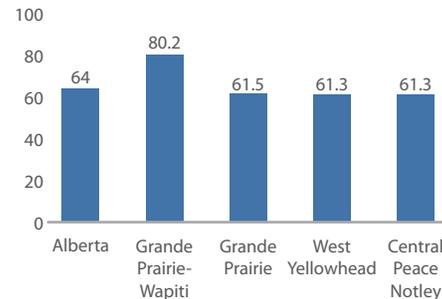
48% volunteer

71% gave to a charitable or non-profit organization

45% have confidence in Canadian Parliament vs. 38% for the general population

2019 Alberta Provincial Election Voter Turnout (%)

Voting is a sign of being connected to community.



Elections Alberta Unofficial Results

Did you know?

People involved in activism rate higher on several indicators of well-being. It's more than just agitating for change—it's also about **building stronger connections to community through people and causes.**

Giving

The proportion of people who give is shrinking each year.

% of people who donate: **21.9%** (2013) ↓ **20.0%** (2017)

Canada

However, those donors are giving larger amounts

Average annual donations: **\$280** (2013) ↑ **\$300** (2017)

% of people who donate: **22.8%** (2013) ↓ **19.8%** (2017)

Alberta

Average annual donations: **\$420** (2013) ↑ **\$480** (2017)

% of people who donate: **17.2%** (2013) ↓ **14.0%** (2017)

Grande Prairie

Average annual donations: **\$390** (2013) ↑ **\$470** (2017)

Did you know?

Charitable donations are more common among people who

take part in cultural activities.



A Culture of Helping Out

Indigenous people have strong cultural traditions of sharing and caring for each other without expectations of payment. The term volunteer does not even exist in most Indigenous languages, because helping out – people’s responsibility to each other – is such an inherent part of life.

Volunteering

More than

8 in 10

Canadians provided unpaid help to others who were on their own (2014). However, since the 2008 recession, formal volunteering is on the decline (49.1% in 2014).



Faith and Sense of Belonging

Religion and faith can be an important source of belonging, maintaining social relationships, and a feeling of interconnectedness.

People who have a strong connection to a spiritual community are more likely to have positive mental, physical and emotional health outcomes.

Community Helpers

Mental health peer support training to enhance the helping skills of youth who are natural helpers.

In 2018-19:

394

Community Helpers were trained or partially trained at

5

schools

Regular Attendance in Group Activities Leads to Closer Connections

77% of Canadians who took part in group activities or meetings at least once per month have more than 10 friends or acquaintances compared with 59% of those who had participated less often and 45% of those who never participated in group activities.

% of Population 12+ Community Belonging

In 2015-16 in the Alberta Health Services North Zone,

71.9%

of the population 12 and over reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. This is higher than the national rate (68.4%), and the provincial rate (69.5%).

Leadership Program for Local LGBTQ Youth

About

5% to 8%

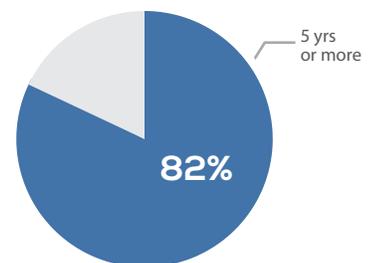
of Canadian youth (15-30) consider themselves to be either homosexual or bisexual.

Northreach Society LGBTQ Youth Mentor program

builds leadership skills

to improve resiliency among youth who can experience barriers and feelings of isolation. By engaging in the arts, youth are encouraged to use creative expression as an outlet.

Percentage of community volunteers that have lived in Grande Prairie for 5 years or more.



Volunteering can be a measurement of community engagement.

Gap in Standard of Living

As communities become more socially inclusive, they support resilience in their citizens, resulting in individuals, families and communities that have the means to cope with both the ups and downs of day-to-day life, but also with the additional stresses that arise from larger disruptions.

City of Grande Prairie Social Sustainability Framework 2018

Investing in our Communities

The Society for Support to Pregnant and Parenting Teens provides support programming for adolescent parents and their children offering a wide range of services with the goal of empowering pregnant and parenting teens to make positive decisions.



The Salvation Army Grande Prairie

Demand for the Salvation Army's meals and hampers continue to rise (2018).

29,378 meals served

(increase of 16.6% over 2017)

2,950 hampers (increase of 15.7%)

Served

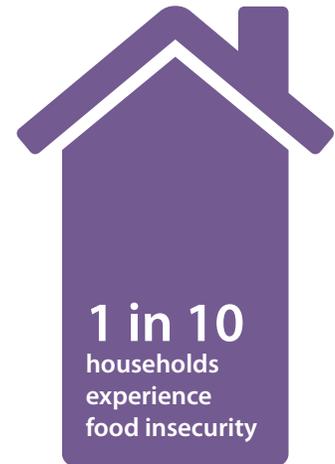
3,800 families

1,300 children

5,670 individuals



Food Insecurity in Alberta



Communities Addressing Food Insecurity

The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre provides hot meals to individuals at risk or in need.

Beaverlodge Food Bank usage has increased. The food bank and Christmas Hamper program support local families in times of need, especially during the holidays.

Food drives are an opportunity to donate healthy non-perishable items.

Low Income: Barrier to Accessing Sustainably Grown Foods

Canadians and Albertans living with low-incomes are less likely to access smaller specialty grocers and farmers markets, where sustainably grown foods are more likely to be readily available.

Persons Living with Disabilities: Income Levels & Employment (Canada)

Almost **1/3** of working age adults with more severe disabilities are living in poverty, compared with 14% of those with milder disabilities and 10% of those without disabilities.

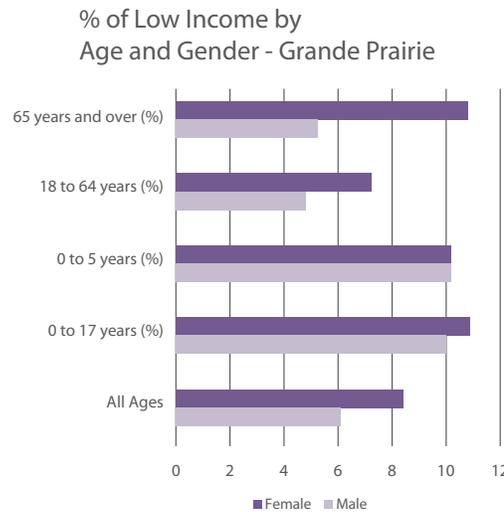


The highest rates of poverty

(for those ages 15-64 years) were among those with more severe disabilities who were living alone or were lone parents. Regardless of disability, 8 in 10 lone parents were women.

Low Income Population (2015)

Grande Prairie City (CA)
7.2% (2015) **6.0%** (2005)
 Grande Prairie County
6.1% (2015) **5.4%** (2005)
 Greenview
9.8% (2015) **12.8%** (2005)



Volunteer Low Income Tax Program Lessening the Gap

Contributing To...
 Poverty ↓
 Economic Self-Sufficiency ↑

In 2019 (YTD July), Green View FCSS, with trained volunteers, completed 605 returns, bringing \$3.1 million back into the community.

In 2018, the Seniors Outreach program completed 1,536 tax filings that helped return \$10.1 million to community members in the Grande Prairie area.

Reducing Financial Barriers to Active Lifestyles

The City's Recreation Access Program and the County's Recreation Fee Assistance Program both help ensure that qualifying low income residents have

access to recreation & fitness.

Aboriginal Community Activity Fee Assistance

The program

removes financial barriers

for residents of the Cooperatives and Enterprises to access the Recreation Centre in Grande Cache and participate in activities.

About 40 family, 15 adult and 15 youth 3-month passes are distributed annually by FCSS Green View.

Internet Usage: Potential Source of Social Exclusion for Seniors

Canadian seniors using the Internet increased from

32% (2007) to

68%

(2016). That rate is low compared with the 97% rate of Internet usage among all Canadians.

Food Security Indigenous Populations

There is limited research into the unique life circumstances and experiences of both on- and off-reserve Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) who live in food insecure households.

However, there is strong evidence to show a much greater prevalence and severity among Indigenous populations compared to the general public.

Did you know?

PARDS (Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society) uses

equine therapy

to offer a wide range of programs that seek to impact lives in many positive ways.

Age (older seniors use the Internet less often), education and income are factors in Internet usage.

- 89% (2016) of university educated seniors were Internet users, compared with 46% of seniors without a high school diploma.

Probability of Internet use was:

- 73% for seniors with household income \$60,000 to \$79,999, compared with 54% among seniors with incomes under \$20,000

- 79% for seniors with incomes of \$100,000 and over

Housing

A home is built on more than just housing. Connection to the community and a sense of belonging are important aspects of making a house a home. There needs to be a future in which cities provide opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more.

Investing in Our Community

The Wapiti Community Dorm Society, operating Rotary House, offers 24/7/365 accommodation to a wide range of clients. The Women's Mat Program has recently added an additional outreach worker to better serve the vulnerable individuals that find themselves in the mat program.



Household Characteristics as Proportion of Households in Core Housing Need, Grande Prairie (Average), 2016

Couple with children	13%
Lone-parent	24%
One-person	50%
Seniors	27%
Indigenous	17%
Household where at least one person has an activity limitation	47%
Immigrant Household	11%

House Sales in Grande Prairie

July 2019 YTD

1,523 homes have sold in Grande Prairie to date, down 6.0% in the same period in 2018.

Average Sale \$ City of GP Homes

July 2019 YTD

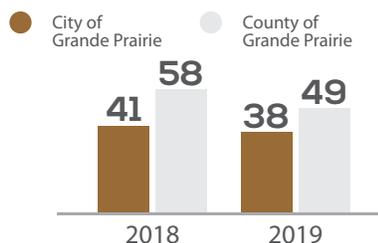
\$308,537 (2019)

\$305,386 (2018)

\$301,372 (2017)

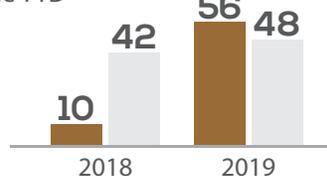
Single Family Housing Starts

June YTD

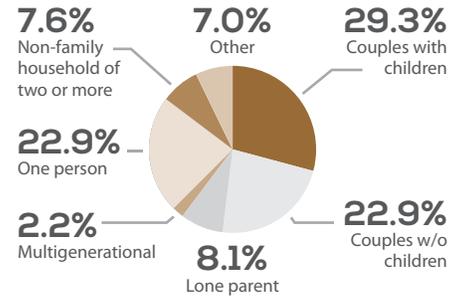


Multi Family Housing Starts

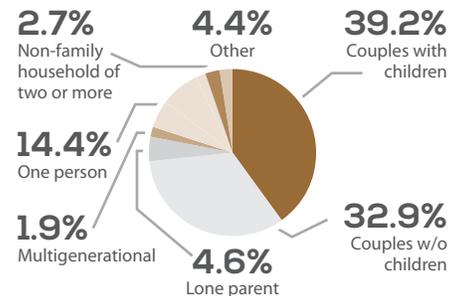
June YTD



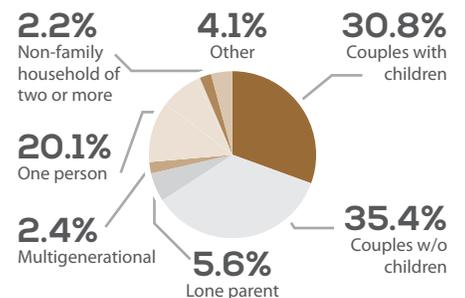
Types of households: City of Grande Prairie



Types of households: County of Grande Prairie



Types of households: MD of Greenview



Hotel Occupancy Rate

In June 2019, the average hotel occupancy rate in Grande Prairie was

65.9%. Year-to-date average occupancy was 63.2%, second highest occupancy rate in the province, with Banff the highest at 68.9%.



Housing First

Housing First supports people experiencing homelessness to find, maintain & increase independence in permanent housing.

After 6 months in housing (2018-19), statistics showed a reduction in people's use of health and justice systems:

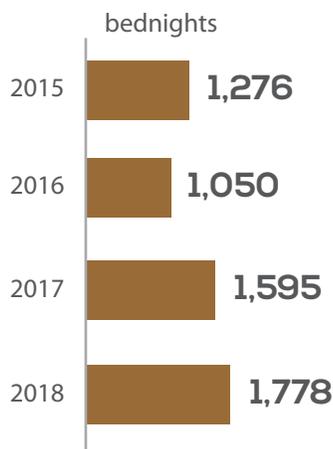


Housing First

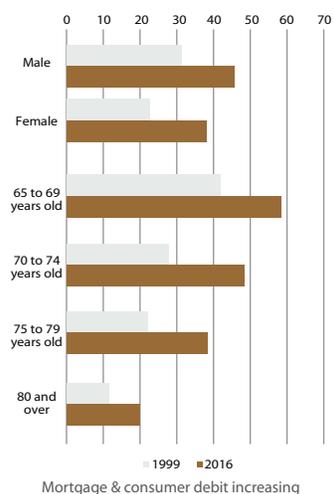
1,290

people housed since 2009. 46% of people housed (2018 & 2019) identified as Indigenous.

Increasing Demand at Sunrise House Youth Shelter



Percentage of Senior Families with Debt (Canada)



Young Adults Living with Parent(s)

% of young adults (25-34) living with at least one parent:

Grande Prairie City

13.0%

Grande Prairie County

24.2%

Greenview

23.0%

Canada is seeing an increase in young adults living with parents.

Rural Homelessness Count

In 2018, Alberta Rural Development Network conducted rural Alberta's first homelessness count.

The following summaries are based on surveys with unstably housed individuals.

Unstable Housing: Difficulty paying rent, spending a major portion of the household income on housing, frequent moves, living in overcrowded conditions, or doubling up with friends and relatives.

Grande Cache

20% were employed

56% were men

Median age 36

Top 3 services requested: Basic Needs, Health & Wellness, Transportation

Greenview

45% were employed

65% were women

Median age 38.5

Greenview ranked high for number of women seeking support with legal services (31%) and for domestic violence (19%).

County of Grande Prairie

32% were employed

72% were women

Median age 43

Highest % of men reporting inability to pay rent/mortgage as at least one reason for their housing instability (60%) & who reported camping as where they were staying in the past week (20%).

Getting Around (Transportation)

Lack of transportation is an obstacle to obtaining fresh food, maintaining employment, completing education, staying socially connected and generally being involved in the community.

Investing in our Communities

Seniors' Outreach is a "One Stop Shop" support for seniors. Offering assistance with a wide range of issues from pensions to home care, snow removal and Meals on Wheels, Seniors Outreach services improve quality of life for our senior population.



Getting Around in Nature

Research has proven that access to natural environments around communities improves quality of life.

2,700 km of outdoor trails in Greenview for hiking, biking, horses, ATVs & snow machines.

20 km paved & 6 km natural surface walking/cycling trails in the City's Muskoseepi Park.

5.6 km paved walking/cycling trails at the County's Wapiti Dunes Trail.

Grande Cache Visitor Centre Saw an Increase in Travellers

The Visitor Centre had

25% more visitors

(Jan to June 2019) over the same period in 2018.

Total number of visitors in 2018:

17,063

Transportation Poses a Barrier for Low Income Canadians

Low-income Canadians are

3X more likely to report challenges getting to stores, due to greater reliance on public transit and health-related walking/mobility challenges.



Valleyview Visitor Centre

19,339 total visitors (2018)

Who visited the Centre?

Top 5 countries (outside North America)	Germany
	UK/England
	China
	Switzerland
	Australia
Top 5 states	Alaska
	Michigan
	Minnesota
	Texas
	Wisconsin

Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Centre

Number of visitors in 2018

104,940

(down 8.1% from 2017)

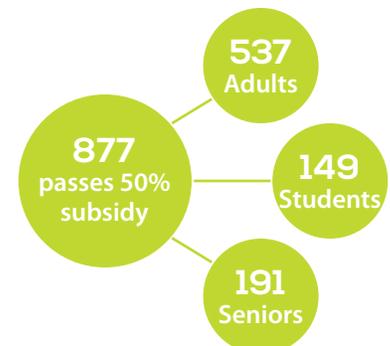
Visiting Groups (%)

Alberta	68.4%
Canada	15.8%
USA	10.0%
International	5.8%



Access to Transit

The City Transit Access Program is a program aiming to ensure low income individuals have access to transit.



City of Grande Prairie Transit Ridership (% change from 2017)

3.7% ↑ **8.7%** ↓
 Adult increase Student decrease

15.7% ↓ **11.9%** ↑
 Child decrease Seniors increase

Total Riders 2018 **636,363**

May be a 3-5% variance due to changes in data collection process.

Collision & Casualties Northwestern Alberta Highways 2012-2016

Some highway improvements are underway. Advocacy efforts for highway safety continue to be a priority.

	Hwy 40	Hwy 43
Collision Severity		
Fatal Collisions	12	34
Injury Collisions	149	515

Highway 40: 190 km between Grande Cache & Grande Prairie
 Highway 43: connects Edmonton to Whitecourt, Valleyview & Grande Prairie



Public Transit Connecting Rural Communities: County Connector

A 2-year rural transportation public transit pilot project is underway linking the County of Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Beaverlodge, Wembley, Hythe and the City of Grande Prairie. All buses are accessible and include two walker or wheelchair positions, have visual signs, make audible announcements, and are bike-rack equipped.



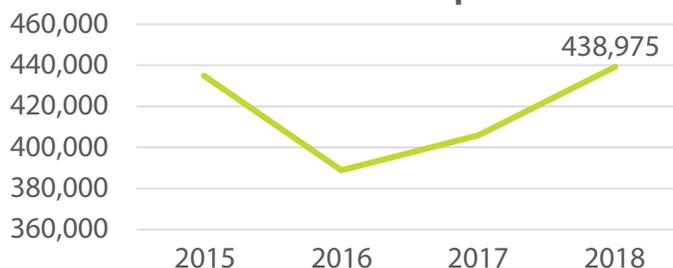
15%
(2019)

of cannabis users (675,000) in Canada with a valid license reported

driving within 2 hours of using.

Grande Prairie Airport Passenger Travel

Total Number of Passengers Grande Prairie Airport



In a recent study, the Grande Prairie Airport earned #1 airport in Canada for flights leaving on time (81.9% of flights).

Net Social Benefit of Proposed Highway 40 Twinning

\$483.7 million

The proposed 19-kilometre twinning project is located on the north portion of the highway. 10,000 vehicles per day travel this stretch of highway.

Safety

Commonly shared feelings of trust, belonging, and feeling safe are markers of inclusive societies.

Investing in our Communities

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie EUREKA program is a two-day alternative to violence workshop aimed at Grade 7 students. The workshop focuses on character-building, community-building and conflict resolution.



Firebreaks Going Green

A **20-hectare** firebreak north and south of Grande Cache acts as a barrier to slow or stop a bushfire or wildfire. Fire resistant plants planted in the firebreak create a “green” firebreak.



Removing Wildfire Fuel: FireSmart County of Grande Prairie

(removal of dead & MPB infected trees)

2010-16

16,000 trees removed

1,150 hectares treated

2017-18

10,000 trees removed

82.5 hectares treated

Emergency Wildfire Support

In response to fires in the High Level area this year, GPREP, a regional emergency management partnership of local municipalities offered support to those affected.

Over 800

evacuees registered locally

Food & lodging provided locally for over 4 weeks

GPREP fire departments sent 93 personnel to assist (front line firefighting & other support)

United Way Emergency Fund, 2018

In 2018, the United Way Emergency

fund provided **\$15,000** in assistance to individuals/families within the United Way Alberta Northwest Region requiring support in exceptional cases not covered by other funding sources.



Vital Signs Survey 2019

56% of respondents

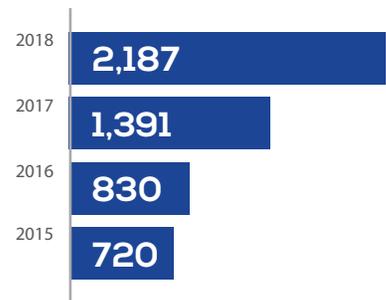
who have lived in their community less than 5 years know their neighbours well enough to ask for help.

Domestic Violence on the Rise: Odyssey House

2018/19: 25% increase (women) & 61% increase (children) seeking safe emergency shelter accommodation over the year prior.

778 women with **524** children requested accommodation. Space only available for 297 women and 164 children.

Domestic Violence Files on the Rise: Grande Prairie & District Victim's Services



2018 Crime Rates compared to 2017

Motor Vehicle Theft Rate (per 100,000)

City of Grande Prairie **994.3** ↑
(up 35.6%)

County of Grande Prairie/MD of Greenview NW* **965.2** ↑
(up 21.7%)

Alberta **545.8**

Canada **232.4**

Crime Severity Index

City of Grande Prairie **172.7** ↑
(up 11.1%)

County of Grande Prairie/MD of Greenview NW* **114.2** ↑
(up 16.4%)

Alberta **112.1**

Canada **75.0**

Total Property Crime Violations (per 100,000)

City of Grande Prairie **9,130.2** ↑
(up 9.8%)

County of Grande Prairie/MD of Greenview NW* **5,361.4** ↑
(up 22.3%)

Alberta **5,434.6**

Canada **3,339.0**

Sexual Assault (per 100,000)

City of Grande Prairie **117.7** ↑
(up 36.5%)

County of Grande Prairie/MD of Greenview NW* **18.3** ↓
(down 70.5%)

Alberta **81.3**

Canada **77.6**

Youth Crime Rate (per 100,000)

City of Grande Prairie **3,435.1** ↓
(down 10.9%)

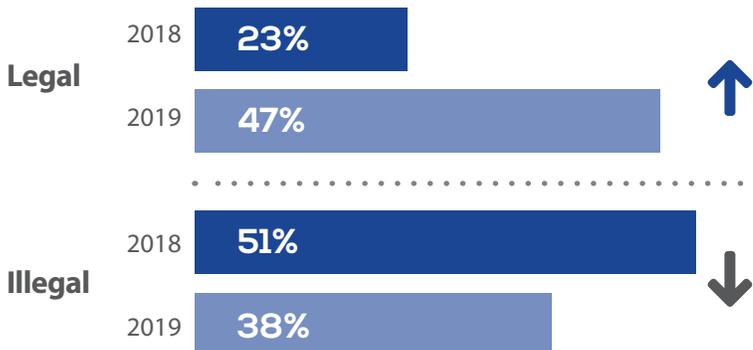
County of Grande Prairie/MD of Greenview NW* **733.0** ↓
(down 32%)

Alberta **2,090.3**

Canada **1,718.6**

The Cannabis Act became law on October 17, 2018 legalizing recreational cannabis.

More users (Canada) obtaining from legal sources; fewer from illegal sources since legalization (first quarter 2019)



Users could select more than one category. Family, friends, grow, other not shown.

Cannabis Use in Canada

Males (21%) were almost

twice as likely

to have used cannabis in the 1st half of 2019 as females (12%).

Cannabis Use in Canada

2nd quarter 2019

The number of Canadians **ages**

65+ reporting cannabis use

increased from 3% to 5% (over the same period in 2018 prior to legalization), while cannabis use among 15-64-year-olds remained

stable (ranging from 10%-25%, depending on the age group).

Discrimination and Canadian Youth

Discrimination challenges community relationships and

creates barriers

to the pursuit of wellbeing, especially for groups that are seen by others as different.

Discrimination and Canadian Youth

Canadian youth ages 15-30 are

more likely to report

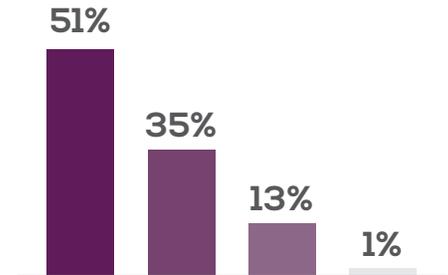
that they experienced discrimination than those ages 30 and over.

In the spring of 2019, the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta invited citizens (ages 15 and over) across the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview and the surrounding area to BE HEARD and share their thoughts on quality of life.

Survey methodology: The volunteer electronic survey was distributed via email and social media through the Community Foundation and with the support of community partners, including media, local schools and educational institutions.

Here's what **2,138** citizen respondents had to say:

Where do you live?



How do I identify?

	City	County	Greenview
Male	32%	37%	42%
Female	67%	62%	57%
Other	1%	1%	1%

Respondents born:

Outside of Canada			
	City	County	Greenview
	11%	3%	3%
In another province or territory			
	City	County	Greenview
	64%	22%	23%

Length of time in community

	City	County	Greenview
1 yr or less	5%	8%	4%
Over 10 yrs	63%	62%	71%

Employment (all municipalities)

More than one response could be selected

Full time	Unemployed
42%	20%
Retired	Student
6%	43%
Other	Part-time/casual
4%	28%

Age

Age	City	County	Greenview
15-17	18%	51%	51%
18-24	5%	7%	13%
25-30	9%	3%	3%
31-44	31%	17%	12%
45-64	29%	17%	15%
65+	8%	5%	6%

Top 10 Greatest Strengths of Your Community

City of Grande Prairie respondents

Employment	64%
Parks & Green Space	48%
Walking/Bicycle Paths	41%
Recreation	40%
Post-Secondary Education	25%
K-12 Education	34%
Festivals & Events	30%
Shopping	26%
Arts & Culture	23%
Sense of Community	17%

County of Grande Prairie and area respondents

K-12 Education	46%
Feeling Safe	42%
Recreation	40%
Employment	39%
Parks & Greenspace	37%
Walking/Bicycle Paths	35%
Sense of Community	29%
Festivals & Events	19%
Shopping	19%
Public Transit (City/County)	17%

MD of Greenview and area respondents

Recreation	54%
K-12 Education	50%
Feeling Safe	38%
Parks & Greenspace	37%
Sense of Community	33%
Employment	31%
Walking/Bicycle Paths	31%
Walkability*	20%
Festivals & Events	16%
Seniors Housing	15%

10 Most Important Issues Facing Your Community

Crime	62%
Cost of Living	57%
Quality of Roads	52%
Poverty &/or Homelessness	42%
Affordable Housing for all Ages	40%
Mental Health	40%
Access to a Regular Physician	30%
Access to/affordable Child Care	24%
Length of Time to See Physician	20%
Walkability	16%

Quality of Roads	58%
Crime	54%
Cost of Living	42%
Mental Health	35%
Affordable Housing for All Ages	29%
Length of Time to See Physician	28%
Access to a Regular Physician	27%
Poverty &/or Homelessness	26%
Access to/affordable Child Care	16%
More Employment Skills Training	13%

Quality of Roads	51%
Crime	44%
Length of Time to See Physician	41%
Mental Health	39%
Cost of Living	38%
Access to a Regular Physician	27%
Affordable Housing for All Ages	24%
Poverty &/or Homelessness	23%
Public Transit (City/County)	17%
Walking & Bicycle Paths	17%

“I feel I know my neighbours well enough to ask for help or offer assistance.”

City
63%

County
74%

Greenview
73%

“How do I usually connect with my neighbours?”

City: Chats in the yard, Neighbourhood parks, Visiting in homes, Social media

County: Chats in the yard, Visiting in homes, Social media, School

Greenview: Chats in the yard, Visiting in homes, Community events/facilities, School

There are many factors that influence community connectedness.

15-30	31 & over	
19%	39%	volunteer regularly (minimum once per month)
38%	40%	of non-volunteers have a weak sense of belonging to their community
53%	53%	are unsure if their community is doing enough to welcome newcomers
95%	95%	feel very or somewhat supported by family, companions and/or friends
35%	32%	frequently or very frequently feel uncomfortable or out of place due to experiencing discrimination
N/A	78%	say they always vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections
41%	62%	signed a petition in the past year
20%	46%	attended a meeting about a local issue in the past year

Top reason for not volunteering

“I don’t have enough time.”

Respondents (%) who did not engage in formal volunteering last year:

31% Ages 15-30 **26%** Ages 31+

Top three reasons for volunteering

Ages 15-30

1. To contribute to a particular cause
2. To improve community quality of life
3. To gain new skills or improve job opportunities

Ages 31 and over

1. To contribute to a particular cause
2. To improve community quality of life
3. Someone asked me

Respondents (seniors) ages 65 and over:

76% say their community is a good place to retire

96% always or almost always vote

69% feel they are receiving the care/supports they require

Top three reasons people donated to charity or non-profit

1. Support a cause I personally believe in
2. Contribute to the community
3. Compassion towards people in need

How connected do you feel to Canada?

	Ages 15-30		31 & over	
	2017	2019	2017	2019
Very	55%	43%	71%	68%
Somewhat	40%	52%	25%	24%
Hardly	4%	4%	3%	6%
Not at all	1%	1%	1%	2%

Top three reasons for voting

1. It is my right/duty/privilege
2. To voice my opinion
3. To support a candidate/party

Top reason people choose not to vote some or all of the time

“I didn’t know enough about the candidates/parties/issues.”

Respondents (%) who are unaware of where to access community information about services, or initiatives to address the opioid crisis

City
26%

County
17%

Greenview
17%

**Truth and Reconciliation:
Do you feel you have a role to play in reconciliation?**

Ages 15-30	Ages 31+
23%	45%
Yes	Yes
38%	24%
Unsure	Unsure

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission made 94 calls to action in its report on Indian Residential Schools.

Respondents (%) who are Somewhat or Very Familiar with the calls to action:

Ages 15-30	Ages 35+
52%	65%

Respondents (%) who think their community is a good place to raise a family

City
73%
(14% unsure)

County
82%
(11% unsure)

Greenview
77%
(13% unsure)

How connected do you feel to your community?

	Ages 15-30		31 & over	
	2017	2019	2017	2019
Very	21%	23%	34%	36%
Somewhat	54%	56%	50%	49%
Hardly	17%	16%	12%	12%
Not at all	8%	5%	4%	3%

Community participation

Top five groups respondents are most active in (random order)

- Sports/recreation
- Cultural, educational, arts
- Faith affiliated
- Community organization
- School group

Your word is the last word . . .

Respondents share their thoughts on community and connection.

Local block parties and apartment events are great for getting to know neighbours.

I just moved into the neighbourhood. It would have been nice if neighbours had welcomed us.

I believe that awareness of reconciliation is crucial in education systems & communities so as not to repeat the past.

I feel no one cares about struggles with being out of work and over fifty.

The region offers lots of great events/ things to do (especially with all the greenspace).

Sometimes people mock me because of my accent.

I like the easy access, minimal traffic, small town feel & lots of services.

It is important to me as a Plains Cree First Nations woman to help support the relationship between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples.

There's great opportunities for leadership roles here.

I feel we all have a role in reconciliation, but I'm not necessarily sure what that role is.

County Connector bus is a real asset.

I find childcare expensive and a barrier to volunteering.

I want to use the trails, but I'm afraid to.

People here step up when others are in need.

Excellent place for young families!

I have no family here. I rely on friends, co-workers and neighbours.

Meeting neighbours is a two-way street. I could do more.

My same-sex husband and I rarely, but occasionally encounter discrimination. This has changed significantly over the years.

I feel the Canadian landscape is changing so quickly that it's hard to feel connected.

You can bike for fifteen minutes and be in a forest.

I'm worried about theft and safety.

I like living in a small community with an airport close-by.

There's more to do for seniors, especially reaching out to older adults who are isolated.

Vital Signs leadership committee

Angela Sutherland – City of Grande Prairie
 Brittany Trudeau – Aquatera Utilities
 Connie Korpan – Grande Prairie Regional College
 Greg Towler – RCMP
 James Robinson – Grande Prairie Public School Division
 Jamie Craig – United Way Alberta Northwest
 John Respet – RCMP
 Karen Rosvold – County of Grande Prairie
 Kathleen Turner – County of Grande Prairie
 Kerrie Taylor – MD of Greenview
 Kevin Keller – MD of Greenview
 Kim Gravengard – Pomeroy Lodging
 Leanne Beaupre – County of Grande Prairie
 Miranda Laroche – Grande Prairie Friendship Centre
 Melissa Beyers – Northreach Society
 Patricia Nordstrom – Alberta Health Services - North Zone
 Peter Kim – Salvation Army
 Rebecca Leigh – City of Grande Prairie
 Tanya Oliver – Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce

Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta

We build community today and forever.
 Together we can create a legacy.

Mission:

Connect people.
 Build community.
 For good, and forever.

Community. Connecting. Belonging



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International Institute for Sustainable Development

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**United Way
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 Change starts here.



Thank you for providing the space for Together Alberta - Sustainable Development Goals Mapping Project (Grande Prairie Area)



NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA'S
VitalSigns



COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA

VitalSigns



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.

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