



NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA'S

Vital Signs[®] 2017

Belonging

Insights into:
City of Grande Prairie
County of Grande Prairie
MD of Greenview

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A vital community is one where everyone has opportunities to feel like they belong

Shaping vibrant, welcoming and resilient communities starts with understanding our communities and the people within them so that each of us can make a positive impact.

This issue of Northwestern Alberta's Vital Signs® explores the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie and the MD of Greenview. These pages unfold the uniqueness of our local communities – the mix of cultures, backgrounds, interests and lifestyles – and, just as important – highlight how tightly interconnected the different segments of our communities are. When citizens from all backgrounds engage together to find solutions, the results of our efforts become more tangible and resources are more fully leveraged.

Take some time to read the report and learn something new about your community and our northwestern region. Share it with others, use it to ask questions and challenge one another, and let it inform and inspire you to take action.



Devon Wardley

Devon Wardley
Board Chair



Tracey Vavrek

Tracey Vavrek
Chief Executive Officer



NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA'S
VitalSigns



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

VitalSigns



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 there are 32 Canadian community foundations actively engaged in Vital Signs 2017 and over 80 globally.

Why belonging matters?

A greater sense of belonging has the extraordinary capacity to transform our lives and our communities. It translates into safer, more resilient and inclusive communities; it's integral to our mental health and overall well-being; it creates a flourishing culture; it enhances our ability to cultivate relationships; and it inspires greater community participation.

What is Northwestern Alberta's Vital Signs®

Northwestern Alberta's Vital Signs® provides an overview of quality of life in the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie, the MD of Greenview and local communities. This report serves as a tool to guide citizens to understand our greatest successes and most pressing issues in order to effectively mobilize change and action. In-depth data collection and a citizen perception survey help us dive deep into our communities and priorities.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who contributed data for the 2017 Vital Signs report.

View the full report with all data and sources

www.buildingtomorrowtoday.com

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

BECOME MORE INFORMED

Vital Signs is a compilation of current reliable statistics. Join other businesses, organizations, government agencies and citizens who use Vital Signs as a tool to better understand life in Northwestern Alberta to make stronger, more vibrant communities.

SPARK DIALOGUE

Behind each number is a story. Talk to neighbours, co-workers, friends and elected officials about the real impact on our communities.

MAKE INFORMED DONOR CHOICES

Vital Signs connects donors like you to local needs, so you can direct your support where it is most needed.

TAKE ACTION

What issues matter to you? When we come together to make a positive difference, we evoke a strong sense of belonging in our communities.

THE METHODOLOGY - HOW DID WE DEVELOP THE REPORT?

Vital Signs leadership committee

A volunteer panel of representatives provides expertise and guidance throughout the production of the report, ensuring Vital Signs accurately represents the trends and priorities unique to our communities and our region.

Online citizen opinion survey

The Vital Signs survey was conducted in spring/summer 2017 within the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and the MD of Greenview. The voluntary survey targeted schools and the general

public, ages 15 years and older. It was promoted through email, social media, community newsletters, local organizations and institutions.

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

It is important to note the geographical area when reading each indicator. For a full list of sources and geographies, please see our online source list on the Vital Signs page at:

www.buildingtomorrowtoday.com.

POPULATION SNAPSHOT BASED ON 2016 FEDERAL CENSUS

City of Grande Prairie

Population:

63,166*

7th fastest growing population in Canada



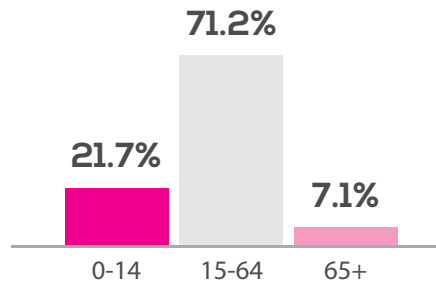
FYI:

Population increase over 2011: 13.5%
Population under 30: 45.8%

Age:

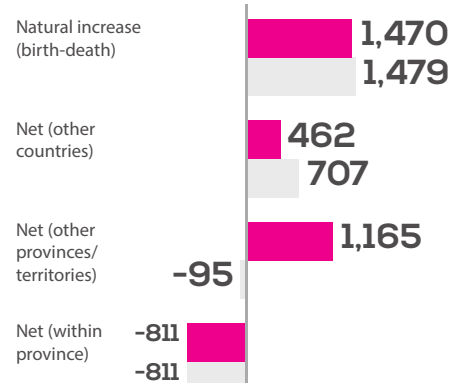
31.9

Median



How are we growing?

Divison 19



County of Grande Prairie No.1

Population:

22,303

Land area 5,802 km²



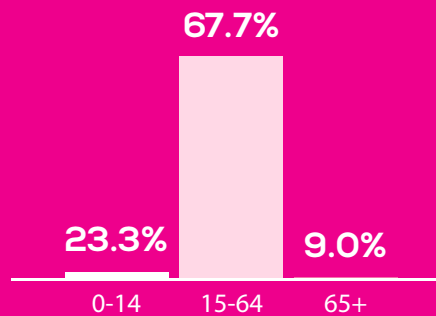
FYI:

Population increase over 2011: 13.1%
Population under 30: 40.2%

Age:

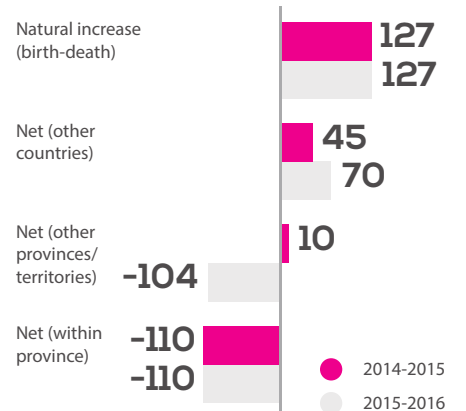
36.7

Median



How are we growing?

Divison 18



Municipal District of Greenview

Population:

5,583

Land Area 32,984 km



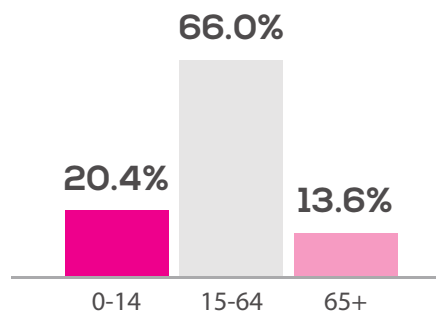
FYI:

Population increase over 2011: 5.4%
Population under 30: 37.4%

Age:

39.9

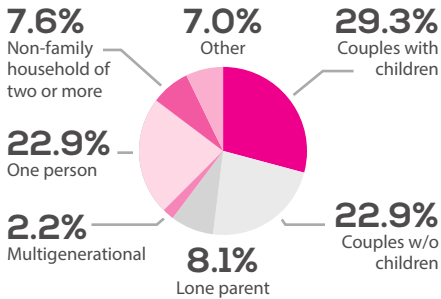
Median



Types of households:

3 average

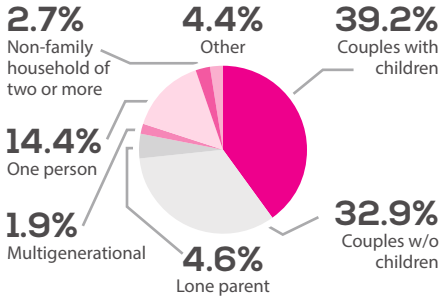
family size



Types of households:

3.1 average

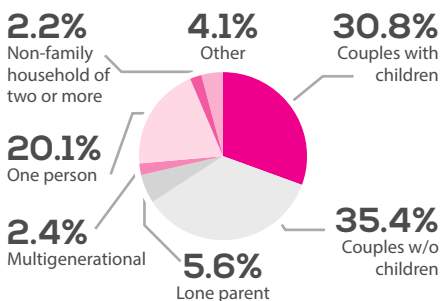
family size



Types of households:

3 average

family size



Alberta

Population:

4,067,175

Youngest province in Canada

Age:

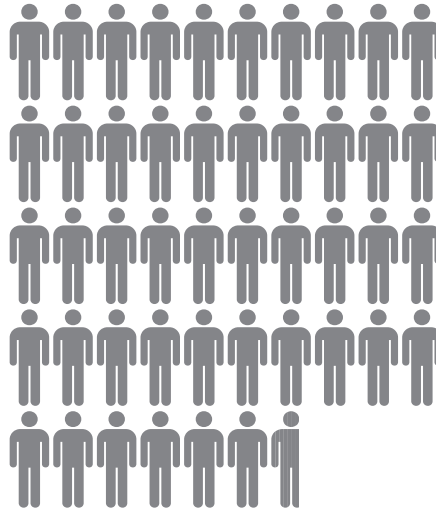
36.7

median

Population

11.6%

increase over 2011



Canada

Population:

35,151,728

Age:

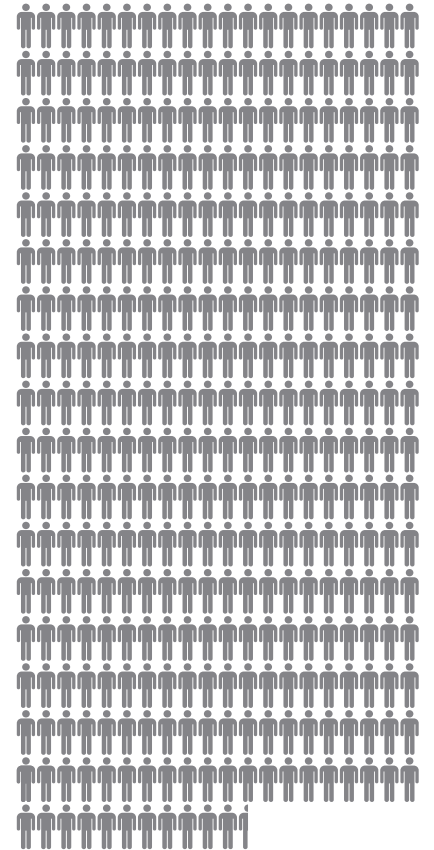
41.2

median

Population

5.0%

increase over 2011



About Alberta:

- Since 2011, highest increase (13.8%) in number of children in Canada
- Smallest proportion of seniors (12.3%) among provinces
- Only province with more males than females

Past:

5.6 vs. 2.4

in 1871

in 2016

Average people per household

Present:

Proportion of Canadians who say English or French is their mother tongue dropped to 78.9% (2016) from 82.4% (2001).

Future:

Population aging is a trend in all of Canada. The aging process is expected to accelerate as more baby boomers become seniors.

LEARNING

By offering a number of traditional and non-traditional educational opportunities in our communities, we ensure people of all ages and walks of life can improve their skills and widen their knowledge base.

Investing in our Communities

“When our children become interested in physical fitness and can lead a healthy, active lifestyle, everyone in our community wins.”

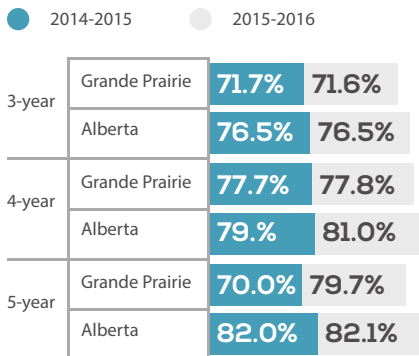
Due to financial and timing issues, some children and families don't have the opportunity to access sports outside of school. Experience Fun Experience Fitness runs at the Eastlink Centre for children ages 9 to 13, and aims to promote sports and recreation activities often not available to these young people. Through our involvement in this program, our Community Foundation supports opportunities for an active, healthy lifestyle for young people in the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview.

Art-rich experiences influence participation in school leadership

Low socioeconomic (SES) high school students with arts-rich experiences participated in student government and school service clubs 4 times more often than low-SES students lacking arts experiences.



Percentage of High School Completions Grande Prairie Region (includes City, County, and Greenview)*



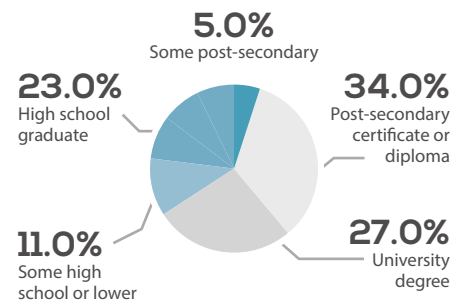
Students in Canada aiming to earn a university degree

About 64.0%
of Canadian students

About 80.0%
of first-generation immigrant students

Highest Education of Albertans in Labour Force (age 15+) 2015

Post-secondary attainment
Alberta (53%) Canada (64%)



Females in Alberta labour force with bachelor or graduate degree (2016)

Among the 27.9% of Alberta's labour force with a bachelor's or graduate degree,

51.9%
were women.

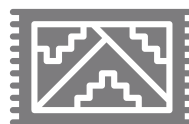


Blanket Exercise shows historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada

About

570

people in the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview participated in the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre's Blanket exercise in 2017.



2017 Grade 3 Reading University encourages struggling readers with skills for success

136
students enrolled

15.0%
increase enrolment annually

The intensive summer three-week reading program includes children from the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview.

Education: Indigenous people living off-reserve

In Alberta,

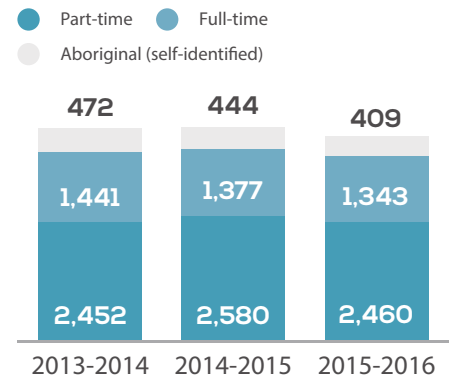
43.8% of Indigenous people

living off-reserve 15 years and older have post-secondary education.

Health programs planned for GPRC support new regional hospital, opening in 2019

- Practical Nursing
- Health Care Aide
- Paramedic
- Occupational Therapy Assistant Diploma
- Physical Therapy Assistant Diploma
- Health Information Management Diploma
- Pharmacy Technologist
- Kinesiology (launched fall 2016)

Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) Enrolment



Sleep deprivation in Canadian students

31.0% of school-age children and

26.0% of adolescents are sleep deprived

English Conversation Club helps newcomers to Canada improve their spoken English



September 2016 - June 2017

13 volunteers
83 participants

Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers and Grande Prairie Public Library

Impact of bullying on learning

Canadian schools with a high incidence of bullying score

33 points lower in science,

on average, than schools with a low incidence of bullying.

Food for thought

Children from homes with persistent food insecurity have shown

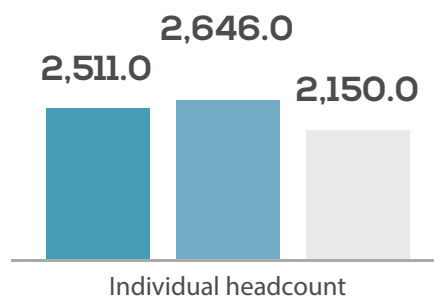
smaller gains

in both reading and math than their food-secure counterparts.

Northern Lakes College Enrolment

68% of students enrolled are Indigenous

● 2013-2014 ● 2014-2015 ● 2015-2016



Northern Lakes College: Women in trades

In 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, the welding program had the highest female enrolment of all trades programs. This trend shifted in 2016-2017, with



50.0% of female students in trades enrolled in carpentry.

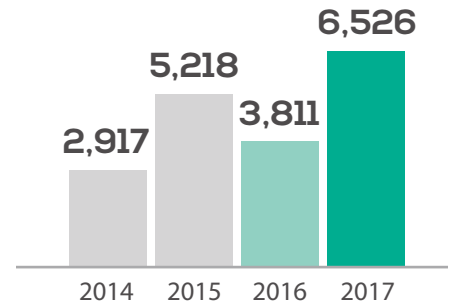
Creating and maintaining long-term job opportunities in our area provides us with sustainability even in periods of economic downturn. Having a stronger economy allows us to focus our efforts on charitable, cultural and recreational activities in our communities.

Investing in our Communities

Many post-secondary students today are facing increasing stress outside the classroom as they juggle course loads with financial pressures and personal challenges in their lives. Every year, in partnership with our donors and fundholders, our Community Foundation grants student awards to local post-secondary students to help support them on their academic journey. In 2016, we granted \$30,136 in student awards to local post-secondary students. Many awards provided incentives to encourage students to work in northwestern Alberta upon completion of their studies. A stronger economy allows us to focus our efforts on charitable, cultural and recreational activities in our communities.

Busier highways a reflection of local economy

Permits issued to over dimensional* vehicles traveling through Grande Prairie:



Local region had lowest unemployment rate in Alberta (2016)



6.9%

Economic region**

The new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital to generate new jobs and revenue sources (opening 2019)



\$443.7 million

in output and \$276.7 million in GDP annually in Alberta

Farm operators working off-farm

In 2015,

47.3% of farm

operators in Alberta (second highest in Canada) had an off-farm job compared with 52.0% in 2010.



National rate: 44.0% (2015)

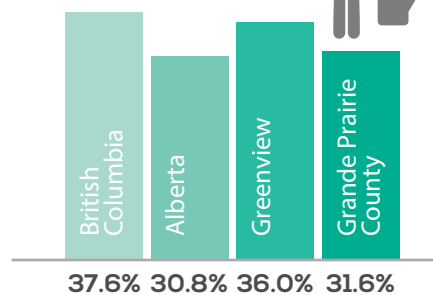
Average house price Grande Prairie

Year-to-date July



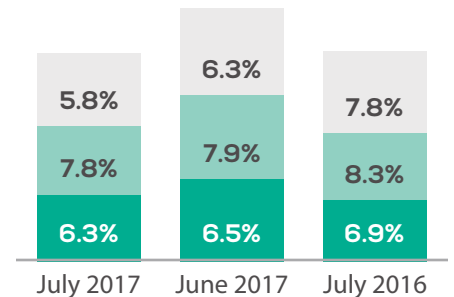
Alberta has second highest proportion of female farmers in Canada

Proportion of female operators 2016



Unemployment rate economic region

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



Alberta Forestry Industry

Employment in Alberta's forestry industry is expected to grow at an average rate of

5.4% from
2016-2019.



**Commercial/Industrial/
Institutional Permits issued**



City of Grande Prairie

142 Permits

issued Jul 2017 YTD

\$50.7 million value

County of Grande Prairie

41 Permits

issued Jul 2017 YTD

\$11.3 million value

113 Permits

issued Jul 2016 YTD

\$206.1 million value*

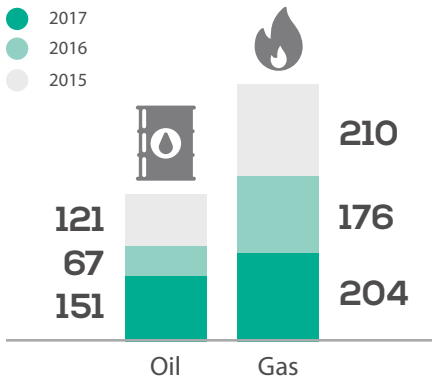
42 Permits

issued Jul 2016 YTD

\$28.0 million value

Drilling licenses

Drilling licenses are a predictor of future economic activity.



**Employment: Indigenous
people living off-reserve**

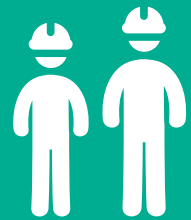
24.4% of

employed Indigenous people living off-reserve were employed in trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations.

**Alberta youth
employment 2016
youth ages 15-24**

made up 13.4%
of employment in Alberta.

59.0%
of these youth
were employed
full-time



**Canadian Study: Faith
congregations provide
significant economic benefits
to their communities**

The value of religious congregations to the wider community is

4 to 5 times

a congregation's annual operating budget.

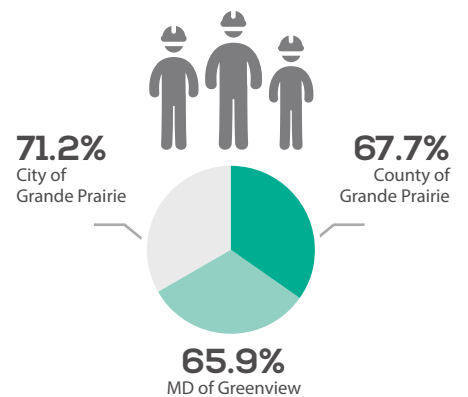
**Significant potential for the
region: Montney-Duvernay**

130,000 sq km

Montney formation in northeastern British Columbia and northwestern Alberta, including the Grande Prairie-Greenview area, is one of the most active resource formations being developed in Canada and is projected to produce over half of Canada's natural gas by 2040.

The Duvernay formation stretches 100,000 sq km along the Alberta foothills east of the Rocky Mountains.

**Percentage of working age
population (ages 15-64):**



ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

We create a deeper sense of belonging in communities when we embrace different ways to express and appreciate our multicultural population, and support opportunities to express our creative and active sides.

Investing in our Communities

Our communities are made up of a wide array of cultures, each with their own unique artistic and traditional expressions. To celebrate our multicultural communities and offer children an opportunity to experience many genres of art, our Community Foundation supports the Grande Prairie Little Theatre's Children's Festival. The Festival brings awareness to Indigenous culture and art early on. It also showcases local talent alongside provincial and national artists. Embracing the arts as a powerful learning tool enables us support our extraordinary Canadian identity.

Athletic achievements at 2017 North American Indigenous Games



54 local participants brought home **30 medals** (4 teams and 2 individual)

54 athletes, coaches, chaperones, managers and Mission Staff participated from the Grande Prairie Area and the MD of Greenview, including Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

Top 5 barriers to recreation participation

Grande Prairie Area Recreation Master Plan 2016 Household Survey

Admission fees	43.0%
Unaware of some opportunities	29.0%
Overcrowded facilities	25.0%
Inconvenient hours	22.0%
Transportation limitations	14.0%

Top 3 recreation activities citizens participated in

Grande Prairie Area Recreation Master Plan 2016 Household Survey

- 78.0%** Hiking/walking/jogging
- 70.0%** BBQ/picnics/social gatherings
- 68.0%** Camping



Live music increases belonging

Canadians who attend live music performances most regularly are almost



2 times

more likely to have a very strong sense of belonging to their city or town as those who do not attend.

Mountain Metis Culture Camp at Hide A Way Camp



Youth camp ages

10-18

offers Indigenous cultural music, dance and crafts, and promotes skills and learning opportunities.

Traditional cultural events a priority for First Nations youth

85.7% of

First Nations youth in Canada feel that traditional cultural events are very or somewhat important in their lives.

Hikers/climbers challenge 21 peaks in the Grande Cache area of the MD of Greenview



Over

17 years

650+ People

2 dogs

have registered for the Passport to the Peaks program at the Grande Cache Tourism & Interpretive Centre.

Utility cabinets showcase local art

In 2016,

12 utility cabinets

in the City of Grande Prairie were wrapped with artwork featuring local artists.



Library visits and electronic book loans (2016)

Grande Prairie Public Library

377,181 visits

20.5% increase over 2015

Sexsmith Shannon Library

19,822 visits

1.7% increase over 2015



Grande Prairie Public Library

26.7% increase

from 2015 for Electronic book loans.

Sexsmith Shannon Library

9.7% decrease

from 2015 for Electronic book loans.

Celebration of culture and ethnic diversity



The 2017 Celebration of Cultures in Valleyview highlights cultures through music, traditions and the sharing of food. (Partnership - Valleyview Agricultural Society and Green View FCSS)

Free, fun physical activity at 2017 Try It Day

Over 500

6-12-year-olds from City, County, Greenview

22 sports

24 community

club hosts at Grande Prairie Sport Council Try It Day

2017 Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games



Athletes competed in 7 sports and brought home

44 medals

from the Games in Medicine Hat.

Art Gallery of Grande Prairie visits increase 2015/16 season

21,397 visitors

(30% increase over year prior)

10,253 students/individuals

participated in programs (50% increase over year prior)

Barriers in sports participation

81% of

Canadians reported witnessing or experiencing homophobia in sport.



Canadian seniors in sports

Overall sport participation rates of seniors are decreasing, though number of seniors who are

master's athletes & tournament participants is increasing.

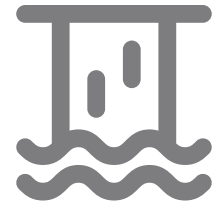
ENVIRONMENT

Living in one of the largest agricultural areas of Alberta means we must pay attention to the impact our actions have on the environment. A sustainable and environmentally conscious community will have a better standard of living and a higher level of appreciation for nature.

Investing in our Communities

A healthy community needs a healthy environment to prosper. As our communities are located in the basins and use the water from both the Peace and Athabasca rivers, it's important we understand what's needed to protect the areas of high ecological conservation value. The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) of Northern Alberta have conducted in depth research and analysis of our vital ecosystems and watersheds in order to help educate us about maintaining a healthy environment. Our Community Foundation will be bringing CPAWS members into our communities to help bring awareness to our unique environment, establish more outdoor recreation areas and take smart action to protecting our environment.

Alberta's tallest waterfall located in Greenview



30 metres

Kakwa Falls is Alberta's tallest waterfall. The falls are located in Kakwa Wildland.

Number of Alberta farms decreasing, size of farms increasing



Farm numbers were down 6.0% from 2011

40,638
(total farms)

Snackable parks!



About 20%

of the City's trees planted by the City of Grande Prairie, with the support of Neighbourhood Associations, produce edible fruits.

Alberta leads in number of honeybee colonies

From 2011 to 2016, the number of honeybee colonies in Alberta increased 29.2% to 304,846, the highest in Canada.



39.5%

of national honeybee colonies are in Alberta.

Fill stations reduce plastic bottles



Over 5 months in 2017, about

7,490 water bottles were refilled in water bottle fill stations installed in City of Grande Prairie service buildings.

Litres of vehicle oil recycled

Litres of vehicle oil recycled (2016) at MD of Greenview transfer stations

26,400 litres



Bioreactor technology at Aquatera's landfill turns waste into energy

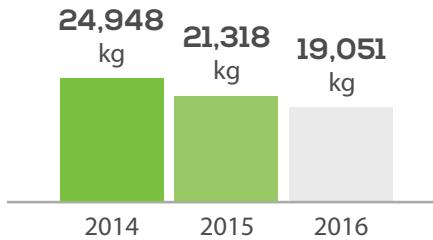
Aquatera captures methane gas from decomposing waste, converting it to energy to heat and power its Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants, reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions by

63,000 tonnes of

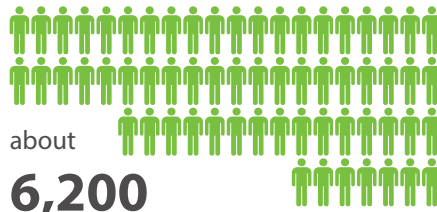
CO2 annually, equivalent to removing 13,500 vehicles from the road/year.

Dunes Recreation Area seeing gradual reduction in garbage

With the support of 62 volunteers and many community partners, Alberta Environment and Parks Dunes Cleanup saw about:



City Scrub cleanup in 2017



2,170 hours at Grande Prairie's City Scrub.



County of Grande Prairie's Weed Warrior Program



5 non-profit groups earned funds picking **8,681.8 kg** of weeds in 2017.

Alberta has the second largest number of farms



Alberta continues to have the **2nd Largest** number of farms in Canada following Ontario. The average Alberta farm size grew 5.9% to 1,237 acres in (2016).

Perception of the "family environment" changing in Canada

When asked, "What is family?"

64.0% of Canadians ages 13-35 **and**

39.0% of Canadians ages 55+ believe that family is whoever you choose to surround yourself with.

Natural environments improve quality of life

Research has proven that access to natural environments in our communities

improves quality of life, particularly for newcomers, children and seniors.

What are the top strengths in your community?

(2017 Vital Signs Survey)

One of the top responses of respondents from all three municipalities (the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview) was:

Parks and Greenspace

Culture of giving in the workplace environment

68.0% of

Canadians state they would be more motivated to choose an employer with a strong volunteer culture.



GPRC National Bee Diagnostic Centre (NBDC)

is the first comprehensive laboratory in Canada to provide a full array of diagnostic services for honey bee pests, pathogens, and parasites.

Client demand has grown from 1,500 diagnostics performed in 2013 to over

20,000 diagnostic tests performed annually.

Living a healthy lifestyle involves more than just being active and eating healthy. It's important that we take care of our mental health as well as our physical health. By keeping up-to-date on threats and opportunities in our community we can work towards improving our overall wellbeing.

Investing in our Communities

"Grief is universal and non-selective; no one is immune."

The Grande Prairie and District Grief Support Association provides youth from Kindergarten to Grade 6 with a safe place to talk with others about their losses through the Circle of Life school program. Learning how to deal with grief in a healthy way helps prevent further problems of depression, suicide and substance abuse. The Community Foundation is supporting the program's extension into schools in the MD of Greenview, as well as reintroducing the junior high program in order to continue to reach out to individuals experiencing grief.

"Take Home Naloxone"



Naloxone can temporarily reverse an opioid (such as Fentanyl) overdose, when given immediately and followed up by emergency medical care. Naloxone kits are free of charge at certain pharmacies/clinics in the City, County and Greenview and HIV North Society.

Regional AHS Opioid Dependency Program first of its kind in region

Program increases access to opioid replacement therapy, treatment and counselling services for up to 300 individuals. The program is

one of five

such AHS clinics in Alberta. Opened Spring 2017 in Grande Prairie

AHS Addiction Services in local region

Acute Inpatient Psychiatry - QE II Hospital (Grande Prairie)

Adult Residential - Northern Addictions Centre (Grande Prairie)

Adult Detoxification Services

Metis Indian Town Alcohol Association (High Prairie)

Northern Addictions Centre

14 inpatient psychiatry beds in Grande Prairie

Community Addiction Services

Aberdeen Centre – Grande Prairie

High Prairie Health Complex

Addiction Helpline

AlbertaQuits HelpLine (tobacco cessation)

Emergency Room visits related to mental health - Mental & behavioural disorders

Age-standardized ER visit rate per 100,000 population



2015	
3,238.7	1,972.1
2016	
3,114.6	2,114.8
AHS North West Central City County Greenview	Alberta

Fentanyl related drug overdose deaths Jan 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

2017 YTD - Among larger Alberta urban areas, the City of Grande Prairie had the highest rate of apparent drug overdoses related to fentanyl per 100,000 population.

	2016		2017	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Grande Prairie	10	13.4	9	23.4
Fort McMurray	9	11.0	8	10.9
Edmonton	103	10.6	65	13.3
Red Deer	23	21.0	9	16.3
Calgary	155	11.7	98	14.9
Medicine Hat	4	5.8	0	0.0
Lethbridge	10	10.3	8	16.9

Caring for caregivers

8 million Canadians provide care

to family members/ friends with a long-term health condition, disability or age-related challenge.

Of those Canadians that provide regular care to a child or spouse with high health needs:

about 33.0% feel depressed

about 25.0% experience financial difficulties as a result of caregiving responsibilities

“Man on the Ground:”

A program supporting rural Greenview residents in the Grande Cache area (elderly, single parents, recovering from surgery, etc.)

providing help

with small maintenance, chopping firewood, rides to appointments, etc.*

Child Immunization by age 2

4th Dose DTaP-IPV-Hib
(Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus Influenza B)

	2015	2016
City of Grande Prairie	68.6%	69.7%
County of Grande Prairie	66.8%	69.0%
Beaverlodge	58.5%	58.4%
Fox Creek	81.0%	90.0%
Grande Cache	73.7%	71.1%
Valleyview	65.4%	66.6%

Prevalence of household food insecurity in Alberta

1 in 10

households experience food insecurity in Alberta. Food insecure infants and toddlers are more likely to have poor health and require hospitalization.

Household food insecurity - inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints

Child Immunization by age 2

MMR
(Measles Mumps Rubella)

	2015	2016
City of Grande Prairie	82.9%	81.2%
County of Grande Prairie	77.8%	81.2%
Beaverlodge	72.7%	65.4%
Fox Creek	87.0%	93.4%
Grande Cache	85.4%	84.2%
Valleyview	80.7%	77.6%

Community attachment relates to health

Canadians who felt very strongly connected to their community had nearly twice the odds of reporting

excellent or very good health.

BELONGING & LEADERSHIP

Everyone has something unique to offer. By using our strengths to help those in need we can create a better life for others and a deeper connection to our communities. When we feel like we belong, we are more likely to invest our time in creating positive impacts.

Investing in our Communities

The LGBTQ youth in our communities have found a great level of support, acceptance and belonging through the LGBTQ Youth Mentorship program, funded by HIV North. During the weekly drop-in sessions, youth get together in a safe space that provides confidential support and builds meaningful relationships. The program aims to help parents understand and support their children through a separate drop-in program, and educates schools on topics that may be difficult to navigate, such as Gay Straight Alliances and gender neutral bathrooms. Our Community Foundation advocates for inclusivity in all aspects of our communities.

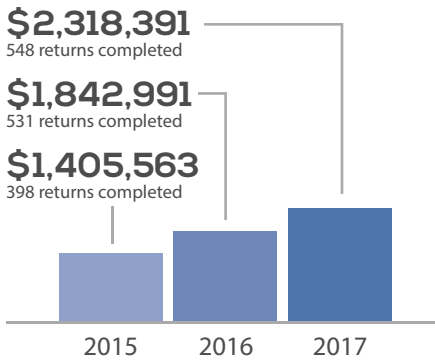
New definition of volunteering?



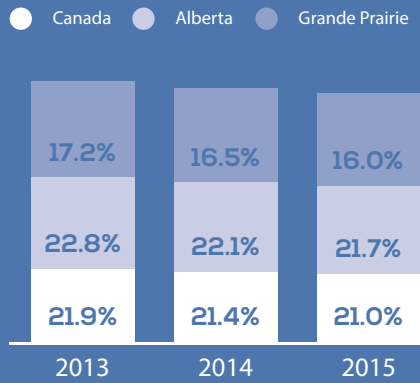
35%

of Canadians say they help out in the community but do not consider their engagement to be volunteering.

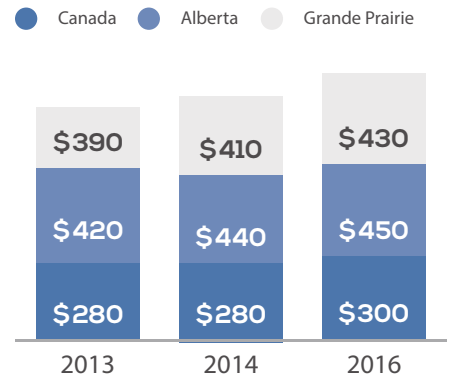
Volunteer income tax program - increasing demand, increasing dollars returned*



Number of people making charitable donations continues to decline



Average charitable donation amount per donor increased

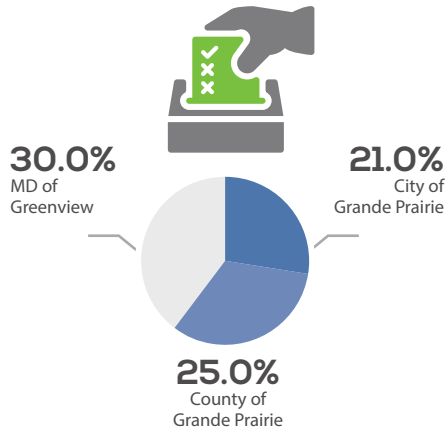


Over **8 in 10 Albertans** say feeling healthy, supportive relationships with family and friends and time to do the things they enjoy are very important to their happiness.

ATB Financial Happiness Survey 2015



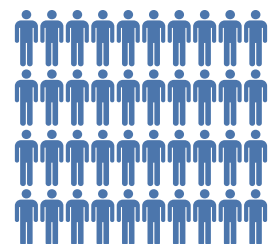
2013 municipal election voter turnout



Number of immigrants and non-permanent residents in Grande Prairie

Approximately

4,300



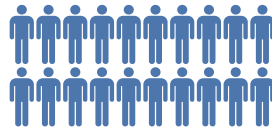
Creating a welcoming community for newcomers

The Grande Prairie Local Immigration Partnership, established by the City of Grande Prairie, is a working group of 20 members representing a broad range of stakeholders and community organizations working to

positively affect the experience

of new immigrants in Grande Prairie.

Grande Prairie region hosts Alberta Summer Games July 19-22, 2018



In 2018, the City and County, with the help of

2,000

volunteers, will host about 2,700 athletes ages 11-17 participating in 13 sports.

Sense of belonging to Canada

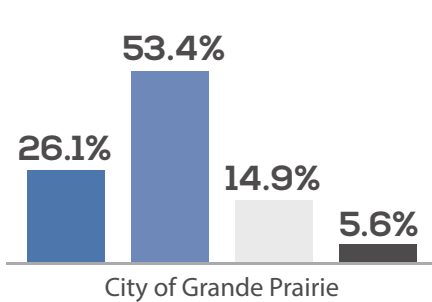
93.3% of

immigrants to our country have a strong sense of belonging to Canada, more than Canadian-born citizens (87.9%)

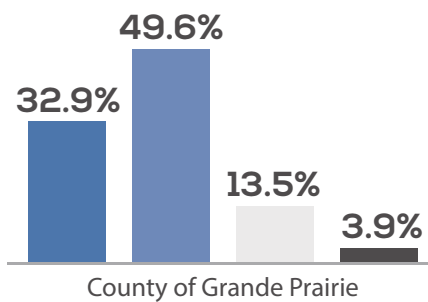
How connected do you feel to your community? Spring/Summer 2017 (all ages)

Vital Signs Survey 2017

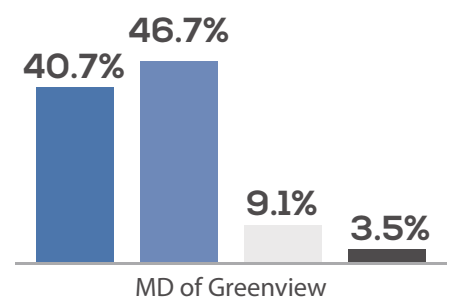
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● Very ● Somewhat ● Hardly ● Not at all



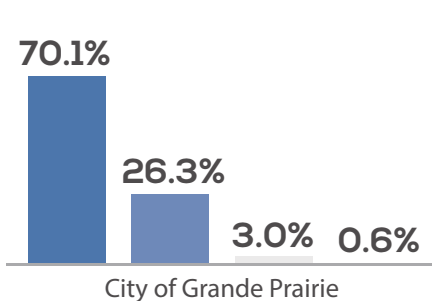
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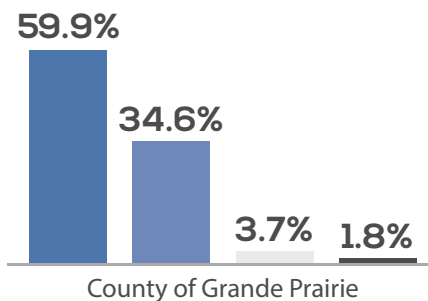
How connected do you feel to Canada? Spring/Summer 2017 (all ages)

Vital Signs Survey 2017

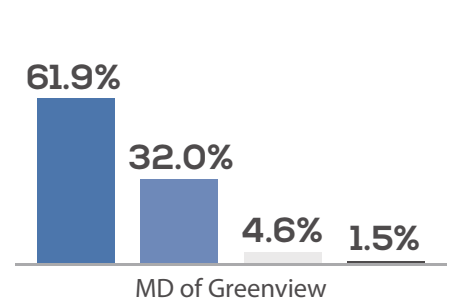
● Very ● Somewhat ● Hardly ● Not at all



● Very ● Somewhat ● Hardly ● Not at all



● Very ● Somewhat ● Hardly ● Not at all



STANDARD OF LIVING

By establishing and supporting programs that work towards closing/bridging the gap between individuals in our communities, we are able to build meaningful relationships and improve our communities' overall quality of life.

Investing in our Communities

With the reality of households in our municipalities falling below the poverty line, it's important to our Community Foundation that we find and create opportunities to help children develop emotionally, physically, socially and academically, regardless of their financial situation. The YMCA of Northern Alberta's program, Virtual Y - Beyond the Bell, is an after-school program that provides students with individual academic help, and teaches the importance of making healthy and positive lifestyle choices.

Demand for Salvation Army Grande Prairie meals increasing (2016)



Free meals Served:

32,518

up 30.7% from 2014

Hampers donated:

3,111

up 48.9% from 2014

Local churches serving meals and the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre have also seen increasing demand.

Grande Prairie is 1 of 7 Alberta cities seeking to end homelessness using a Housing First approach

2016-2017

147

People housed

42

Program graduates*

93%

Retention rate

2015-2016

210

People housed

13

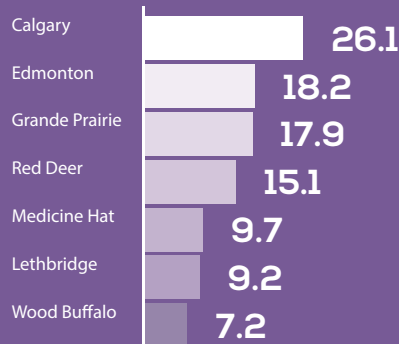
Program graduates*

93%

Retention rate

Per-Capita homelessness in Alberta: 2016

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Per Capita (10,000)



Grande Prairie's point in time homelessness count – October 19, 2016

127

Homeless people

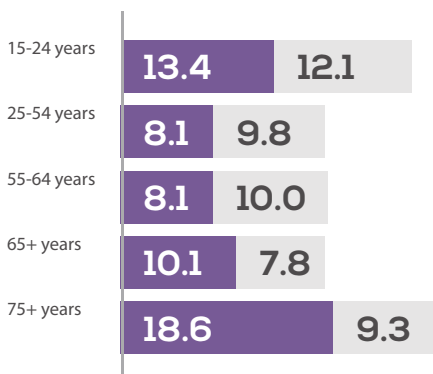
23.0%

Reduction since 2014

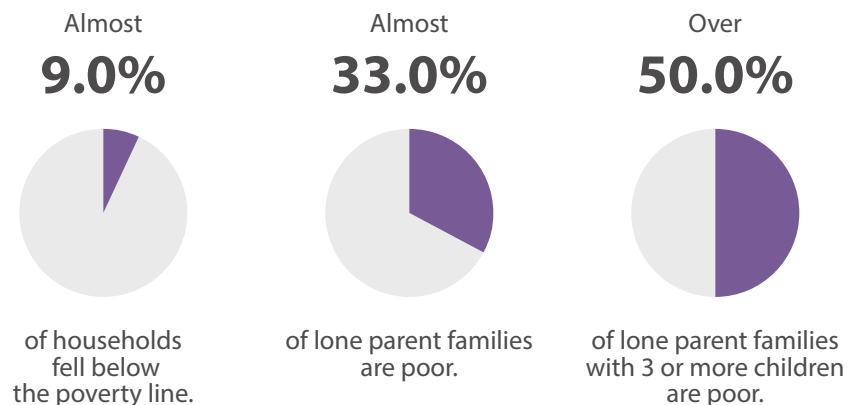
Poverty prevalence (%)

Grande Prairie based on LIM-AT**

● Grande Prairie ● Alberta



Poverty in Grande Prairie



Relation of poverty to mobility status

Rate of low income for those that moved from outside Canada (external migrants):

Previous year

50.0%
Grande Prairie

40.0%
Canada

After five years

20.0%
Grande Prairie



Food Banks usage 2015 to 2016

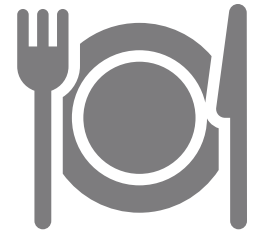
Wembley **31.1%** ↑
increase

Sexsmith **35.3%** ↑
increase

Fox Creek **23.4%** ↑
increase
(111.6% increase between 2014 and 2015)

Beaverlodge **33.3%** ↑
increase

Grande Cache **74.2%** ↑
increase



Clairmont **78.4%** ↑
increase

Valleyview **10.0%** ↓
decrease

Rotary Food Bank Drive



Over **600 volunteers** participated in the 2016 Rotary Food Bank Drive in Grande Prairie.

Supporting health through access to recreation



1,768 individuals received Low Income Recreation Passes (LIRA)* from the City of Grande Prairie in 2016.

External costs of poverty in Grande Prairie (2015 dollars)



\$84.4 million
Health care, crime, intergenerational, opportunity (lost income, tax revenue)

Household incomes linked to sense of belonging

Canadians with higher household incomes were more likely to report a

somewhat/very strong

sense of community belonging.



Sport participation impacted by household income (Canada)

33% rate of sport participation in higher income households vs. 7% participation rate in homes with incomes of less than \$20,000



Workplaces are key sites of belonging for many of us.

HOUSING

Having a safe place to sleep for the night shouldn't be a luxury that some can't afford. Communities that provide options for residents from all walks of life and meet the diverse needs of their citizens are more inclusive, economically competitive and vibrant.

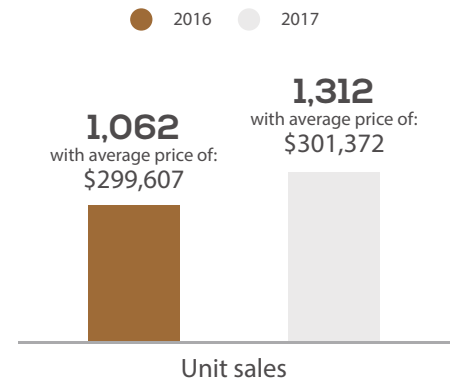
When shelter is just the start . . .

Freedom from violence is a long road. A few weeks in an emergency women's shelter isn't enough to heal the trauma of abuse, or to lay the foundation for an independent life.

With that in mind, our Community Foundation is proud to support the Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association (operating Odyssey House). GPWRA operates a transitional supportive second-stage apartment shelter - Serenity Place - for women and children. The building provides six months to two years accommodation for women and their children as they transition to a life in the community, free from violence. Serenity Place provides more than a roof over their heads and a safe place to live, but also supports the residents with a range of programming and professional supports to help them on their journey.

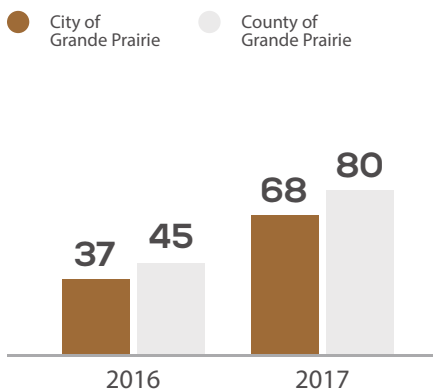
City of Grande Prairie housing sales moving upwards

July YTD City of Grande Prairie

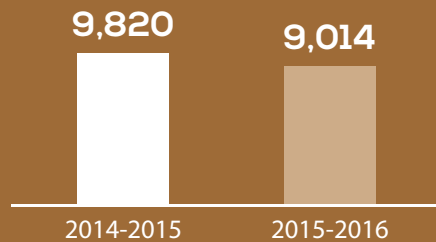


Single family housing starts increasing

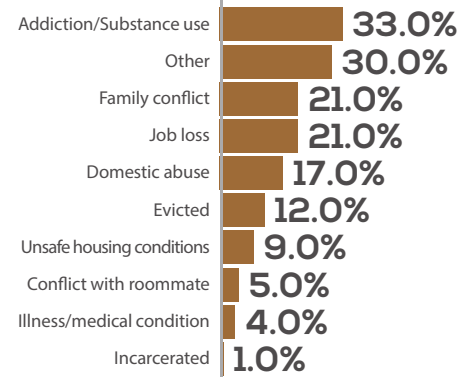
January-June 2016 and 2017



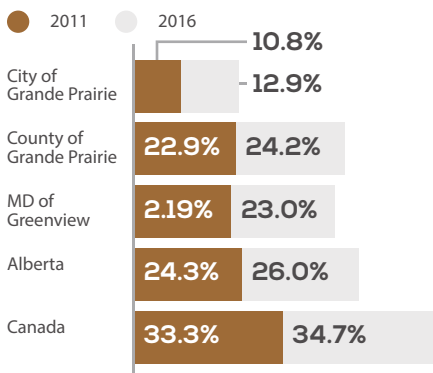
Odyssey House Women's Emergency Shelter for women and children in the northwest region



Grande Prairie Point In Time Count 2016: What caused people to lose their housing?



Percentage of young adults (20-34) living with parents increasing



Point in time homeless count 2016

45% of

Grande Prairie's homeless population was sleeping in an emergency shelter



Rotary House

Number of seniors using facility (1,098) in 2016-17 increased 40.1%

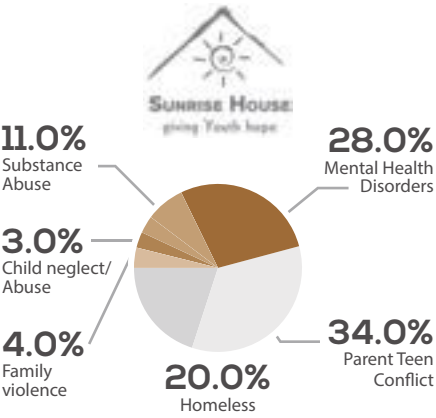


Beds occupied

28,412
2016-2017

Sunrise House Youth Shelter

Reasons for accessing shelter 2016



New Lakeview senior’s supportive housing in Clairmont



72 full service lodge rooms

78 enhanced apartments

Impact of housing homeless individuals through Grande Prairie’s Housing First

40.0% decrease in use of Emergency Medical Services

60.0% drop in use of emergency room visits

17.0% decrease of negative interactions with police

Grande Prairie’s Housing First Initiative has found over

1,000 new homes in Grande Prairie since 2009.



Over \$3 million was invested to end and prevent homelessness 2016-2017

HIV North Women’s Drop In program provides supports to women living a high-risk lifestyle

and/or working in the sex trade industry. The Women’s Drop-In program offers a place to rest, have a nutritious meal, and have access to personal care/hygiene supplies. This program often serves as a first point of access to many community services.

Where did we grow up?

More than half of Canadians

no longer live in the community where they grew up.

Canadians living alone 28.2% of people in Canada are living alone

- the highest rate in our history.

Housing is a physical dwelling that meets our basic need for shelter.

It’s also “home” - a sense of belonging.

GETTING AROUND

Getting around in a safe and affordable way is vital to accessing all our communities have to offer. Accessible modes of transportation and safe, well-maintained transportation infrastructure promote livability and strengthen our connections to our communities.

Investing in our Communities

Migrating from a rural to urban setting involves a lot of changes, and requires support services to feel connected, as well as tactics to bridge the gap between cultural differences. The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre's One Window Resource hosts a community-based drop in program to assist the migrating Aboriginal population. Having access to activities, agency referrals and job postings, as well as a friendly place to share an evening meal supports those transitioning to our city, helping them maintain stability and feel more at home.

Grande Prairie trail system promotes active transportation



In 2016, there were approximately

98 km of trails

in Grande Prairie.

Overdimensional vehicle permits issued: Grande Prairie

Permits account for service rigs, housing and major oilfield equipment heading out of town to work in the region.

6,526 2017 **3,811** 2016

5,218 2015 **2,917** 2014



Increasing traffic
Traffic on Highway 43 increased over 40.0% between 2009 and 2016.



Study shows lower sports participation rates in rural Canada may be tied to longer travel distances

49% participation

in rural Canada



Grande Prairie Airport passenger travel increasing

Average increase over April, May, and June was 5.7%.

Total number of passengers
January-June Grande Prairie Airport

196,558 2017 **196,496** 2016

215,557 2015



Transit passes provide access and improve well-being

6,665 free

low income transit passes were approved by the City of Grande Prairie for low income residents in 2016.



Recreation facilities bring indoor activity closer to home

Greenview Regional Multiplex

in Valleyview opening 2017

Fox Creek Multiplex

opening 2018

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions: Electric buses in 2018

The City of Grande Prairie will add

two electric buses

to its current diesel fleet in 2018, with the addition of solar panels to charge these buses by year-end.



Meals for Wheels

Approximately

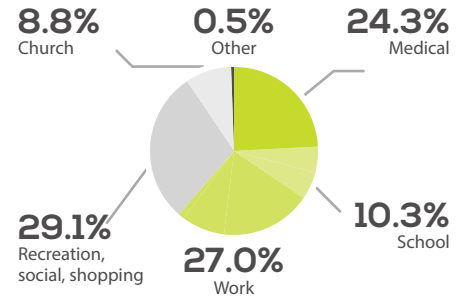
150 meals per

month are delivered to Valleyview residents (homebound & elderly). Partnership of Green View FCSS and Red Willow Lodge



Disabled Transportation Society (DTS) use

2016 Total ridership – 120,818



Cyclist and casualty collisions

Compared to operators of all vehicles in casualty collisions,

bicyclists were more likely

to disobey a traffic signal or fail to yield right-of-way at an uncontrolled intersection.

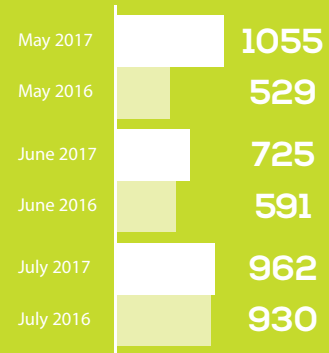
“Day at the Dinosaur Museum” for local non-profit clients

A Swan City Rotary Club program supported

111 individuals

from local non-profits with transportation and admission for a day at the Philip J Currie Museum. July 2016 - April 2017.

Number of visitor groups at Grande Prairie Regional Tourism



Visitors traveling in Valleyview area

The Valleyview Visitor Centre has been recognized as one of the top visitor centres in Alberta.

Number of visitors in 2016 up 27.5% since 2014

Restraint use in vehicles (Alberta 2015)

Collision-involved restraint users in had a

much lower injury rate

(6.8%) than those not using restraints (22.4%).

Active transportation improves sleep

Outdoor active transportation, like walking or biking, increases exposure to sunlight,

helping regulate sleep patterns.

SAFETY

Feeling safe in a community provides security and freedom to be yourself without fear. Ensuring everyone's safety in our communities, regardless of one's race, sexuality, religion or economic status is a top priority.

Investing in our Communities

For most working families in the area, leaving children home alone for short periods of time is an inescapable reality. The Grande Prairie and Area Safe Communities' Home Alone Program teaches youth ages 8 to 11 vital skills needed when alone at home, such as stranger awareness, basic first aid and emergency response. Our Community Foundation is creating a coinciding program that will tackle the growing importance of internet safety and prevention of youth cybercrime. Feeling safe builds our sense of belonging to our communities.

Rural intimate partner violence in Alberta

An Alberta study identified

three "hotspots"

where domestic violence occurred with more frequency. The three, which included Valleyview and area, were located in northwestern Alberta.

Bullying, abuse, drugs and online safety themes of Green View FCSS' KIDO program

School youth age 8-12 from Valleyview, the MD of Greenview and Sturgeon Lake First Nation learn about risky lifestyles

and positive decision-making.

Grande Prairie Fire Department sees increase in 2016

While total Fire Department responses in 2016 increased over 2015, decreases were seen in all categories except Medical Co-response*

Fire Department – Total Calls

3,079	3,687
2015	2016

Medical Co Response (48.5% increase)

1,745	2,591
2015	2016

Alcohol and fatal collisions in Alberta



In Alberta,

one in five

drivers involved in fatal collisions have been drinking prior to the collision.

Addition of RCMP

City of Grande Prairie funded

New RCMP officers:

9
in 2016 

4
in 2017 

4
in 2018 

New Enhanced RCMP

MD of Greenview funded

1
Valleyview Enhanced
RCMP officer (new 2017)



Addition of Enhanced RCMP

County of Grande Prairie funded

Currently has

6 Enhanced RCMP Officers

(added 1 in 2016 and 1 in 2017).

Two officers serve the Grande Prairie region in the General Investigative Section (GIS), and the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU).


2016* Crime rates compared to 2015

Overall Crime Rate	Total Violent Criminal Code Violations	Total Property Crime Violations	Motor Vehicle Theft Rate	Sexual Assault	Youth Crime Rate
City of Grande Prairie 14,589.5 ↓ (down 29.0%)	City of Grande Prairie 1,874.7 ↓ (down 25.2%)	City of Grande Prairie 7,930.4 ↓ (down 34.9%)	City of Grande Prairie 835.0 ↓ (down 45.5%)	City of Grande Prairie 69.3 ↑ (up 32.2%)	City of Grande Prairie 2,525.5 ↑ (up 32.3%)
County of Grande Prairie/ MD of Greenview NW** 7,480.4 ↓ (down 31.7%)	County of Grande Prairie/ MD of Greenview NW** 1,038.2 ↓ (down 23.8%)	County of Grande Prairie/ MD of Greenview NW** 4,711.8 ↓ (down 40.3%)	County of Grande Prairie/ MD of Greenview NW** 758.7 ↓ (down 48.8%)	County of Grande Prairie/ MD of Greenview NW** 44.4 ↓ (down 8.8%)	County of Grande Prairie/ MD of Greenview NW** 432.4 ↓ (down 44.5%)
Alberta 8,801.2	Alberta 1,243.5	Alberta 5,205.7	Alberta 536.1	Alberta 63.5	Alberta 2,177.5
Canada 5,904.5	Canada 1,051.6	Canada 3,207.0	Canada 216.9	Canada 57.9	Canada 2,013.8

County of Grande Prairie's FireSmart program aims to prevent wildfires by reducing/removing "fuel"

2010–2016 - Treated over
1,150 hectares 
for Mountain Pine Beetle

2010–2016 - Removed
16,000 infected trees

2010–2016 - Removed dead/dying trees on about
48 quarter sections 
of Crown Land

2017 - Removing
dead/downed trees 
in Bear Creek area SE of City of Grande Prairie

Motorcycle collisions in Alberta



Based on 2015 motorcycle registrations, compared to 2014, the involvement rate of motorcycles has

decreased in fatal collisions

but **increased in injury collisions.**

Riders under age 25 were most likely to be involved in collisions.

Distracted driving
Distracted driving causes
up to 30.0% of collisions in Alberta

Collaborative mobile mental health services

The Police and Crisis Team (PACT) provided mobile mental health services to
860 individuals in Grande Prairie from April 2016 to March 2017. PACT partners RCMP with AHS mental health nurses to assess, stabilize and connect people with services.

(Alberta Health Services
Addiction & Mental Health)

Feeling safe increases our sense of belonging

When Canadians are asked, "What makes a community a good place to live?"

safety is the second most common response, after affordability.

You've read the statistics. Now let's see what people have to say about their quality of life.

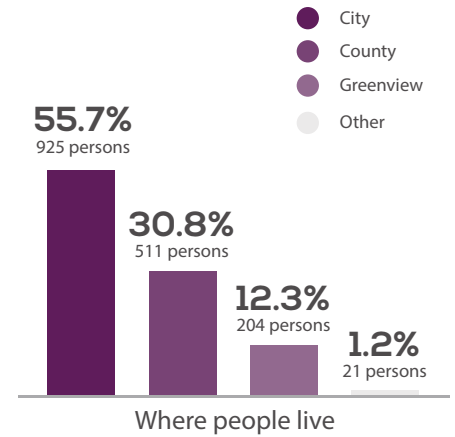
In spring/summer we distributed our Vital Signs engagement survey to people (ages 15 and over) living and working in the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and the MD of Greenview. The survey asked about their quality of life – gathering a snapshot of what impacts people on a daily basis. We know that while statistics tell one part of the story, opinions are another important measure of where we are and where we need to go.

Who responded



1,661 respondents

Where do you live?



Gender makeup

Municipality	Male	Female	Other
City	30%	69%	1%
County	34%	64%	2%
Greenview	22%	77%	1%

Age

Municipality	ages 15-17	ages 18-30	ages 31-44	ages 45-64	ages 65 and over
City	5.6%	17.8%	34.2%	34.2%	8.7%
County	41.8%	7.9%	21.4%	23.6%	5.3%
Greenview	7.5%	13.9%	30.4%	42.8%	5.5%

Length of time in community

Municipality	1 year or less	2-5 years	6-10 years	Over 10 years
City	5.7%	18.8%	15.5%	60.0%
County	5.9%	27.1%	19.0%	48.0%
Greenview	3.9%	13.8%	16.8%	65.5%

Employment (all municipalities)

More than one response could be selected

Full time	Unemployed
54.2%	12.3%
Retired	Student
8.3%	22.5%
Other	Employed part-time/casual
6.5%	18.1%

Place of Birth

Municipality	Alberta	Other province/territory	Outside Canada
City	55.4%	37.5%	7.1%
County	69.6%	26.3%	4.1%
Greenview	60.0%	36.0%	4.0%

Percentage of respondents who have moved to this area (City, County, Greenview) in the past five years from another part of Alberta or another province.

City	County	Greenview
18.4%	15.6%	14.5%
Alberta	Alberta	Alberta

Top 10 Greatest Strengths of your community

City of Grande Prairie respondents

Employment	51%
Parks/green space	47%
Walking/bicycle trails	43%
Recreation	41%
Festivals/events	35%
K-12 education	33%
Shopping	23%
Post secondary opportunities	23%
Sense of community	21%
Arts/Culture	20%

County of Grande Prairie and area respondents

Recreation	42%
K-12 education	40%
Parks/green space	36%
Feeling safe	35%
Employment	31%
Sense of community	31%
Walking/bicycle trails	29%
Festivals/events	29%
Walkability	17%
Shopping	15%

MD of Greenview and area respondents

Recreation	55%
Feeling safe	47%
Sense of community	45%
Parks/green space	40%
K-12 education	27%
Employment	21%
Festivals/events	18%
Walking/bicycle trails	15%
Environmental stewardship	15%
Walkability	12%

10 Most Important Issues Facing My Community

City of Grande Prairie respondents

Crime	70%
Cost of living	47%
Utilities	46%
Quality of roads	43%
Municipal taxes	40%
Access to a physician	33%
Poverty and/or homelessness	29%
Length of time to see physician	27%
Affordable housing	23%
Access to affordable childcare	18%

County of Grande Prairie and area respondents

Crime	56%
Quality of roads	51%
Cost of living	36%
Utilities	31%
Length of time to see physician	30%
Access to physician	28%
Municipal taxes	17%
Public transit between municipalities	17%
Affordable housing	15%
Seniors housing	12%

MD of Greenview and area respondents

Crime	54%
Quality of roads	41%
Cost of living	37%
Utilities	36%
Access to physician	28%
Municipal taxes	24%
Affordable housing	23%
Employment skills training	18%
Public transit between municipalities	16%
Seniors housing	15%

Do you feel your local community is doing enough to welcome newcomers?

City	County	Greenview
30.7%	38.5%	34.6%
Yes	Yes	Yes
55.4%	50.7%	44.1%
Unsure	Unsure	Unsure

Percentage of respondents who don't know their neighbours well enough to ask for help or offer assistance when needed.

City	County	Greenview
18.9%	13.7%	6.6%

Top four ways people connect with their neighbours.

1. Chats in the yard/over the fence
2. Visiting in homes
3. Neighbourhood parks (City) Community events/facilities (County and Greenview)
4. Social media

Community participation

Top five types of groups/ clubs/organizations people are most active in.
(random order, all municipalities)

- . Sports/recreation (#1 choice in all municipalities)
- . Cultural, educational, arts
- . Religious affiliated group
- . Community organization
- . School group

Frequency of volunteering

Minimum once per month	
23.1% Ages 15-30	41.3% Ages 31 and over
Not at all in the past year	
27.2% Ages 15-30	23.2% Ages 31 and over

Top three reasons for volunteering

Age 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

Age 31 and over

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

Top three reasons for not volunteering. (respondents who have not volunteered in the past year)

Age 15-30 and Age 31 and over gave same responses

1. Don't have enough time
2. Not interested
3. Haven't found the right group

Percentage of individuals who say they would know where to find out more information if they wanted to become more involved in volunteering.

62.7% Age 15-30
78.1% Age 31 and over

Percentage of individuals who donated money or goods to a cause or charity in the past year.

66.0% Age 15-30
91.3% Age 31 and over

Top three reasons people donated to charity or non-profit.

Age 15-30 and Age 31 and over gave same responses

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

Top two reasons people did not donate to charity or non-profit.

Age 15-30 and Age 31 and over gave the same responses

1. Had no extra money to donate
2. Don't always trust how funds are being directed

Political participation

How often do respondents (18 and over) vote in elections? (federal, provincial, municipal)

Ages 18-30	Ages 31 and over
63.6% Always	75.1% Always
21.1% Nearly always	15.9% Nearly always
3.5% Seldom	4.3% Seldom
11.8% Never	4.6% Never

Top three reasons people vote.

Age 18-30

1. It's my duty/right/privilege
2. To voice my opinion
3. I am generally interested in politics

Age 31 and over

1. It's my duty/right/privilege
2. To support a particular candidate/party
3. I feel my vote will make a difference

Top reason respondents chose not to vote some or all of the time.

Age 15-30 and 31 and over gave the same response

I didn't know enough about the candidates/parties/issues

Top three political activities respondents have participated in other than voting.

Age 15-30 and Age 31 and over gave the same responses

Signed a petition

Attended a meeting about a local issue

Contacted a politician

Truth and reconciliation

How familiar are respondents with Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

Ages 15-30	Ages 31 and over
13.5% Very	18.1% Very

32.4% Somewhat	46.6% Somewhat
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54.1% Not at all	35.3% Not at all
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The Truth and Reconciliation Commission made 94 calls to action from its report on Indian Residential Schools. How familiar are respondents with some or all of the Calls to Action

Ages 15-30	Ages 31 and over
8.9% Very	7.4% Very

33.4% Somewhat	45.2% Somewhat
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57.7% Not at all	47.5% Not at all
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Living in Your Community
Percentage of respondents who think their community is a good place to raise a family.

City	County
71.5% (15.3% unsure)	81.0% (12.2% unsure)

Greenview
78.0%
(11.3% unsure)

Percentage of respondents who think their community is a good place to retire.

City	County
33.4% (21.0% unsure)	55.1% (21.0% unsure)

Greenview
53.9%
(16.9% unsure)

Thank you for participating in our survey!

What one thing do you like most about the community in which you live?

City of Grande Prairie

- 1.** Community, family, friends
- 2.** Opportunities
- 3.** Parks

County of Grande Prairie

- 1.** Community, family, friends
- 2.** Peaceful environment, open spaces
- 3.** Schools

MD of Greenview

- 1.** Community, family, friends
 - 2.** Peaceful environment, open spaces
 - 3.** Beautiful surroundings
-

Let's continue the dialogue and take action. Research shows that belonging is a two way street. It's about how much we believe we fit in a place or a group, but also about how much that place or group welcomes and includes us.

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Let's connect



View the full report with all data and sources

www.buildingtomorrowtoday.com

THE FOUNDATION. of my community



starts with you and me - more than charity

it's the empathy i feel for the
people where i live.


Close to home is where the heart is,
where help goes farthest

my foundation helps me start this:

people standing tall
in towns big and small,

urban, rural, one and all.

My care comes through
helping those that can't make do,

or get by, or maybe
just need to fly. 

My foundation has roots across the land,
intertwining, hand-to-hand,

showing what we thousands banded
together can do, including you, making true

the endeavour
to make things better

for generations still,
their dreams fulfilled,

it all gets built ...

ON THE FOUNDATION.

Canada's community foundations help communities where they need it the most, connecting people, families and companies with the causes that inspire them. Community makes you. You make your community.

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Dawn Marie Crouse
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