

NO: **R086**

COUNCIL DATE: **April 23, 2012**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 23, 2012**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**

FILE: **5080-01**

SUBJECT: **"this IS HOW WE END POVERTY IN SURREY" – Update on the
Development of a Poverty Reduction Action Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the poverty reduction project entitled "this IS HOW WE END POVERTY IN SURREY" (the "Project"). The Project is being led by Vibrant Surrey with the City of Surrey being an active partner in this collaborative community project.

To date, the Project has resulted in the development of fact sheets that compile existing data on poverty in Surrey. A community dialogue was held in late March 2012 to engage stakeholders in a discussion of the information in the fact sheets and to identify strategies for addressing poverty in Surrey. The research and community feedback, to date, will be used to develop a Surrey Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents (the "Social Plan") identifies "child poverty alleviation" as a priority and "advocacy by municipal government to champion the issues/problems related to child poverty and the long term impact on child/adult development" as a key gap. The Social Plan recommends the establishment of an intergovernmental roundtable to address the issue.

BACKGROUND

Alice Sundberg, Vibrant Surrey's Manager of Projects and Partnerships, presented the Project at a Council in Committee meeting on July 11, 2011. Her presentation included some key highlights emerging from the research work. Council was advised that in 2012, the Project team would report to Council on the results of the community engagement process and with recommendations for action.

DISCUSSION

The Project is being led by Vibrant Surrey, a non-profit society, which encourages and facilitates efforts to reduce poverty. The Project partners include the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, Fraser Health Authority (Aboriginal Health), Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the City of Surrey. The Chair, Councillor Villeneuve, and a member of the Social Planning Advisory Committee, along with staff from the Planning and Development Department and the Engineering Department have been representing the City on the Project team.

The Project has three components, as follows:

1. preparation of fact sheets;
2. community dialogue; and
3. development of a Surrey Poverty Reduction Action Plan, including recommendations.

To date, the first two components have been completed.

Fact Sheets

The Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) was contracted by Vibrant Surrey to prepare a series of 12 facts sheets compiling existing data related to poverty in Surrey. The fact sheets, as described below, are included as Appendix I to this report.

- The Facts on Poverty in Surrey: This booklet includes an overview of key facts and figures focused on four policy areas – transportation, housing, income and support; and
- Living in Poverty in Surrey: This booklet provides fact sheets on seven population groups – families, seniors, people with health and activity limitations, women, men, Aboriginal people, and immigrants.

The fact sheets provide the base of evidence for the development of Surrey's Poverty Reduction Action Plan. This information will ensure that the Plan is based on accurate and credible facts in addition to community dialogue. The fact sheets will be available on the City's website and will serve as a useful resource for community and government agencies.

Community Dialogue

On March 30, 2012, a full-day community dialogue was held to engage stakeholders in the Project. The objectives of the dialogue were to:

- inform stakeholders about the Project research and fact sheets and identify how these can be used for advocacy, program development and evaluating progress;
- consult stakeholders on strategies and actions that should be included in the Surrey Poverty Reduction Action Plan; and
- consult stakeholders on how the Action Plan should be implemented and how they wish to be involved.

Approximately 100 people, representing diverse community and government agencies, participated in the dialogue. The dialogue confirmed the keen interest and commitment that the community has in working together on solutions to break the cycle of poverty in Surrey.

Next Steps - Preparation of a Poverty Reduction Action Plan

Over the next three months, Surrey's Poverty Reduction Action Plan will be developed, based on the data and research that has been undertaken and the results of the community dialogue. The process will be a collaborative effort between Vibrant Surrey, SPARC BC, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: Community Learning and Engagement (CIR:CLE) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the City of Surrey. It will be presented to Council for consideration during the summer of 2012.

Provincial Pilot Child Poverty Project

On April 12, 2012, the Province of BC and UBCM announced that Surrey was one of seven communities selected for a pilot Community Poverty Reduction Strategy Project. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), this project will focus on families with children who are living in poverty. A News Release related to this project is attached as Appendix II.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Poverty Reduction Project, which is the subject of this report, will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly the Sustainability Charter's Action Item SC5, which is focused on the implementation of the recommendations of the Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents.

CONCLUSION

While Surrey's poverty rate of 18% is below the Metro Vancouver average of 21%, it represents many families. Over the past year, the City of Surrey has been working in collaboration with Vibrant Surrey and other community partners on a Poverty Reduction Project. To date, a series of 12 fact sheets on poverty in Surrey have been prepared and a community dialogue has been held to engage stakeholders in identifying potential solutions. Over the next few months, the fact sheets and related research, along with the community feedback will be used to prepare a Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan complete with recommendations. The Plan will be forwarded to Council for consideration during the summer of this year.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

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Attachments:

Appendix I Fact Sheets

Appendix II Ministry of Children and Family Development News Release

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/ TRANSPORTATION / HOUSING / INCOME / SUPPORT /

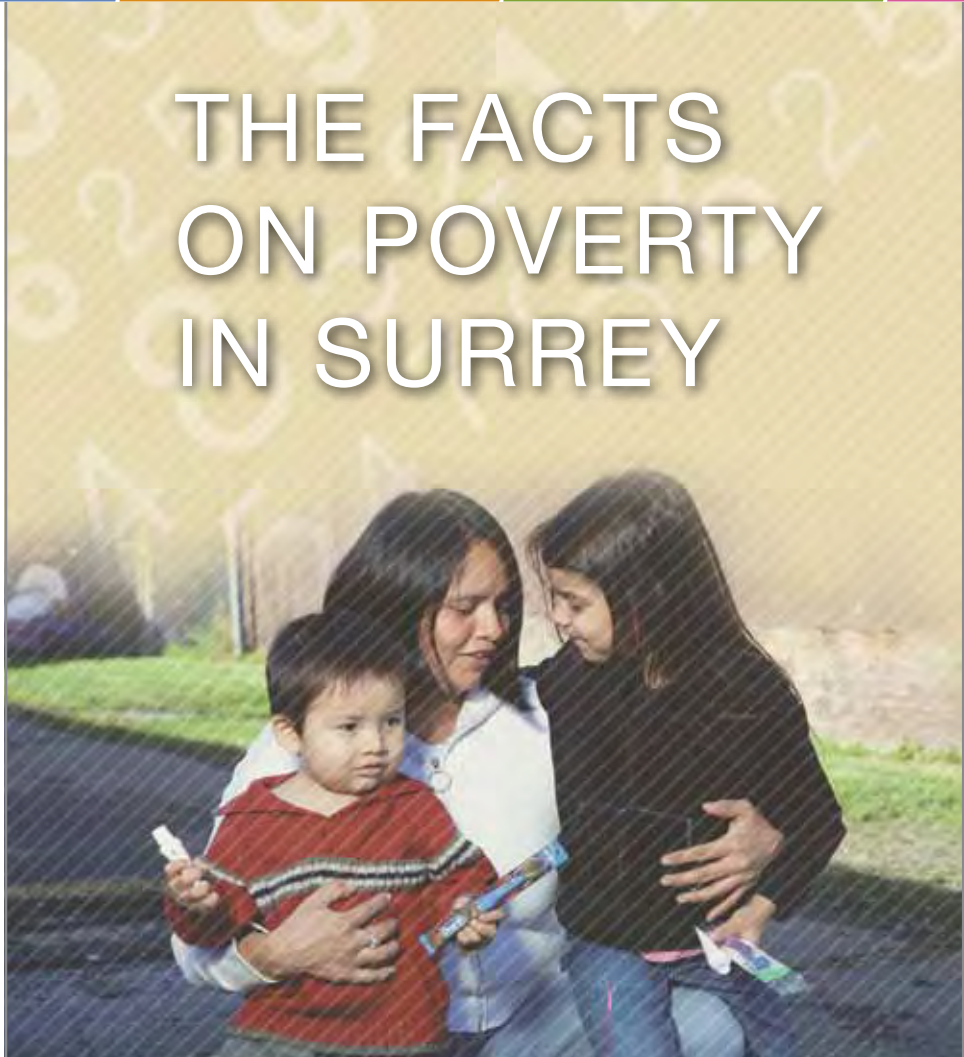
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THE FACTS ON POVERTY IN SURREY

key facts and figures

Region-wide there were 433,500 people across Metro Vancouver living in poverty (before tax) in 2006 representing almost 21 per cent of the population in Metro Vancouver.

Of those living in poverty, 70,500 were living in Surrey. This represents 16 per cent of the regional total. It also represents approximately 1 in 5 individuals living in Surrey.

About our research

Our research shows that there is significant diversity in the profile of households living in poverty. This series of fact sheets provides information on:

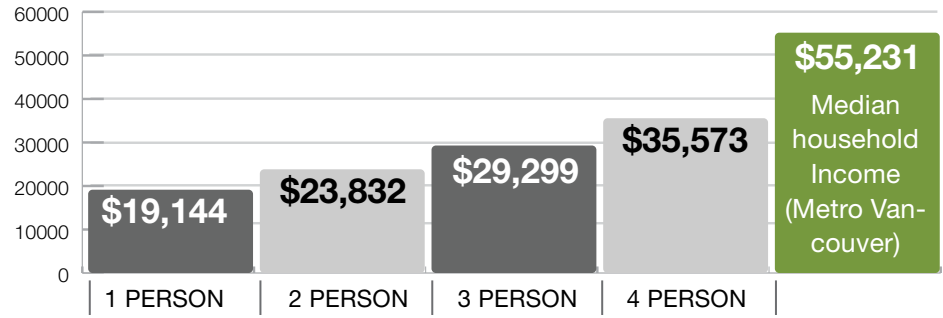
- Families with children;
- Seniors;
- Single parent families;
- Aboriginal people;
- Women;
- Men;
- Immigrants and recent immigrants; and
- People with disabilities

GRAPH 1 For a city the size of Surrey, households below these income levels are considered to be living in poverty.

In low income (before tax) **In low income (after tax)**

What are the low income cut-offs?

LOW INCOME CUT-OFFS BY FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE COMPARED TO THE REGIONAL MEDIAN INCOME



Our research shows that more than 17,233 people in Surrey were lifted out of poverty through income tax measures.

Our objective

Using facts and analysis, our focus is on developing effective partnerships that build on current efforts to address issues related to poverty and low income in Surrey. This includes developing targeted strategies around:

- affordable housing
- accessible and affordable transportation
- adequate income
- appropriate community supports

Defining poverty

Statistics Canada calculates the income threshold that determines if a household is living in poverty. This calculation takes into consideration differences in family and household size, community size and incomes in the community. Graph 1 shows the low income cut-offs for households of different sizes. It also includes information on the median household income for the Metro Vancouver region. As shown in Graph 1, a single person would be considered to be living in poverty if their income was \$19,144 or less in 2009. This translates to approximately \$1,600 per month. Similarly, a two person household would be considered to be living below the poverty line if their income was \$23,832 or less, which is equal to approximately \$1,990 per month.

Before tax and after tax measures

Our research looks at both the before tax and after tax measures of poverty to better understand if and how specific measures or initiatives are working. We are interested in identifying the types of measures, partnerships and collaborative actions that can have real and lasting change.

TRANSPORTATION

- Public transit can make a real difference

HOUSING

- Let's explore choices that can help to increase housing stability

INCOME

- Develop strategies that can help to improve economic security

SUPPORT

- Supports include affordable child care, investments in education and more

The incidence of poverty in Surrey

There were approximately 433,500 individuals living in poverty in Metro Vancouver in 2006, representing 20.8 per cent of all individuals living in Metro Vancouver. In Surrey, there were 70,500 individuals living in poverty before taxes in 2006, approximately 18 per cent of the total population. The information in Table 1 shows that tax measures are making a difference. In particular, our research shows that there were more than 17,233 people lifted out of low income after income taxes were taken into consideration with the after-tax poverty rate in Surrey dropping from 18.0 per cent to 13.6 per cent.

TABLE 1 INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY IN 2006, BEFORE AND AFTER TAXES

	Total Population		In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Metro Vancouver	2,084,140	20.8	433,501	16.5	343,883	-89,618		
Surrey	391,670	18	70,501	13.6	53,267	-17,233		

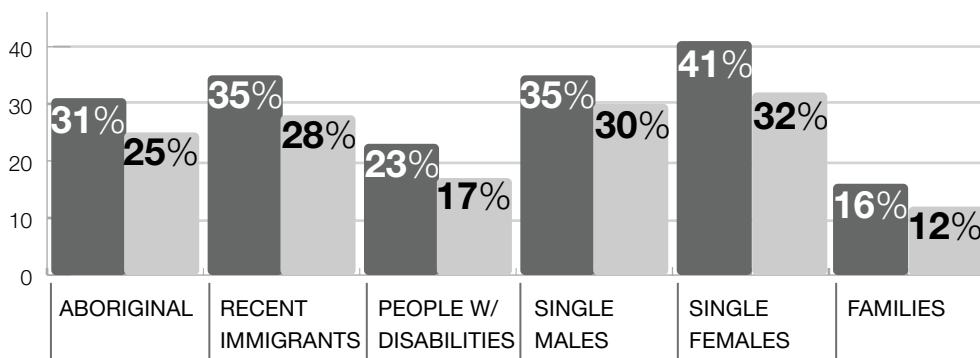
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006. Other includes Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

Steps toward ending poverty in Surrey

We believe that by working together on community-based solutions, using accurate and credible facts and broad discussion we will be able to find ways to break the cycle of poverty in Surrey. Our objective is to engage the broader community in a dialogue about the actions that can be taken to tackle poverty and low income. We are focusing our dialogue and community-based action on four key areas: transportation, housing, income and support.

How do taxes affect low income?

LOW INCOME EARNERS BEFORE AND AFTER TAX FOR ABORIGINAL, RECENT IMMIGRANTS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Source: Statistics Canada, Low Income Cut-off (2009).

GRAPH 2 Tax measures are having a positive effect for vulnerable populations in poverty.





LET'S DO
this

-  This fact sheet is part of a series of five. Fact sheets available are
-  **transportation,**
-  **housing,**
-  **income,**
-  **support** and **overview.**
-  Available for download at www.vibrantsurrey.ca

● TRANSPORTATION

Many people living in Surrey continue to rely on their cars to get to and from work. This is not unlike other communities. However, for lower income households the cost of operating a vehicle can be significant. Our research has shown that investments in **public transit can make a real difference**, by helping to bring down the cost of travelling to work as well as by providing low income families and individuals with better access to jobs and community services.

● HOUSING

Metro Vancouver is recognized as a high housing cost region. While housing in Surrey is more affordable when compared to other parts of the region, our research shows that there are still too many low income families and individuals struggling to find housing that they can afford. We also know that access to **affordable housing plays a critical role** in helping to provide low income families and individuals with the foundation that they need for stability and for their health and well-being.

● INCOME

Income determines the types of opportunities and life chances available to families and individuals. For households who are in low income and who are living pay cheque to pay cheque, an unexpected expense such as an increase in their rent, car repairs or other unanticipated costs can have a devastating impact. The National Council of Welfare in 2010 reported that a family of four receiving income assistance in BC lives on a total of \$21,179 annually (including tax credits/benefits), about \$14,000 per year less than the low income cut-off for a family of four (\$35,573). We also know that **job security and earnings are essential to lift families and individuals out of poverty.**

● SUPPORT

One of the consequences of poverty is a sense of powerlessness and an inability to make real choices. **Our focus in terms of support includes affordable child care, investments in education and other supports that can help to increase life chances**, as well as developing place-based strategies that target most vulnerable neighbourhoods



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TRANSPORTATION

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THE FACTS ON POVERTY IN SURREY

transportation

Many people in Surrey continue to rely on their cars to get to and from work. This is not unlike other communities. However, for many low income households, the cost of transportation can be significant.

Our research shows that investments in and proximity to public transit can make a significant difference in reducing the cost of travelling to work as well as providing low income families and individuals with better access to jobs and employment.

Taking this into consideration, we are interested in exploring choices that can help to reduce the cost of transportation for low income families and individuals, while helping to facilitate greater mobility within and across the region to allow people to shop, access services and participate in their community.

KEY FACTS

1 in 10

Surrey residents
use public transit
to get to work

TABLE 2 PUBLIC TRANSIT COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	Low Income Cut-Offs	Public Transit Costs (Annual)	Public Transit Costs (Monthly)	% of Household Income
1 person	\$19,144	\$1,812	\$151	9.5%
2 persons	\$23,832	\$3,624	\$302	15%
3 persons	\$29,299	\$4,182	\$349	14%
4 persons	\$35,573	\$4,740	\$395	13%

NOTE: Based on a 3-zone monthly transit cost of \$151 per month for each adult and a concession fare of \$46.50 for each child. This includes 2 adults and 1 child in the three (3) person household and 2 adults and 2 children in the 4 person household.

Patterns of transit use across different groups

Our research shows different patterns of transit use across different groups.

WOMEN Of the 84,705 women 15 and older in Surrey, 11,475 (14%) reported that they take public transit to work while 81% take a vehicle, either as a driver (70%) or as a passenger (11%).

MEN Of the 99,650 males 15 and older in Surrey, 8,565 (9%) reported they take public transit to work while 88% reported that they take a vehicle, either as a driver (81%) or as a passenger (7%).

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE Of the 3,210 Aboriginal people 15 and older in Surrey, 600 (19%) reported that they take public transit to work while 74% reported that they take a vehicle, either as a driver (65%) or as a passenger (9%).

RECENT IMMIGRANTS Of the 13,955 recent immigrants 15 and older in Surrey, 2,620 (19%) reported taking public transit to work while 76% take a vehicle, either as a driver (54%) or as a passenger (23%).

PEOPLE WITH HEALTH AND ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS Of the 24,905 people with health and activity limitations 15 and older in Surrey, 3,280 (13%) reported taking public transit to work while 82% reported that they take a vehicle to work either as a driver (72%) or as a passenger (10%).

TABLE 3 PATTERNS OF TRANSIT USE COMPARED TO OTHER MODES OF TRAVEL

	Private Vehicles	Public Transit	Walking	Biking	Other
Metro Vancouver	74%	16%	6%	2%	1%
Surrey	85%	11%	3%	0%	1%



COURTESY: TRANSLINK

Where Surrey has public transit, it works. Let's ensure that housing, employment, health care and other services are integrated with transit.

Using public transit can cut transportation costs by more than half



What we know from our research

Accessible and affordable transportation is important

We know that affordable and accessible transportation plays an important role in helping to access employment, services and other opportunities. Our research shows that, for many households, the cost of owning and operating a vehicle is a major household expense.

The Survey of Household Spending (SHS) reported that households spend an average of \$9,637 annually on transportation-related expenses. This includes an average annual expenditure of \$5,509 for the operation of a vehicle including maintenance and fuel as well as other costs.

TABLE 1 TRANSPORTATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	Low Income Cut-Offs	Average Annual Cost (2009)	Average Monthly Cost (2009)	% of Household Income
1 person	\$19,144	\$9,637	\$803	50%
2 persons	\$23,832	\$9,637	\$803	40%
3 persons	\$29,299	\$9,637	\$803	33%
4 persons	\$35,573	\$9,637	\$803	27%

Source: Statistics Canada, Income in Canada 2009, Table 801, Cat. no. 75-202-X

Transportation-related expenditures have continued to increase

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for British Columbia shows that transportation-related costs have continued to increase by approximately 2% per year or 20% over the past 10 years. A lot of this increase can be attributed to the rising cost of fuel which has increased at a rate of approximately 5% per year or 50% between 2001 and 2010.

Public transit can reduce transportation costs

An annual transportation cost of \$9,697 translates into a weekly cost of \$186. At the same time, a monthly 3-zone transit pass costs \$151 per month or approximately \$40 per week.

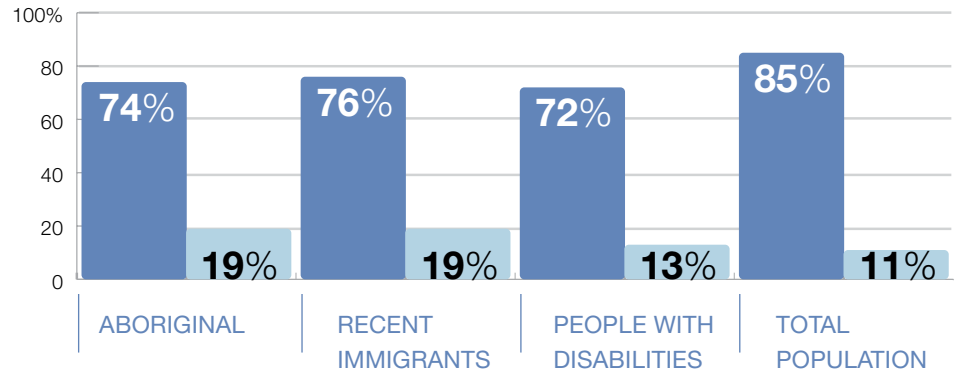
For a family of three living at the poverty line, access to public transit can represent a significant savings. If a household is able to access suitable transit options, their monthly transportation costs could be cut by more than half — going from approximately \$803 per month to \$349 per month, representing between 10% and 15% of the annual budget for a household living in poverty. (See Table 2).

How do people get to work?

COMMUTING PATTERN FOR ABORIGINAL, RECENT IMMIGRANTS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

GRAPH 3 Our research shows that of these groups the majority use a car to go to work

Commute by car
 Commute by public transit



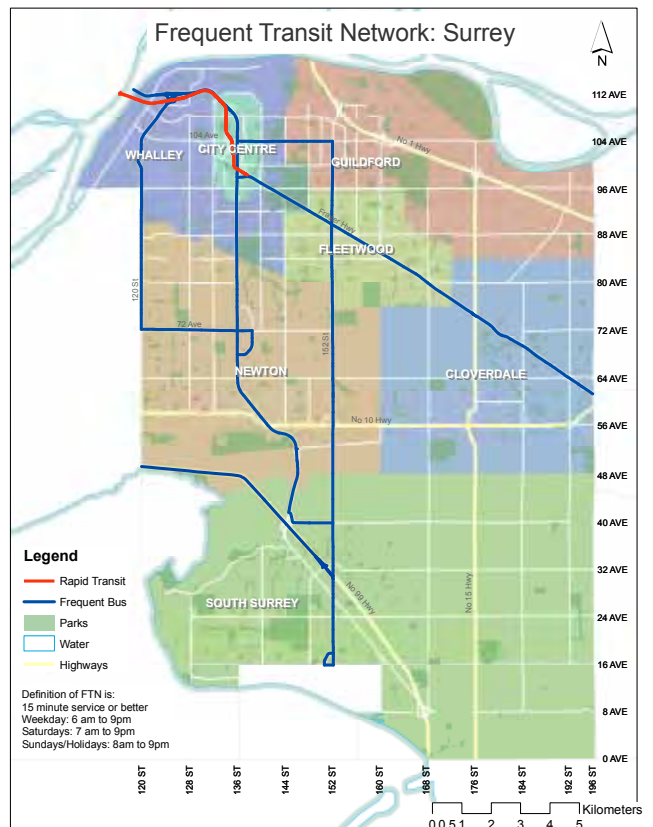
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- **support** and **overview**.
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Discounted Transit Passes

The Ministry of Social Development provides discounted transit passes for low income seniors and people with disabilities. This program can make a real difference in helping families and individuals who are in low income and struggling to make ends meet.

SURREY'S FREQUENT TRANSIT NETWORK

In order to make transit accessible and affordable for low income populations it needs to be close to where people live, work and need to go. Given Surrey's geography and population distribution, the city's Frequent Transit Network does not currently achieve these goals.



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THE FACTS ON POVERTY IN SURREY

housing

Metro Vancouver is recognized as having high housing costs. While housing in Surrey is more affordable when compared to other parts of the region, our research shows that there are still too many low income families and individuals struggling to find housing that they can afford.

We also know that access to affordable housing plays a critical role in helping to provide low income families and individuals with the foundation that they need for their overall well-being. We are interested in exploring strategies to provide low income families and individuals with increased stability in their housing situation and an expanded range of housing options.

KEY FACTS

1 in 10

Surrey renters pays at least half of the household income on housing

TABLE 1 AFFORDABILITY OF RENTS FOR HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN LOW INCOME

	Low Income Threshold	Affordable Rent Levels	Surrey Rent Levels	Difference
1 person	\$19,144	\$479	\$610	(\$131)
2 person	\$23,832	\$596	\$718	(\$122)
3 persons	\$29,299	\$732	\$897	(\$165)
4 persons	\$35,573	\$889	\$982	(\$93)

Approximately 1 in 3 renter households in Metro Vancouver and Surrey were in core housing need

Core Housing Need refers to households spending 30% or more of their income on their housing costs, or unable to find housing in their community that is suitable in size and that is in good repair with the resources they have available. Issues of housing affordability can be related to both a shortage of affordable units and rents which are not affordable to households with incomes at the lower end of the income distribution. The 2006 Census shows that there were 79,265 renter household in core housing need in Metro Vancouver representing approximately 1 in 3 renter households. There were also approximately 10,430 renter households in core housing need in Surrey representing approximately 32 per cent of all renter households in Surrey.

Households in "worst case" need

Of the 79,265 Metro Vancouver renter households in core housing need, approximately 31,290 were in need and spending at least half of their income on their housing costs (INALH). We refer to these households as "in worst case need". These are households that are considered to be facing extreme housing affordability challenges where a decrease in their income or an increase in their rent has the potential to push them deeper to the margins and into homelessness.

In Surrey, of the 10,430 renter households in core housing need, there were 3,495 renter households who were in "worst case" need. This represents approximately 34 per cent of all renter households in core housing need.

TABLE 2 PROFILE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE NEED AND INALH

	Renter Households	Renter Households In Core Housing Need	%	INALH Households	% in core need who are INALH
	#	#	%	#	%
Greater Vancouver	283,755	79,365	28	31,290	39.4
Surrey	32,475	10,430	32.1	3,495	33.5



Our research shows that average rents in Surrey are not affordable to households living with low incomes.

Surrey's rents are more affordable than the region as a whole, yet over 10,000 Surrey renters pay too much for their housing.



What we know from our research

Many families and individuals in Metro Vancouver are renters

Renter households account for approximately 35% of all households across Metro Vancouver. Within the City of Surrey, approximately 25% of all households are renters. While many households will aspire to be owners, there are also many households for whom owning might not be possible and renting is their only option.

Average rental housing costs

Rental market data published by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (December 2011) reported average monthly rents of \$1,027 across the Metro Vancouver region. Within the City of Surrey, the average monthly rent was \$814. An average market rent of \$814 is approximately 26% below the average market rent for the region.

Average housing cost for a bachelor and 1-bedroom unit (2011)

CMHC reports that the average monthly rent in Metro Vancouver for a bachelor unit is \$839 and the average monthly rent for a 1-bedroom unit \$964.

In Surrey, the average monthly rent for a bachelor unit is \$610 and the average monthly rent for a 1-bedroom unit is \$718. The average rent for a bachelor and 1-bedroom unit in Surrey is affordable to a household with an annual income of between \$24,399 and \$28,718. These rents are above the level that is affordable to a single person or 2 person household living at the poverty line.

Average housing cost for 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom units (2011)

CMHC reports that the average monthly rent for a 2-bedroom unit in Metro Vancouver is \$1,237 and the average monthly rent for a 3-bedroom unit is \$1,463.

In Surrey, the average monthly rent for a 2- bedroom unit is \$897 and the average rent for a 3-bedroom unit was \$982. These rents are affordable to households with annual incomes of between \$35,880 and \$39,280 and are above the levels that would be affordable to three and four person households living at the poverty line.

The affordability of the rents in Surrey

While the average rent in Surrey is 26% below the average market rent for the region, the rents are still unaffordable to many lower income households, especially those living in poverty. Even with the higher levels of affordability when compared to rents across the region, the average rent in Surrey is between \$100 and \$200 per month above the level that is affordable to a household living at the poverty line.



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Access to social housing

Data available through BC Housing (December 2009) reports 4,376 social housing units in Surrey. This suggests that social housing represents approximately 13% of the 32,475 rental housing units available. Approximately 44% of those social housing units house families, while 41% serve seniors and the remaining 15% are targeted to special needs populations including individuals at-risk of homelessness.

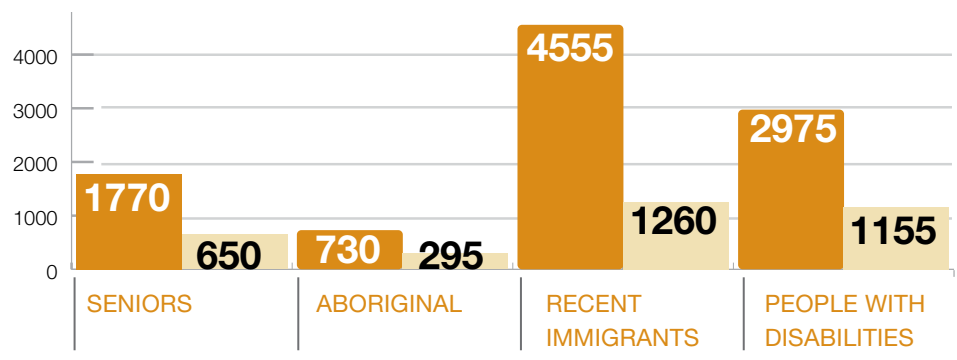
In addition to households living in social housing, there are approximately 850 families and 1,204 seniors receiving rental assistance through Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER).

Homelessness

Across Surrey, there were also 400 individuals who were identified as homeless on the night of the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count, representing 15% of the total Metro Vancouver homeless population. This includes 230 people who were sleeping outside, or unsheltered. The other 170 homeless individuals were sleeping in emergency shelters, transition houses, hospitals or jails.

How many households in Surrey are in Core or “Worst Case” Housing Need?

HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE NEED AND INALH AMONG DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLD TYPES



■ CORE need ■ INALH

GRAPH 1 Among households in core housing need, some populations are also more likely to pay more than half their income on housing.

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THE FACTS ON POVERTY IN SURREY

income

Income is about economic security and access to opportunities. Too many families and individuals are living pay cheque to pay cheque, earning too little to let them get ahead.

Based on the current income cut-offs, a single person is considered to be living in poverty if their income is below \$19,144 (before tax). Similarly, a two person household including a single parent family is considered to be living in poverty if their income is below \$23,832. For a family of four, the poverty line is \$35,573.

KEY FACTS

1 in 4

Metro Vancouver income assistance cases are in Surrey

What we know from our research

An individual working full year, full time at the minimum wage lives in poverty

In November 2011, the minimum wage in BC increased from \$8.75 per hour to \$9.50 per hour. In May 2012, the minimum wage will increase by an additional 75 cents to \$10.25 per hour. A minimum wage of \$9.50 per hour translates into approximately \$356 per week assuming a 37.5 hour week. Annually this translates into an income of \$18,525 or approximately 97% of the poverty line for a single person household, and 77% of the poverty line for a single parent family household.

Working poor couples earning minimum wage also face challenges

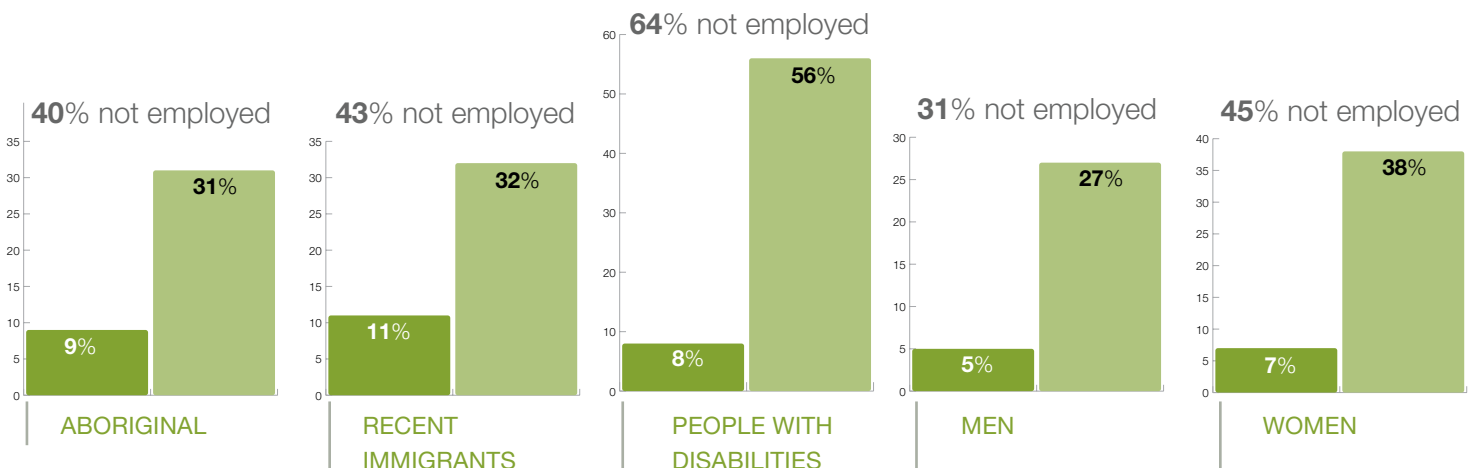
A family of four, where both of the heads of the household are working full-time and earning minimum wage will earn just enough to move them out of poverty based on the established income cut-offs. At the same time, even though their income has allowed them to move out of poverty, they would not be able to afford the average 3 bedroom rent in Surrey (\$982) without spending more than 30 per cent of their income on their housing costs. As well, these households remain among those who are considered to be the near poor and who face the risk of falling back into poverty.

The unemployment rate among people in Surrey ranged from 5% for men to 11% for recent immigrants.



Who's looking for work?

UNEMPLOYMENT VARIES FROM GROUP TO GROUP





A family of four with both parents earning minimum wage full time will have to pay more than 30% of their income to rent an average 3 bedroom home in Surrey.

Access to employment and opportunities

Through our research we observed that there is significant variation in the employment and economic opportunities available to different groups and sectors of the community. Among people who were in the labour force, the following general patterns and trends emerged.

WOMEN Approximately 51% of all women 15 and older living in Surrey worked part-time while 40% worked full year, full-time. Of those working full-time, the median hourly earnings were \$18.42 in 2006.

MEN Approximately 39% of all men 15 and older living in Surrey worked part-time while 55% worked full year, full-time. Of those working full-time, the median hourly earnings were \$23.24.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE Approximately 51% of all Aboriginal people 15 and older living in Surrey worked part-time while 44% worked full year, full-time. Of those working full-time, the median hourly earnings were \$19.67.

RECENT IMMIGRANTS Approximately 66% of all recent immigrants 15 and older living in Surrey worked part-time while 31% worked full year, full-time. Of those working full-time, the median hourly earnings were \$14.23.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Approximately 44% of all people with health and activity limitations in Surrey 15 and older worked part-time while 44% worked full year, full-time. Of those working full-time, the median hourly earnings were \$19.95.

Some populations earn significantly less than others. On average, men earned almost double what recent immigrants earned.

What are people earning?

HOURLY WAGES VARY BETWEEN POPULATION GROUPS





● This fact sheet is part of a series of five. Fact sheets available are **transportation, housing, income, support** and **overview**.
●
●
●
○ Available for download at www.vibrantsurrey.ca



Making Work Pay

The table below shows the median income reported across those who worked full year, full time and includes comparative information by gender.

	Total Population With Income from Employment	Median Income All Full-Time Workers	Median Income (Male)	Median Income (Female)
Metro Vancouver	1,242,245	\$ 48,143	\$ 53,995	\$ 38,637
Surrey	223,770	\$ 45,320	\$ 48,705	\$ 35,929

The importance of a strong social safety net

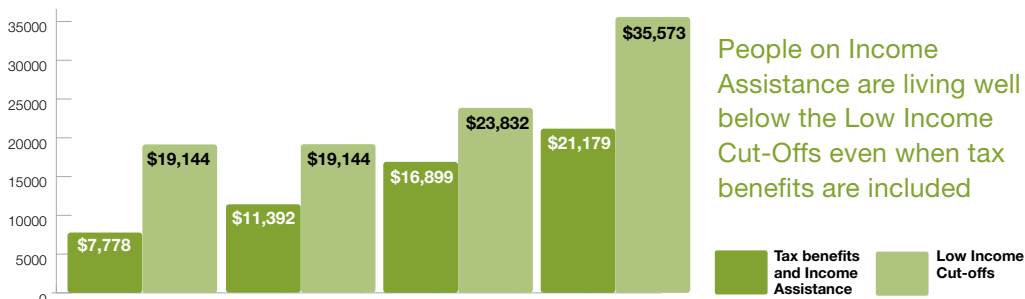
Information from the Ministry of Social Development also shows that there were approximately 14,632 households and 20,610 individuals in Surrey relying on income assistance (April 2011). This represents approximately 23% of the 62,512 income assistance cases across Metro Vancouver. For a single person household, the assistance available is approximately \$610 per month, while the assistance available for a couple with two children is approximately \$1,101 per month. These translate into an annual income of \$7,320 for a single person and \$13,212 for a couple with two children; income levels significantly below the low income cut-off for a single person household (\$19,144) and the low income cut-off for a family of four (\$35,575).

Bridging programs and supports

There has been a patchwork of programs introduced to respond to emerging needs and pressures. Some have included enhancements to existing programs. Others have been in the form of one-time or time-limited funding. The federal government provided a list of programs and initiatives that address poverty in the *Government Response to the Final Report on the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology on Cities entitled "In from the Margins: A call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness"*. These programs include apprenticeship grants, Aboriginal skills and employment training strategies and funding, a variety of tax measures aimed at families with children and people with disabilities, employment insurance, student grants and summer jobs programs, and literacy programs.

How strong is the social safety net?

COMPARISON OF INCOME ASSISTANCE, TAX BENEFITS AND LICO



Source: Statistics Canada, LICO 2009 and National Council of Welfare, Welfare Incomes 2009

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IS HOW WE END POVERTY IN SURREY

TRANSPORTATION

HOUSING

INCOME

SUPPORT



THE FACTS ON POVERTY IN SURREY

support

It is difficult to escape poverty without targeted strategies and supports. For many families and individuals living in poverty, choices are constrained, and trade-offs difficult.

This fact sheet looks at the potential benefits of developing place-based strategies to help address the challenges of poverty, by focusing on the specific needs of the most vulnerable Surrey neighbourhoods. This fact sheet also looks more closely at the importance of access to affordable child care, and access to education and other opportunities as a way to help families and individuals overcome poverty.



Place-based strategies respond to specific neighbourhood limitations and pressures



What we know from our research

Access to affordable and appropriate childcare

Affordable child care is essential in terms of supporting families. In particular, our research shows that dependable and affordable child care is essential in helping families to gain access to employment, while at the same time allowing parents to feel confident that their children's needs are being met. Over time, different types of child care arrangements have evolved with many lower income households facing fewer choices in the child care options available to them.

Access to education

Access to education also plays an essential role in helping address poverty. This includes measures to ensure that low income families and individuals have access to the types of opportunities and training they need for achieving success. The following provides an overview of the level of education attained across different groups and sectors of the community.

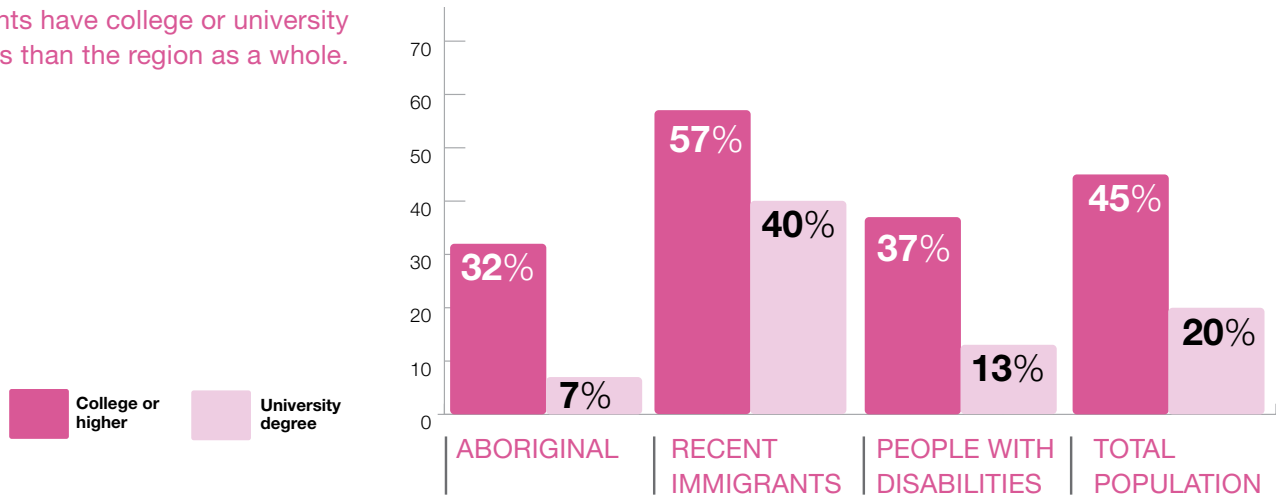
ABORIGINAL PEOPLE Approximately 24% of Aboriginal people in Surrey age 24 to 64 did not have any certificate, diploma or degree in 2006, while 27% had a high school diploma or the equivalent. Approximately 49% had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program.

RECENT IMMIGRANTS Approximately 18% of recent immigrants in Surrey age 24 to 64 did not have any certificate, diploma or degree in 2006, while 21% had a high school diploma or the equivalent. Approximately 61% had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program with 79% in this category having a university degree.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Approximately 22% of people with health and activity limitations in Surrey age 24 to 64 reported that they did not have a certificate, diploma or degree in 2006 while 28% had a high school diploma or the equivalent. Approximately 50% had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program with 39% in this group having a university degree.

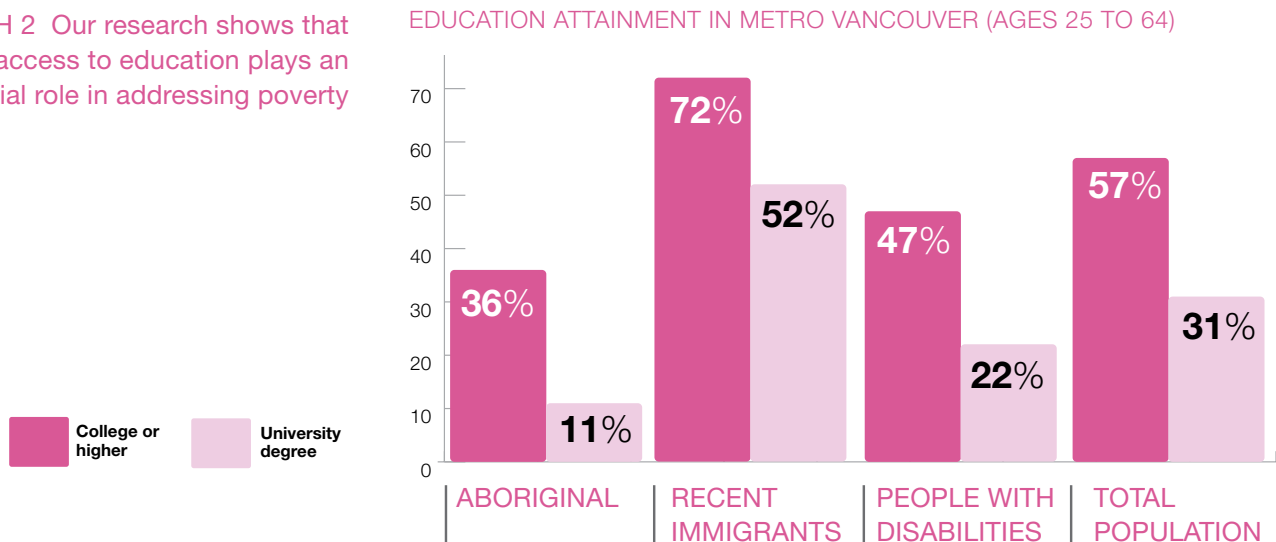
How many people in Surrey finish college or get a university degree?

GRAPH 1 On average, fewer Surrey residents have college or university degrees than the region as a whole.



How many people in Metro Vancouver finish college or get a university degree?

GRAPH 2 Our research shows that access to education plays an essential role in addressing poverty



Place-based strategies can make a difference

Effective strategies for responding to the need of families and individuals living in poverty should incorporate place-based strategies that seek to respond to specific limitations or neighbourhood pressures. This can include appropriate access to transit, neighbourhood and community amenities as well as quality schools and affordable housing. Effective place-based strategies target neighbourhoods with a high proportion of households living in poverty.



This fact sheet is part of a series of five. Fact sheets available are **transportation**, **housing**, **income**, **support** and **overview**. Available for download at www.vibrantsurrey.ca

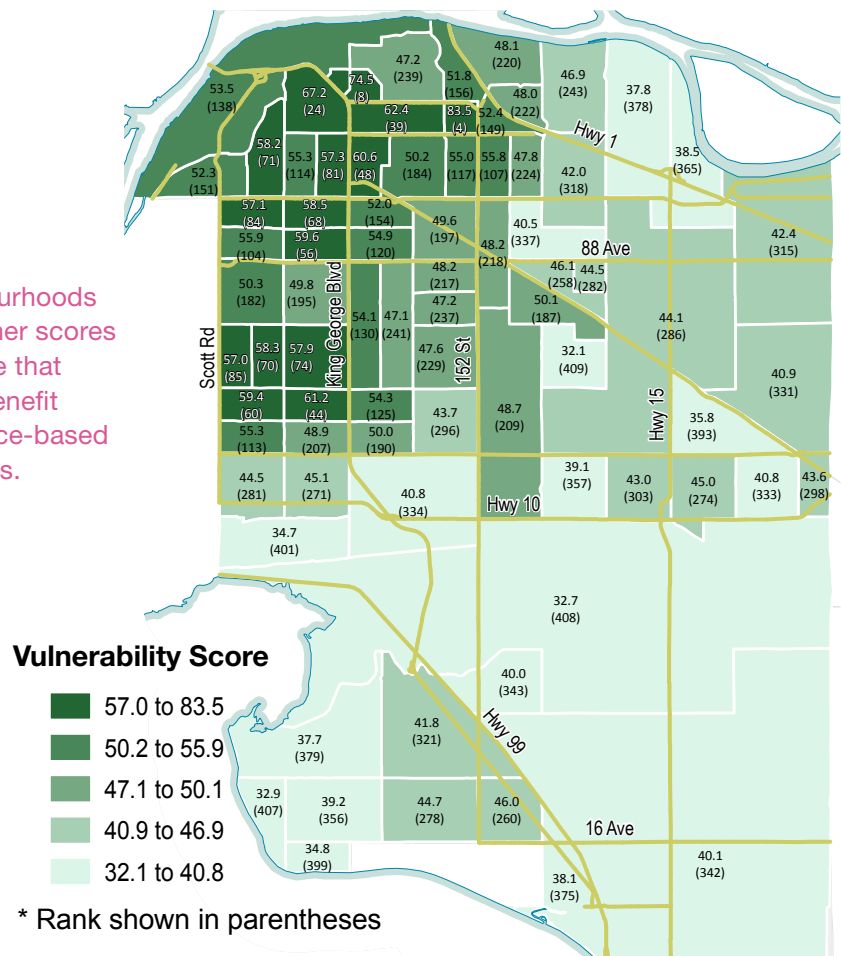


Our research shows that some neighbourhoods can face a combination of challenges which can put pressure on the community. Research pioneered by the *Globalization and Health Project* funded by the Canadian Institute of Health developed a measure which looked at different pressures and the potential implications for affected neighbourhoods. They mapped the results to identify specific neighbourhoods or communities which would benefit from targeted or place-based strategies. Among the specific measures were:

- The share of the population living below LICO;
- The share of the population 6 or under living below LICO;
- The rate of unemployment;
- The share of the population 15+ with less than high school education;
- The share of families that are single parent families;
- The share of the population that are recent immigrants;
- The share of renter households spending 30% or more of their income on their housing costs.

GRAPH 3 VULNERABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Neighbourhoods with higher scores are those that would benefit from place-based strategies.





● transportation

● housing

● income

● support



Vibrant Surrey is pleased to present the findings of the Collaborative Research Project on Poverty in Surrey. In 2011 Vibrant Surrey convened a core working group that included the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, City of Surrey staff, representatives of Fraser Health and of Kwantlen Polytechnic University and, partnering with the Social Planning and Research Council of BC, carried out research that compiled existing data on poverty in Surrey.

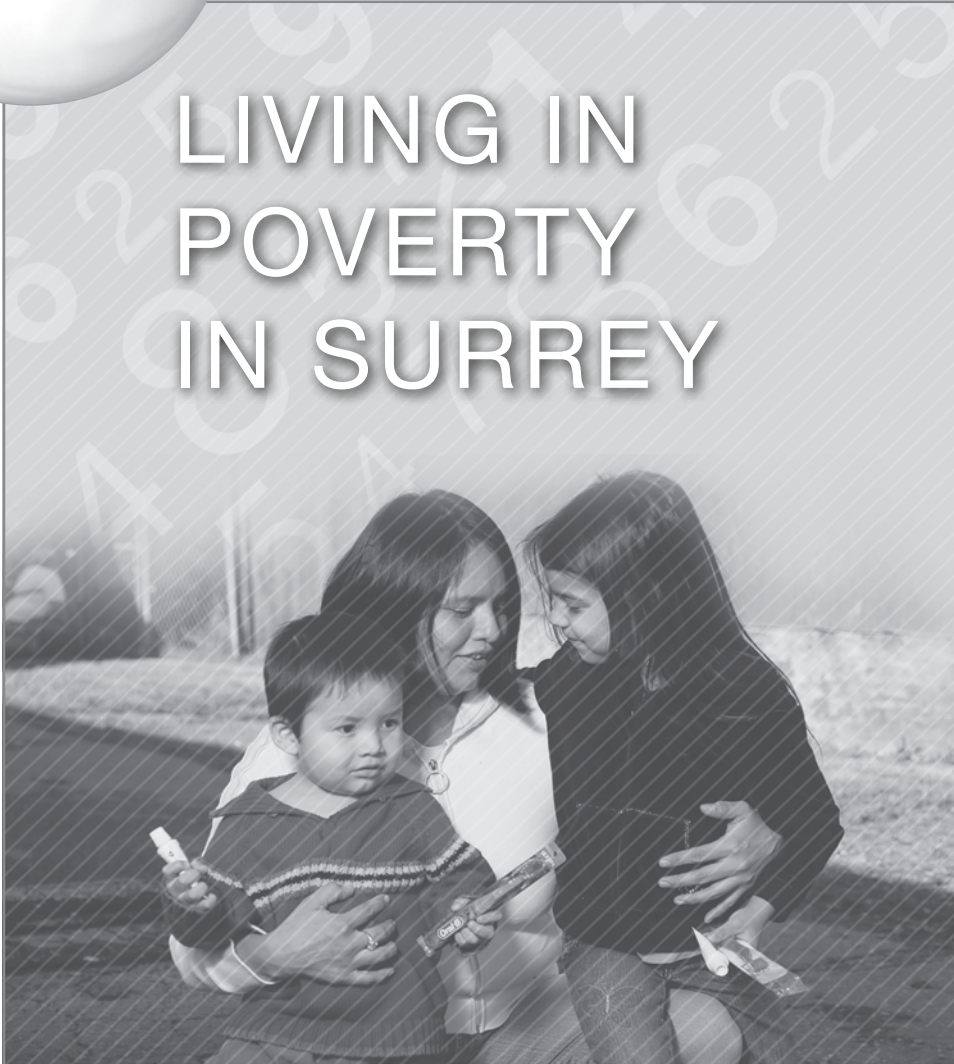
As a result of this research, we have produced a series of Fact Sheets that describe poverty as it affects specific populations, as well as how four important factors —Transportation, Housing, Income and Supports — affect the people living with low incomes.

Strong research and partnerships will provide a foundation for collaboration with the local business community to engage local, provincial and federal governments in poverty reductions strategies because together we can do this.



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transportation / housing / income / support

LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY





LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

1 families

There were 557,270 families living in Metro Vancouver in 2006. Of the families in Metro Vancouver, 231,045 included children under the age of 18. Of the families in Metro Vancouver, approximately 95,290 (17%) were living in poverty.

In Surrey there were 103,210 families of which 55,485 included children under 18. Of those households, 16,100 families (16%) were living in poverty.



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In 2006, there were almost 4,000 female-led single parent families in Surrey living in poverty.

this

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IN SURREY

TABLE 1 ECONOMIC FAMILIES LIVING IN LOW INCOME (BEFORE AND AFTER TAX)

	Total Economic Families	Total Economic Families in Low Income (Before Tax)		Total Economic Families in Low Income (After Tax)		Change (After vs Before Tax)
	#	#	%	#	%	#
Metro Vancouver	557,270	95,293	17.1	73,002	13.1	-22,291
Surrey	103,210	16,101	15.6	11,869	11.5	-4,232
Burnaby	54,300	12,000	22.1	9,394	17.3	-2,606
Coquitlam	31,355	5,644	18	4,358	13.9	-1,286
Delta	26,775	2,678	10	1,981	7.4	-696
Greater Vancouver A	2,825	955	33.8	791	28	-164
Langley City	6,335	988	15.6	703	11.1	-285
Langley District	26,560	1,859	7	1,461	5.5	-398
Maple Ridge	19,240	2,193	11.4	1,674	8.7	-519
New Westminster	15,290	2,309	15.1	1,804	11.8	-505
North Vancouver City	12,325	1,972	16	1,565	12.7	-407
North Vancouver District	23,560	2,427	10.3	1,932	8.2	-495
Pitt Meadows	4,485	435	9.7	292	6.5	-144
Port Coquitlam	14,500	1,929	13.3	1,508	10.4	-421
Port Moody	7,945	810	10.2	683	8.6	-127
Richmond	47,835	11,576	24.2	9,041	18.9	-2,535
Vancouver	141,695	29,614	20.9	22,246	15.7	-7,368
West Vancouver	11,905	1,441	12.1	1,214	10.2	-226
White Rock	4,990	439	8.8	369	7.4	-70
Other*	1660	100	15.3	65	15.3	-35

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

Families with children and single parent families

Across Metro Vancouver, there were 231,045 families with children including 191,155 couples with children and 39,890 single parent families. Of the families living in Surrey, 55,485 had dependent children including 44,110 couples and 11,375 single parent family households.

Approximately 1 in 5 (22%) of Metro Vancouver male-led single parent families were living in poverty before tax. This represents approximately 3,201 households region-wide. In Surrey, there were approximately 535 male-led single parent families living in poverty in 2006, representing 21% of all male-led families in Surrey.

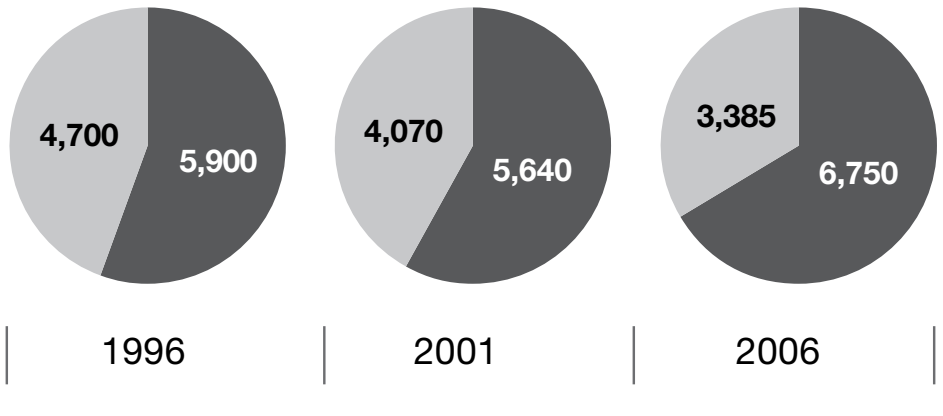
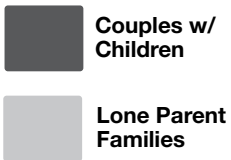


Our research also shows that approximately 1 in 3 (35%) of all female-led single parent families in Metro Vancouver were living in poverty in 2006 (before tax). This represents 22,428 households region-wide and accounts for approximately 24 per cent of all families living in poverty. In Surrey, there were approximately 3,966 female-led single parent families living in poverty in 2006.

How does poverty affect families in Surrey?

NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN LOW INCOME — 1996 TO 2006

GRAPH 1 Our research shows that single parent families are more likely to be living in poverty than couples with children



Note: differences between graph 1 and table 1 are due to rounding

How does poverty affect single parent families?

PREVALENCE OF LONE PARENT FAMILIES IN LOW INCOME

GRAPH 2 This graph shows that between 1996 and 2006, the percentage of lone parent families in low income decreased.

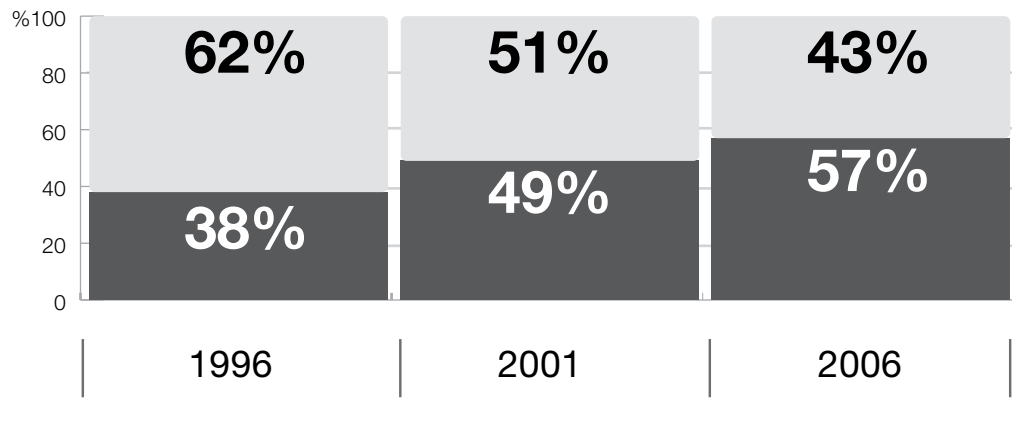
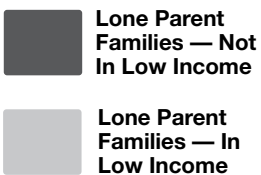


TABLE 2 MALE VS FEMALE LED SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IN LOW INCOME

	Male-Led Single Parent Families (In Low income)			Female-Led Single Parent Families (In Low income)		
	All Male Led Single Parent Family Households	Incidence of Low Income (%)	Male-Led Single Parent Households in Low Income	All Female Led Single Parent Family Households	Incidence of Low Income (%)	Female-Led Single Parent Households in Low Income
Metro Vancouver	14,420	22.2	3,201	64,080	35	22,428
Surrey	2,510	21.3	535	11,300	35.1	3,966
Burnaby	1,330	20.7	275	6,925	36.3	2,514
Coquitlam	840	21.9	184	3,510	40	1,404
Delta	670	17.8	119	2,440	29.5	720
Greater Vancouver A	65	15.4	10	295	52.5	155
Langley City	235	25.5	60	905	38.5	348
Langley District	655	9.2	60	2,415	19.9	481
Maple Ridge	610	22.1	135	2,035	36.4	741
New Westminister	440	15.7	69	1,950	40.1	782
North Vancouver City	425	22.4	95	1,970	32	630
North Vancouver District	565	8.8	50	2,350	27.2	639
Pitt Meadows	85	17.6	15	445	40.4	180
Port Coquitlam	450	13.3	60	1,735	35	607
Port Moody	205	19.5	40	825	26.7	220
Richmond	1,020	25.9	264	5,680	35.6	2,022
Vancouver	3,740	29.5	1,103	17,615	37.5	6,606
West Vancouver	330	21.2	70	1,010	27.7	280
White Rock	170	8.8	15	580	22.4	130
Other *	65	61.5	40	75	0.0	0

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

Housing need among renter households

Of the 557,270 families living in Metro Vancouver approximately 138,800 were renters. Of these, 36,855 (27%) were in core housing need. These are households who were unable to find housing in their community that is suitable in size and that is in good repair without spending 30 per cent or more of their income on their housing. In Surrey, there were approximately 20,935 families who were renters including 13,325 with children. Of these, 4,015 were in core housing need, representing approximately 30 per cent of all families with children in Surrey.



Housing assistance for low income families

BC Housing reports that, as of December 2009, there were 1,921 social housing units targeted to low income families in Surrey. This is shown in the table on the following page. In addition, there were approximately 850 families in Surrey who were receiving assistance under the Province's Rental Assistance Program for Working Families (RAP) program. Our research also shows that, as of June 2011, there were approximately 3,211 family households across Metro Vancouver who were on BC Housing's Applicant Registry and who were eligible for social housing. This includes approximately 1,319 families living in Surrey.

BC Housing's RAP Program makes a difference

Our research shows that BC Housing's Rental Assistance Program for working families makes a difference. A single parent family living in Surrey in a 2 bedroom unit with an annual income of \$23,832 would be eligible for RAP assistance of approximately \$179.42 per month. This assistance helps to close the gap between what a low income family can afford to pay and the average market rent. While the RAP program can help to make a real difference for some families, the maximum income ceiling is \$35,000. This means a family of four (4) living at the poverty line would not be eligible for assistance as the poverty line for a family of four is \$35,573.

TABLE 3 SUBSIDIZED UNITS BY HOUSEHOLDS SERVED AND UNIT TYPES
COMMUNITY OF SURREY — AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

UNIT TYPE	HOUSEHOLDS SERVED					
	Individuals At-Risk	Special Needs	Frail Seniors	Low Income Seniors	Low Income Families	Total Subsidized Housing
Shelters, Group Homes, Transition Homes, Special Facilities, Residential Care (Beds)	28	129	0	0	0	157
Public Housing owned by PRHC *	0	60	0	579	702	1,341
Other Subsidized Housing Units *	352	89	817	401	1,219	2,878
Total Subsidized Housing Units	380	278	817	980	1,921	4,376

Source: BC Housing Unit Count by Community and CPS

* Definitions:

PRHC: Provincial Rental Housing Corporation was incorporated in 1973 and exists solely as BC Housing's land-holding company. Other Subsidized Housing Units include housing stock owned by a non-profit society or housing co-operative and subsidized through a federal or provincial funding program. Total Subsidized Housing Units include all of the housing stock for which BC Housing has an agreement and provides either subsidy or other funding support



The Canada Child Tax Benefit has helped to lift many low income families out of poverty.

Federal tax measures and programs also help

The Canada Child Tax Benefit is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under age 18. The Canada Child Tax Benefit has two components – the National Child Benefit Supplement and the Child and Family Benefit. This assistance is available to families with annual incomes of \$24,183 or less. This assistance has helped to play a significant role in helping to lift a number of low income families out of poverty.

TABLE 4 CHILD BENEFITS BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Family Size	Child and Family Benefit	National Child Benefit Supplement	Annual Assistance Per Household
1 child	\$113.91	\$176.50	\$3,484.92
2 children	\$113.91	\$156.08	\$6,724.80
3 children	\$121.82	\$148.50	\$9,968.64
4+ children	\$121.82	\$148.50	\$13,212.48

Notes: This assistance is available to households with incomes of \$24,183 or less. For households with an annual income above \$24,183 the level of assistance is reduced by the following 12.2 per cent for a one child family, 23 per cent for a 2 child family and 33.3 per cent for a family with 3 or more children.

Universal Child Care Benefit

The Universal Child Care Benefit also provides families with up to \$1,200 per year for each child under the age of 6. This initiative is structured to help provide assistance to parents with young children. In the City of Surrey there were more than 29,220 children between the ages of 0 and 6 in 2006. Of these, approximately 23% or almost 1 in 4 was living in poverty in 2006.



Tax measures are making a difference for families with young children.

TABLE 5 CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS LIVING IN LOW INCOME

	Total Population	In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		Change
	#	%	#	%	#	#
Metro Vancouver	126,105	21.5	27,113	17.2	21,690	-5,423
Surrey	29,220	23.2	6,779	18.1	5,289	-1,490
Burnaby	11,330	26.8	3,036	22.5	2,549	-487
Coquitlam	6,860	17.4	1,194	14	960	-233
Delta	6,055	14.1	854	11.1	672	-182
Greater Vancouver A	695	46.8	325	35.3	245	-80
Langley City	1,585	25.6	406	19.6	311	-95
Langley District	6,165	10.5	647	7.5	462	-185
Maple Ridge	4,690	17.5	821	11.9	558	-263
New Westminster	3,535	19.2	679	16.1	569	-110
North Vancouver City	2,535	17.6	446	15.4	390	-56
North Vancouver District	4,885	12.3	601	10	489	-112
Pitt Meadows	1,035	10.6	110	4.3	45	-65
Port Coquitlam	3,490	16.8	586	13.8	482	-105
Port Moody	2,015	13.4	270	10.4	210	-60
Richmond	9,790	26.3	2,575	22.6	2,213	-362
Vancouver	29,375	25.3	7,432	19.8	5,816	-1,616
West Vancouver	1,665	14.7	245	14.7	245	-
White Rock	660	13.7	90	12.1	80	-11
Other*	115	--	45	--	48	3

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

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LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

2

seniors

Our research shows that there were 255,515 seniors living in Metro Vancouver in 2006 including 43,430 living in Surrey.

Seniors represent approximately 12% of the population across Metro Vancouver and 11% of the population in Surrey. Approximately 17% of all seniors across the region live in Surrey.



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Many seniors live alone or in household arrangements other than with a spouse.

Family and household arrangements across senior-led households

Many seniors live alone or in household arrangements other than with a spouse. Of the 255,515 living in Metro Vancouver, 92,720 (36%) lived alone, with relatives or shared with others. Within the City of Surrey our research shows that there were 14,225 seniors living in these types of arrangements in 2006. This represents approximately 33% of all seniors living in Surrey in 2006 and includes 8,995 living alone, 4,575 living with relatives and 650 who were sharing with non-relatives.

Incidence of poverty and low income among senior-led households

According to Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs, a single senior-led household living in poverty in Surrey has an annual income of \$19,144 or less while a senior couple living in poverty has an annual income of \$23,832 or less. Our research shows that approximately 21% of seniors or 53,147 individuals across Metro Vancouver were living in poverty in 2006. Within Surrey, there were 7,123 seniors living in poverty in 2006 or approximately 16% of the total senior population.

After tax measures make a difference for many senior households

Our research shows that tax measures and other policies have made a difference in the incidence of poverty across senior-led households. In particular, our research shows that while there were 53,147 seniors in Metro Vancouver living in poverty before tax, this number was reduced by more than 21,700 after tax measures were taken into account.

How many Surrey seniors are living in poverty?

PROPORTION OF SENIORS IN LOW INCOME 1996 - 2006

GRAPH 1 The incidence of seniors living in poverty has increased significantly since 1996

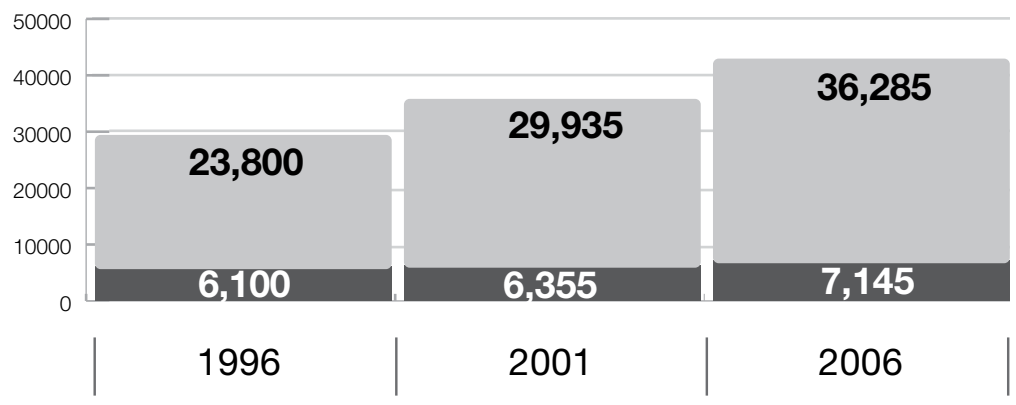
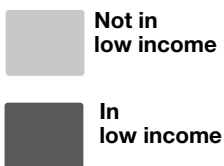


TABLE 1 SENIORS LIVING IN POVERTY (BEFORE AND AFTER TAX)

	Total Population 65+		In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		Change (After vs Before Tax)
	#	%	#	%	#	#	
Metro Vancouver	255,515	20.8	53,147	12.3	31,428	-21,719	
Surrey	43,430	16.4	7,123	8.7	3,778	-3,344	
Burnaby	26,445	24.1	6,373	14.6	3,861	-2,512	
Coquitlam	11,970	21.6	2,586	12.6	1,508	-1,077	
Delta	12,080	15.1	1,824	8.4	1,015	-809	
Greater Vancouver A	790	12.1	96	5.1	40	-55	
Langley City	3,665	31.1	1,140	18.8	689	-451	
Langley District	10,800	7.9	853	3.3	356	-497	
Maple Ridge	7,395	17.6	1,302	10.4	769	-532	
New Westminster	7,405	24.6	1,822	14.5	1,074	-748	
North Vancouver City	5,890	22.5	1,325	13.6	801	-524	
North Vancouver District	10,635	12.6	1,340	7.7	819	-521	
Pitt Meadows	1,745	18.1	316	9.5	166	-150	
Port Coquitlam	4,205	18.3	770	10.6	446	-324	
Port Moody	2,090	12.7	265	8.1	169	-96	
Richmond	21,365	25	5,341	15	3,205	-2,137	
Vancouver	71,045	26.7	18,969	16.7	11,865	-7,105	
West Vancouver	9,210	11.5	1,059	7.7	709	-350	
White Rock	4,565	12.7	580	4.9	224	-356	
Other*	595	0	0	0	0	0	

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (OAS /GIS) also make a difference

We also know that key measures such as the indexing of the Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) assistance have helped to move many seniors out of poverty. Similarly, the indexing of the assistance available to seniors has helped to protect seniors by ensuring that the assistance that they receive keeps pace with inflation.



Within the City of Surrey, 44% of all seniors who rent were in core housing need.

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Housing arrangements across senior-led households

In 2006, of the 817,230 households across Metro Vancouver, approximately 158,400 were senior-led; 80,695 were led by someone between the ages of 65 and 74; and 77,795 were led by someone 75+. Within the City of Surrey, approximately 18% of all households were senior-led (23,870 of 113,135 total households). Of the senior-led households living in Surrey, 12,260 were between 65 and 74 while the remaining 11,610 were led by someone 75 or older.

Renter households account for approximately 16 per cent of all senior-led households in Surrey

The majority of senior-led households across Metro Vancouver own their own homes; of the 158,400 senior-led households in Metro Vancouver in 2006, 119,570 were owners. There were also 38,730 who were renters, including 20,995 who were 75+. Within the City of Surrey, 3,995 senior households were renters, including 2,070 who were 75+ at the time of the 2006 Census.

Housing need among senior-led households

Our research shows that there are approximately 38,730 senior-led renter households across Metro Vancouver. Of these, approximately 16,210 (42%) were in core housing need. These are households who are unable to find housing in their community that is suitable in size and that is in good repair without spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs. Within the City of Surrey, 44% of all seniors who rent were in core housing need, representing approximately 1,770 households.

Housing assistance for senior-led households

The current inventory of social housing includes approximately 980 units targeted to low income seniors. In addition, there were 1,204 seniors in Surrey who were receiving assistance under the Province's Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program. The rent ceiling under the SAFER program is set at \$700 per month for a single senior and \$755 for a couple. SAFER program guidelines target senior-led households with annual incomes below \$27,996 for a single senior and \$30,204 for a couple.

SAFER does make a difference

A single senior living in Surrey in a 1-bedroom unit with an annual income of \$19,144 would be eligible for SAFER assistance up to approximately \$158.48 per month. This assistance would help to close the affordability gap by more than 70% and reduce the tenant's rent to \$560 per month. SAFER assistance also helps to reduce the shelter-cost-to-income ratio from 45% to approximately 35% of income, thus reducing the overall housing burden for a low income senior in Surrey.

TABLE 2 SUBSIDIZED UNITS BY HOUSEHOLDS SERVED AND UNIT TYPES
COMMUNITY OF SURREY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

UNIT TYPE	HOUSEHOLDS SERVED					
	Individuals At-Risk	Special Needs	Frail Seniors	Low Income Seniors	Low Income Families	Total Subsidized Housing
Shelters, Group Homes, Transition Homes, Special Facilities, Residential Care (Beds)	28	129	0	0	0	157
Public Housing owned by PRHC *	0	60	0	579	702	1,341
Other Subsidized Housing Units *	352	89	817	401	1,219	2,878
Total Subsidized Housing Units	380	278	817	980	1,921	4,376

Source: BC Housing Unit Count by Community and CPS

Definitions:

*PRHC: Provincial Rental Housing Corporation was incorporated in 1973 and exists solely as BC Housing's land-holding company.

Other Subsidized Housing Units include housing stock owned by a non-profit society or housing co-operative and subsidized through a federal or provincial funding program

Total Subsidized Housing Units include all of the housing stock for which BC Housing has an agreement and provides either subsidy or other funding support

Seniors on the waiting list for social housing

Our research shows that as of February 1, 2012, there were 2,312 seniors across Metro Vancouver who had applied for social housing and who were on BC Housing's Applicant Registry, including approximately 218 from Surrey. Our research also shows that the number of seniors applying for social housing has consistently remained at around 200 individuals.

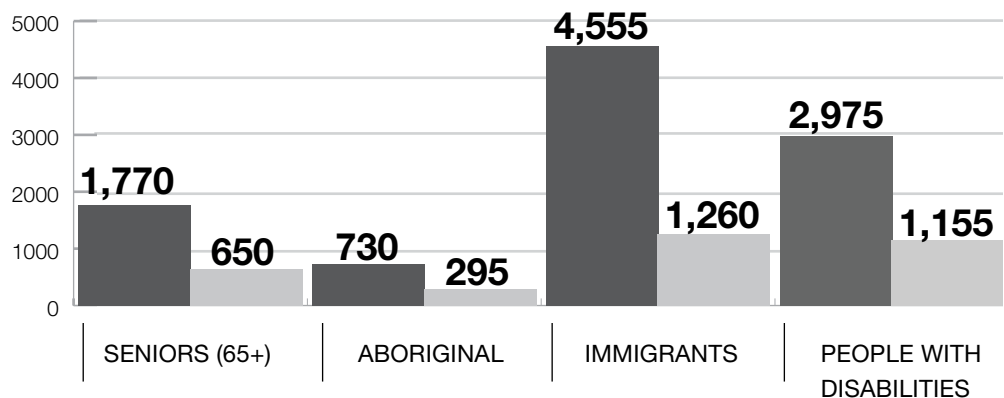
Who is in core housing need in Surrey?

CORE NEED AND WORST CASE NEED

GRAPH 2 Many vulnerable populations in core housing need are paying more than 50% of their income on housing.

Core Need

In Need & Paying At Least Half of Income on Shelter Costs (INALH)





The number of seniors applying for social housing has consistently remained at around 200 individuals.

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The affordability gap for senior-led households

The most recent rental market data published by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (December 2011) reports that the average market rent for a bachelor unit in Metro Vancouver was \$839 while the average market rent for a 1-bedroom unit was \$964. Within Surrey, the average market rent for a bachelor unit was \$610 while the average market rent for a 1-bedroom unit was \$718.

A senior household would need an annual income of approximately \$24,400 in order to be able to afford the cost of an average bachelor unit without spending more than 30 per cent of their income on their housing and \$28,720 to carry the cost of a 1-bedroom unit. This is almost double the income of a senior that is living on OAS/GIS. It is also more than \$5,000 higher than the low income cut-off of \$19,144 for a single senior.

The affordability gap for single senior household living at the poverty line

For a single senior with an annual income of \$19,144 and renting a 1-bedroom unit, the affordability gap or the difference between the cost of their housing and the amount of rent that they can afford to pay is approximately \$239 per month (\$2,874 annually) assuming that they were spending approximately \$718 per month on their rent (the average rent for a 1-bedroom unit in Surrey). It is also worth noting that in the absence of any assistance, a senior living at the poverty line would be spending approximately 45% of their income on their housing costs (based on the average rent for a 1-bedroom unit).

Homelessness among seniors

The 2011 homeless count also reported 11 seniors 65+ in Surrey who were living on the streets or staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count. This represents approximately 3% of the homeless population. There were also an additional 29 homeless near seniors between the ages of 55 and 64.



Other programs that help to make a difference for seniors

Old Age Security (OAS)

The Old Age Security pension is a monthly payment that is currently available to most Canadians aged 65 or older who have lived in Canada for at least 10 years. This assistance is seen as a supplement for seniors who may also have income from private pensions or registered retirement savings plans as well as other personal savings.

Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

The Federal government also provides support in the form of the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for low income seniors who have little or no income from other sources outside of the OAS. Access to the Guaranteed Income Supplement is through income-testing and is intended to provide eligible seniors with a guaranteed minimum income. Across Canada approximately 1 in 3 seniors (of whom 63% are women) rely on GIS benefits.

Indexing of seniors benefits

The benefit rates for OAS and GIS are adjusted four times a year for inflation (January, April, July & October). These adjustments are based on increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). If the CPI decreases, the benefit rates will stay the same.



LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

3 people with health and activity limitations

Our research shows that there were 410,360 people with health and activity limitations in Metro Vancouver in 2006. This represents approximately 20% of the population.

In Surrey, there were 73,455 people with health and activity limitations accounting for 18% of all people with health and activity limitations in Metro Vancouver in 2006 and 19% of the population in Surrey.



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In Surrey, there were 16,895 people with health and activity limitations living in poverty

What we know from our research

People with health and activity limitations in the work force

There were 67,705 people with health and activity limitations living in Surrey who were 15 years or older. Of these, 29,565 were part of the labour force while 38,145 were not. This translates into a participation rate of 44%. Our research also shows that there were 2,375 individuals with health and activity limitations looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census.

The quality and nature of work opportunities

Our research shows that approximately 14,030 (42%) of those with health and activity limitations in the labour force worked for a full year, full time. There were an additional 14,585 (44%) who reported that they worked part-time. Of those who worked full-time, their average earnings were \$44,347 and median earnings were \$38,908. Among those who worked part-time, average earnings were \$21,010 while the median earnings were \$14,236.

Average hourly wage for those with disabilities reporting full-time employment

Based on average earnings of \$44,347, the average hourly earnings among those who worked for a full-year, full-time were \$22.74 per hour assuming a 37.5 hour week and 52 weeks of employment while the median hourly earnings were \$19.95.

Access to employment opportunities

Of the 27,225 people with health and activity limitations living in Surrey who were part of the labour force, 20,265 reported that they travel to a usual place of work. Of those who responded, 8,190 (40%) reported that they worked in Surrey while 12,075 (44%) worked elsewhere in Metro Vancouver. The remainder worked outside Metro Vancouver.

Travel to work

There were approximately 24,905 people with health and activity limitations in Surrey who provided information on how they get to work. Of these approximately 3,280 (13%) reported that they take public transit to work while 17,975 (72%) reported that they drive to work and 2,370 (10%) travel to work as a passenger in a vehicle.

Access to education and other opportunities

Approximately 22% of people with health and activity limitations (24 to 64) living in Surrey reported that they did not have a certificate, diploma or degree in 2006. There were an additional 28% who reported that they had at least high school or the equivalent. Approximately 50% of those with health and activity limitations (24 to 64) in Surrey had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program. This includes approximately 39% who reported having a university degree.

TABLE 1 PEOPLE WITH HEALTH AND ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS

	People with Health and Activity Limitations		In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		Change (After vs Before Tax)
	#	%	#	%	#	#	
Metro Vancouver	406,505	28	113,821	21	85,366	-28,455	
Surrey	73,150	23	16,825	17	12,436	-4,389	
Burnaby	42,740	32	13,677	25	10,685	-2,992	
Coquitlam	21,590	28	6,045	21	4,534	-1,511	
Delta	17,985	17	3,057	12	2,158	-899	
Greater Vancouver A	1,260	43	542	36	454	-88	
Langley City	5,800	33	1,914	25	1,450	-464	
Langley District	16,760	13	2,179	9	1,508	-670	
Maple Ridge	13,575	20	2,715	15	2,036	-679	
New Westminster	12,955	31	4,016	24	3,109	-907	
North Vancouver City	9,055	29	2,626	22	1,992	-634	
North Vancouver District	13,215	17	2,247	13	1,718	-529	
Pitt Meadows	2,915	20	583	15	437	-146	
Port Coquitlam	9,215	25	2,304	20	1,843	-461	
Port Moody	4,100	18	738	16	656	-82	
Richmond	34,305	30	10,292	23	7,890	-2,401	
Vancouver	113,625	36	40,905	29	32,951	-7,954	
West Vancouver District	8,060	20	1,612	15	1,209	-403	
White Rock	5,010	19	952	12	601	-351	
Other*	1190	8	54	0	0	-54	

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

Individuals with health and activity limitations living in poverty

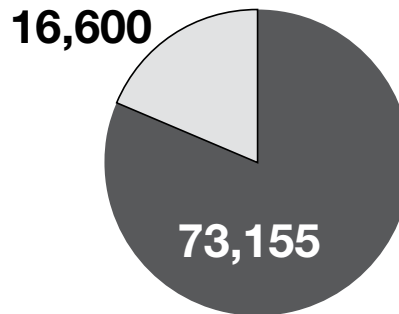
Our research shows that of the 410,360 individuals with health and activity limitations living in Metro Vancouver, approximately 114,900 were living in poverty in 2006. This translates into a poverty rate of 28%. In Surrey, there were 16,895 people with health and activity limitations living in poverty in 2006 or approximately 23% of all people with health and activity limitations who were living in Surrey.

How does poverty affect people with disabilities?

GRAPH 1 Approximately 18% of persons with health and activity limitations are living with low income in Surrey.



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN LOW INCOME VS. NOT IN LOW INCOME (2006)



There are currently 271 individuals in Metro Vancouver on BC Housing's Applicant Registry who have applied for a wheelchair modified unit.

Seniors with health and activity limitations living in poverty

There is significant diversity in the profile of people with health and activity limitations living in poverty in Surrey. Our research shows that of the 73,455 people with health and activity limitations, 23,565 (32%) were seniors 65 or older. Of these approximately 1 in 5 (4,240) were living in poverty.

Families with health and activity limitations

Our research also shows that there were 56,225 individuals with health and activity limitations in Surrey living in a census family, while 16,940 were living in non-census family arrangements. This includes individuals living alone (10,205), living with relatives (4,360), and living with non-relatives (2,375). Of those who were living alone and who have health and activity limitations 5,220 (51%) were single senior-led households 65 or older.

Aboriginal people with health and activity limitations

There were also 2,245 individuals living in Surrey who identified themselves as having health and activity limitations and who also reported Aboriginal ancestry. This represents approximately 30% of the 7,630 Aboriginal people living in Surrey.

Housing needs among people with health and activity limitations

People with health and activity limitations often need modified housing. There are a range of different housing and support models, all of which provide different types of supports. Under previous social housing programs, there was a requirement that all new social housing developments should include a percentage of fully modified wheelchair-accessible units. There are currently 271 individuals in Metro Vancouver on BC Housing's Applicant Registry who have applied for a wheelchair modified unit, as well as 1,809 individuals who have some level of disability. In Surrey, there are 52 individuals requiring a fully modified unit and 240 individuals who have some type of disability.



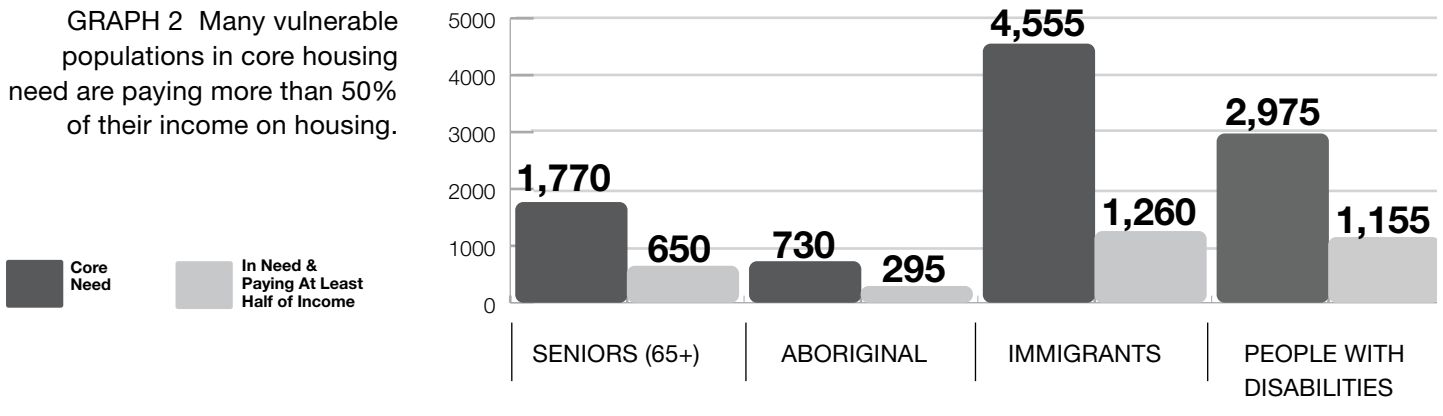
Persons with persistent and multiple barriers (PPMB) and persons with disabilities

BC's current income assistance program makes provisions for individuals who have been determined to have persistent and multiple barriers as well as those with disabilities who are unable to work. A single person with persistent and multiple barriers receives \$658 per month to live on through BC's income assistance programs, while those with disabilities receive \$906 per month. This money must cover the cost of food, clothing, housing and other basic essentials. Monthly assistance of \$906 per month or \$10,877.04 annually represents less than 57% of the low income cut-off for a single person (\$19,144), an amount which represents the established poverty line for a single person in Surrey.

Who is in core housing need in Surrey?

HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE NEED AND "WORST CASE" NEED

GRAPH 2 Many vulnerable populations in core housing need are paying more than 50% of their income on housing.



Persons with disabilities in core housing need

Across Metro Vancouver in 2006, there were 79,365 renter households in core housing need. Of these, 20,230 (25%) were led by an individual reporting difficulty with daily activities and a reduction in their activities at home, work or school and in other areas. In Surrey, there were 2,975 renter households in core housing need led by an individual reporting difficulty with daily activities, representing 27% of all renter households in core housing need in Surrey.

Households with health and activity limitations in "worst case" need

Of the 20,230 renter households in core housing need in Metro Vancouver led by an individual reporting difficulty with daily activities, there were 8,045 (40%) who were in need and spending at least half of their income on their housing costs. These households are considered to be in "worst case" need; that is, households where a change in their income or an



increase in their rent could push them deeper into poverty and homelessness. Of the 2,975 renter households in core housing need in Surrey in 2006 where the household maintainer reported difficulty with daily activities, 1,155 (39%) were in “worst case” need.

Homelessness among people with health-related challenges

There is a high incidence of health and activity limitations among those who are homeless. Of those individuals interviewed during the 24 hours of the 2011 homeless count, 70% identified at least one health condition, including a medical condition (41%), a physical condition (30%), and a mental illness (26%).



LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

4 women

Our research shows that there were 905,520 women age 15 and older living in Metro Vancouver in 2006, representing approximately 43% of the population 15 and older.

In Surrey, there were 160,590 women 15 or older representing approximately 18% of all women 15 or older in Metro Vancouver and 41% of the total population in Surrey.



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What we know from our research

Women in the work force

Of the 160,590 women in Surrey who were 15 or older, 98,960 (62%) were part of the labour force including 6,860 (7%) looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census.

The quality and nature of work opportunities

Of the women in the labour force, 43,645 (40%) worked for a full year, full time, while an additional 54,285 (51%) reported that they worked part-time. The nature of their employment was undefined for approximately 9% of women. Of those who worked full-time in 2006, their average earnings were \$40,111 while their median earnings were \$35,929. Among those who were working part-time, the average earnings were \$18,206 while the median earnings were \$12,766.

Average hourly earnings for full-time employment

Based on average earnings of \$40,111, the hourly earnings among women who worked a full-year, full-time were \$22.38 per hour assuming a 37.5 hour week and 52 weeks of employment. Based on median earnings, the hourly earnings were \$18.42.

How does poverty affect single people in Surrey?

SURREY UNATTACHED INDIVIDUALS IN LOW INCOME (1996-2006)

GRAPH 1 The number of unattached individuals in low income rose dramatically from 2001 to 2006

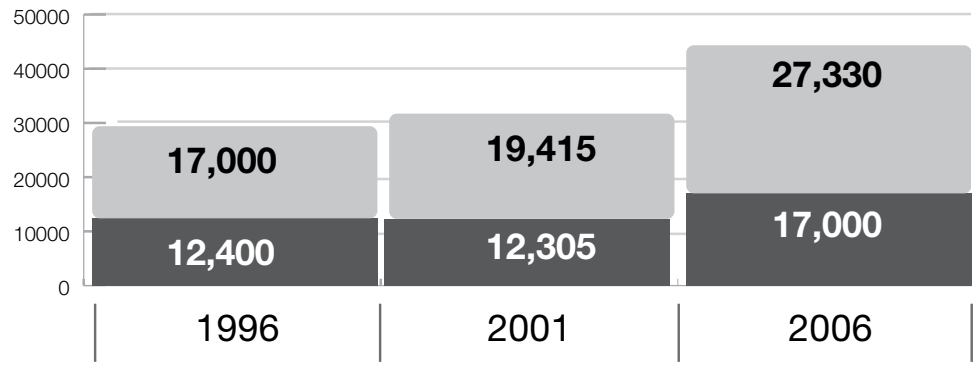
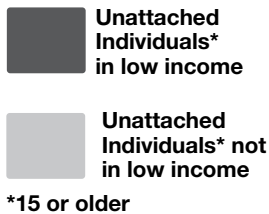


TABLE 1 SINGLE FEMALES AGE 15 OR OLDER IN LOW INCOME

	Total Single Females	In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		Change (After vs Before Tax)
	#	%	#	%	#	#
Metro Vancouver	162,770	42.2	68,689	34.7	56,481	-12,208
Surrey	17,960	41.3	7,417	32.3	5,801	-1,616
Burnaby	14,755	46.5	6,861	38	5,607	-1,254
Coquitlam	6,395	43.1	2,756	34.9	2,232	-524
Delta	4,410	37.1	1,636	29.5	1,301	-335
Greater Vancouver A	1,105	64.9	717	57	630	-87
Langley City	2,840	48	1,363	38.4	1,091	-273
Langley District	4,335	29.2	1,266	17.3	750	-516
Maple Ridge	3,600	42.1	1,516	32.6	1,174	-342
New Westminster	6,905	41.8	2,886	32.4	2,237	-649
North Vancouver City	5,875	34.6	2,033	27.4	1,610	-423
North Vancouver District	4,445	36.2	1,609	28.7	1,276	-333
Pitt Meadows	830	38.6	320	28.9	240	-81
Port Coquitlam	2,625	41.7	1,095	34.9	916	-179
Port Moody	1,480	31.4	465	26.4	391	-74
Richmond	9,355	43.5	4,069	36.4	3,405	-664
Vancouver	68,640	44.1	30,270	38.2	26,220	-4,050
West Vancouver	3,770	35.5	1,338	28	1,056	-283
White Rock	3,100	29.6	918	17	527	-391
Other*	305	--	59	--	49	-10

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

Access to employment opportunities

There were approximately 77,475 women 15 or older who reported that they travel to a usual place of work. Of those, 34,935 (45%) worked in Surrey, while 41,260 (53%) worked elsewhere in Metro Vancouver, and 2% worked outside the region.

Travel to work

There were 84,705 women living in Surrey who provided information on how they get to work. This included 11,475 (14%) who reported that they take public transit to work, 59,610 (70%) who drive, and 9,520 (11%) who travel as a passenger in a vehicle.



In Surrey, there were 11,300 female led single parent families of which 3,966 (35%) were living in poverty.

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Female single parent family households

Our research shows female single parent family households are particularly vulnerable to poverty and low income. Of the 64,080 female single parent family households across Metro Vancouver, 22,428 (35%) were living in poverty in 2006. In Surrey, there were 11,300 female led single parent families of which 3,966 (35%) were living in poverty.

Female-led households in core housing need

In Metro Vancouver, there were 79,365 renter households in core housing need. Of these, 40,485 (51%) were female-led. In Surrey, there were 10,430 renter households in core housing need of which 5,325 were female-led. This represents approximately 13% of all female-led households in core housing need across Metro Vancouver and approximately 51% of all renter households in core housing need in Surrey.

Female-led households in “worst case” need

In Surrey, there were 3,495 renter households in core housing need and spending at least half of their income on their housing costs. These households are considered to be in “worst case” need; that is, households where a change in their income or an increase in their rent could push them deeper into poverty and homelessness. Of these households, approximately 1,920 (55%) were female-led.

Homelessness among women

At the time of the 2011 homeless count, there were 360 individuals in Surrey who were identified as being homeless during the 24 hours of the count. Of these, 128 (36%) were women.

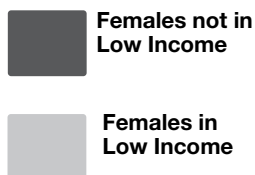
Prevalence of low income among unattached females

In Metro Vancouver there were 93,590 single person households age 15-64 living in poverty in 2006 representing 39% of the total for this group. There were an additional 31,220 single seniors living in poverty in 2006 (43% of all single seniors). In Surrey, there were 13,185 single person households age 15-64 living in poverty or 38% of all single person households, while there were 3,815 single seniors living in poverty (40% of all single seniors in Surrey).

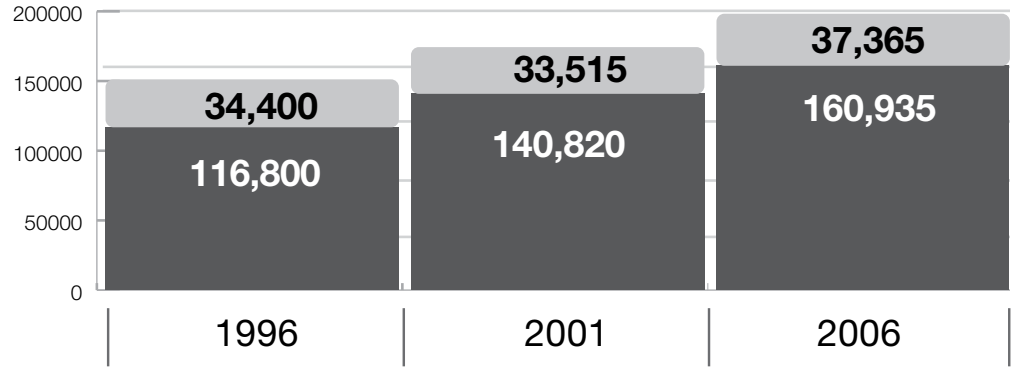
In 2006 there were 162,770 single female households across Metro Vancouver, of which approximately 68,689 (42%) were living in poverty. In Surrey, there were 17,960 single female households of which 7,417 (41%) were living in poverty in 2006. By comparison, the poverty rate among all females age 15 or older was 19% (37,365 of 198,300).

How does poverty affect women?

GRAPH 2 While the number of low income women in Surrey has increased, the proportion has decreased from 1996 to 2006

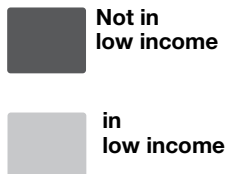


PROPORTION OF ALL FEMALES IN LOW INCOME

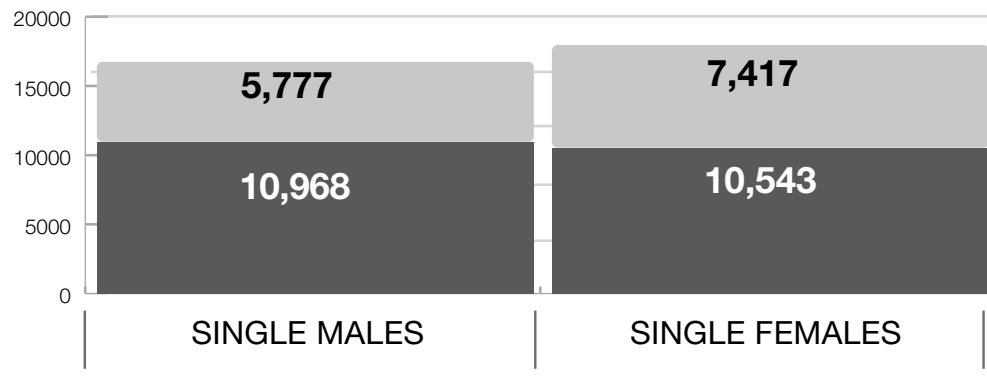


How does poverty affect women compared to men?

GRAPH 3 Single women are more likely to live in poverty than are single men



PROPORTION OF SINGLE MALES AND SINGLE FEMALES IN LOW INCOME (2006)





LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

5

men

Our research shows that there were 846,870 men age 15 and older living in Metro Vancouver in 2006, representing approximately 48% of the population 15 and older.

In Surrey, there were 152,280 men 15 or older representing approximately 18% of all men 15 years or older in Metro Vancouver and 49% of the total population of Surrey.



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ADRIANA GALESİ PHOTO

What we know from our research

Men in the work force

Of the 152,280 men in Surrey who were 15 or older, 111,975 were part of the labour force. There were an additional 40,305 men 15 and older who were not in the labour force, and 5,185 (5%) who were looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census.

The quality and nature of the employment opportunities

Of the males in the labour force, 64,170 (55%) reported that they worked for a full year, full time, and an additional 45,350 (39%) reported that they worked part-time. There were also approximately 6% where the nature of their employment was undefined. Of those who worked full-time in 2006, their average earnings were \$54,550 while their median earnings were \$45,320. Among those who were working part-time, the average earnings were \$26,481 while the median earnings were \$16,657.

TABLE 1 SINGLE MALES 15 YEARS OR OLDER IN LOW INCOME

	Total Single Males	In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		Change (After vs Before Tax)
	#	%	#	%	#	#
Metro Vancouver	147,285	38	56,263	33	49,193	-7,070
Surrey	16,745	35	5,777	30	5,090	-687
Burnaby	14,095	39	5,497	34	4,835	-662
Coquitlam	5,555	30	1,678	25	1,383	-294
Delta	3,510	30	1,064	26	895	-168
Greater Vancouver A	1,035	59	605	53	545	-60
Langley City	2,035	39	786	33	665	-120
Langley District	3,980	26	1,015	22	860	-155
Maple Ridge	3,370	31	1,051	26	859	-192
New Westminster	6,510	32	2,103	28	1,829	-273
North Vancouver City	4,525	32	1,434	27	1,231	-204
North Vancouver District	3,240	28	891	23	752	-139
Pitt Meadows	730	24	175	19	141	-34
Port Coquitlam	2,625	28	746	24	620	-126
Port Moody	1,085	21	230	20	221	-9
Richmond	7,085	36	2,522	32	2,232	-290
Vancouver	67,235	44	29,718	39	26,222	-3,496
West Vancouver District	1,790	28	503	24	424	-79
White Rock	1,855	24	451	20	369	-82
Other *	275	31	25	28	20	-5

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay



ADRIANA GALESÌ PHOTO

Single males are much more likely to be living in poverty than their married counterparts.

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Access to employment opportunities

There were 75,990 men living in Surrey who were 15 or older and who reported that they travel to a usual place of work. Of those who reported this to be the case, 28,325 (37%) worked in Surrey while 45,800 (60%) worked elsewhere in Metro Vancouver. The remaining 1,865 (3%) worked outside Metro Vancouver.

Travel to work

There were 99,650 males 15 or older living in Surrey at the time of the 2006 Census who provided information on how they get to work. Of those, 8,565 (9%) reported that they take public transit to work while 80,685 (81%) drive to work, and 6,790 (7%) travel to work as a passenger in a vehicle.

Male-led single parent family households

Our research shows that approximately 14,420 of the 79,500 single parent family households across the Metro Vancouver region were male-led (18%). A similar picture emerged in Surrey where 18% (2,510) of single parent families were male-led. Of the male-led single parent family households in Surrey, 21% were living in poverty in 2006. This compares with 35% of female-led single parent family households who were living in poverty.

Male-led households in core housing need and “worst case” need

Across Metro Vancouver, there were 79,365 renter households in core housing need in 2006. Of these, 38,880 were male-led households including 5,100 in Surrey. Of the male-led households living in core housing need, 15,020 were in need and spending at least half of their income on their housing costs. These households are considered to be in “worst case” need, precariously housed and at increased risk of homelessness. Of the 5,100 male-led households in core housing need in Surrey in 2006, 1,575 (31%) were in “worst case” need. This represents 45% of all renter households that are in “worst case” need in Surrey.

Homelessness among males

At the time of the 2011 homeless count, there were 360 individuals in Surrey who were identified as homeless on the night of the count. Of these, 224 (62%) were males.

Prevalence of low income among unattached males

In Metro Vancouver there were 93,590 single person households age 15-64 living in poverty in 2006 representing 39% of the total for this group. There were an additional 31,220 single seniors living in poverty in 2006 (43% of all single seniors). In Surrey, there were 13,185 single person households age 15-64 living in poverty or 38% of the total, while there were 3,815 single seniors living in poverty or 40% of all single seniors in Surrey.



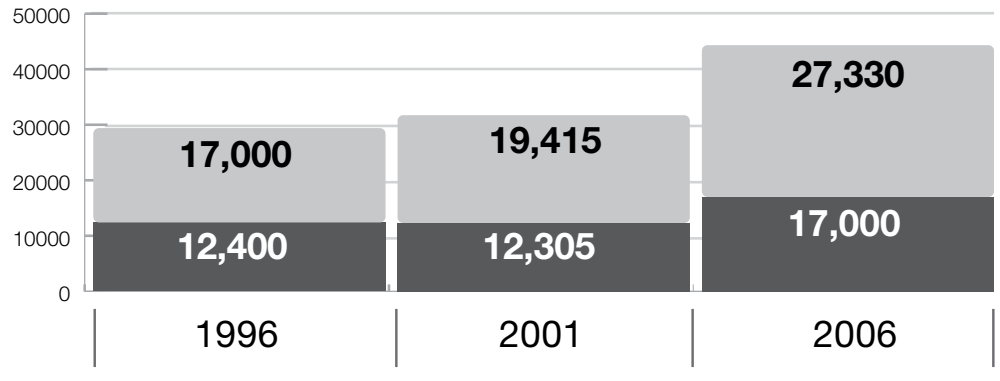
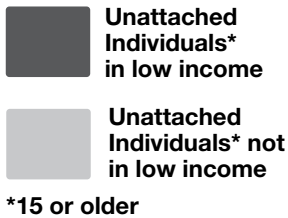
ADRIANA GALESÌ PHOTO

In 2006 there were 147,285 single male households across Metro Vancouver, of which approximately 55,965 (38%) were living in poverty. In Surrey, there were 16,745 single male households, of which 5,777 (34%) were living in poverty in 2006. By comparison, the poverty rate among all males age 15 or older was 17% (33,080 of 193,375).

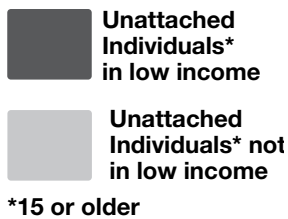
How does poverty affect single people in Surrey?

SURREY UNATTACHED INDIVIDUALS IN LOW INCOME

GRAPH 1 The number of unattached individuals in low income rose dramatically from 2001 to 2006

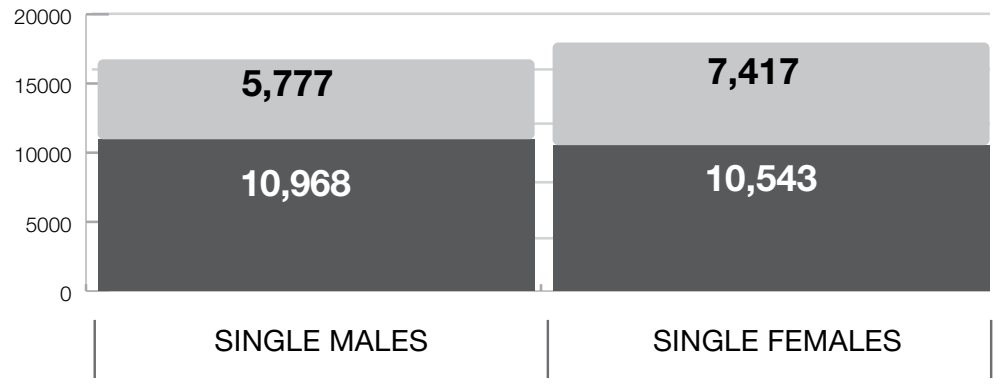


GRAPH 2 Single females are more likely than single males to be living in poverty

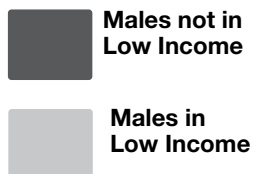


Does gender make a difference?

PROPORTION OF SINGLE MALES AND SINGLE FEMALES IN LOW INCOME (2006)

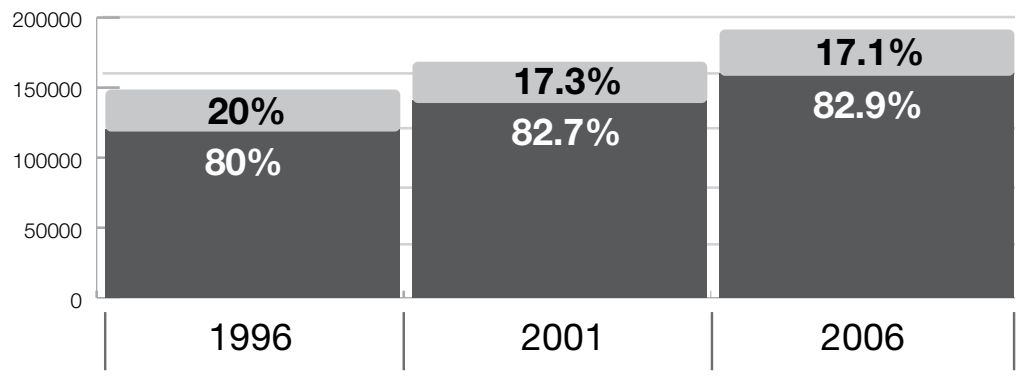


GRAPH 3 Poverty among males has increased slightly between 1996 and 2006



Is poverty among men changing over time?

PROPORTION OF ALL MEN IN LOW INCOME





LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

6

aboriginal

Our research shows that there were 40,310 Aboriginal people living in Metro Vancouver in 2006, representing approximately 2% of the population.

In Surrey there were 7,630 Aboriginal people. This accounts for 19% of all Aboriginal people living in Metro Vancouver and 2% of the population of Surrey.



this is a campaign to end poverty in Surrey.
transportation / housing / income / support



ADRIANA GALESÌ PHOTO

Approximately 49% of all Aboriginal people (24 to 64) in Surrey had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program.

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What we know from our research

Aboriginal people in the work force

There were 5,435 Aboriginal people in Surrey who were 15 years or older. Of these, approximately 3,750 were part of the labour force while 1,685 were not. There were also 335 Aboriginal people in the labour force who were looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census. This represents an unemployment rate of approximately 10% among Aboriginal people living in Surrey.

The quality and nature of work opportunities

Of those in the labour force, approximately 1,675 (44%) reported that they worked for a full year, full time. There were an additional 51% who worked part-time and 5% where the nature of their employment was undefined.

Of those who worked full-time, their average earnings were \$43,101 while the median earnings were \$38,354. Among those working part-time, the average earnings were \$19,174 while the median earnings were \$10,737.

Average hourly wage for full-time employment

Based on average earnings of \$43,101, the hourly wage among those who worked for a full-year, full-time was approximately \$22.10 per hour assuming a 37.5 hour week and 52 weeks of employment. Based on the median full-time earnings reported, the hourly wage was \$19.67.

Access to employment opportunities

Of the 3,750 Aboriginal people living in Surrey who were part of the labour force, 2,510 reported that they travel to a usual place of work. Of those, 1,245 (50%) reported that they worked in Surrey while 1,225 worked elsewhere in Metro Vancouver. The remaining respondents worked outside Metro Vancouver.

Travel to Work

There were approximately 3,210 Aboriginal people in Surrey who provided information on how they get to work. Of these approximately 600 (19%) take public transit to work while 2,085 (65%) reported that they drive to work, and 300 (9%) came as a passenger in a vehicle.

Unemployment rate among Aboriginal youth (15 to 24)

Among Aboriginal youth (those 15-24) in Surrey, the unemployment rate was approximately 15%, which translated into 115 Aboriginal youth who were in the labour force and looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census.

Access to education

Approximately 24% of Aboriginal people (24 to 64) living in Surrey reported that they did not have a certificate, diploma or degree in 2006. There were an additional 27% who had at least high school or the equivalent. Approximately 49% of all Aboriginal people (24 to 64) in Surrey had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program.

TABLE 1 ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN LOW INCOME

	Aboriginal People	In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		# Change (After vs Before Tax)
Metro Vancouver	37,185	35	13,015	30	11,156	-1,859
Surrey	7,605	31	2,358	25	1,901	-456
Burnaby	2,995	32	958	29	869	-90
Coquitlam	1,545	19	294	15	232	-62
Delta	1,700	20	340	17	289	-51
Greater Vancouver A	55	50	28	42	23	-4
Langley City	855	37	316	36	308	-9
Langley District	2,450	14	343	10	245	-98
Maple Ridge	1,875	24	450	21	394	-56
New Westminster	1,820	40	728	38	692	-36
North Vancouver City	930	36	335	32	298	-37
North Vancouver District	755	16	121	14	106	-15
Pitt Meadows	385	25	96	21	81	-15
Port Coquitlam	905	22	199	21	190	-9
Port Moody	465	26	121	24	112	-9
Richmond	1,270	30	381	24	305	-76
Vancouver	10,975	51	5,597	45	4,939	-659
West Vancouver District	155	26	40	29	45	5
White Rock	285	30	86	21	60	-26
Other*	140	62	81	0	0	-81

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra and Bowen Island



ADRIANA GALESÌ PHOTO

Aboriginal people living in poverty

Our research shows that of the 40,310 Aboriginal people living in Metro Vancouver, approximately 12,900 (32%) were considered to be living in poverty in 2006. In Surrey, 2,390 Aboriginal people (31%) were living in poverty.

Aboriginal children living in poverty

Among the Aboriginal people living in poverty in Surrey in 2006, approximately 1,030 were children between the ages of 0-17. Of these, approximately 385 (37%) were between the ages of 0 and 5 while 645 (63%) were between the ages of 6 and 17.



ADRIANA GALESÌ PHOTO

Aboriginal seniors living in poverty

There were approximately 355 Aboriginal people 65 or older living in Surrey at the time of the 2006 Census. Of these, approximately 30% were living in poverty. A significant majority (81%) of those 65 or older who were living in poverty were women.

Aboriginal families living in poverty

There were approximately 16,100 economic families living in poverty in Surrey in 2006. Of these, approximately 600 were Aboriginal-led families. Of the Aboriginal families living in poverty in Surrey, almost two-thirds (63%) were single parent family households.

Aboriginal women living in poverty

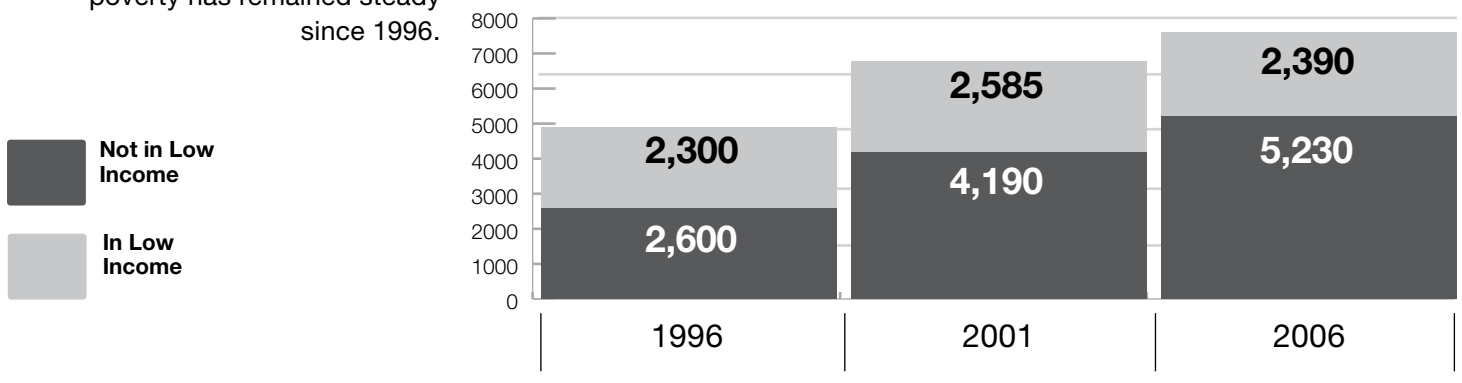
There was a higher incidence of poverty among Aboriginal women. Our research shows that Aboriginal women accounted for 59% of all Aboriginal people living in poverty.

Our research also shows that the highest incidence of poverty among Aboriginal women was among those in the 25 to 34 age cohort and those who were 65 and older.

How does poverty affect Aboriginal people?

PORTION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN LOW INCOME (1996 – 2006)

GRAPH 1 The number of Aboriginal people living in poverty has remained steady since 1996.



Aboriginal households in core housing need

Across Metro Vancouver, there were 79,365 renter households in core housing need. Of these, 4,025 (5%) were Aboriginal-led households. In Surrey there were 570 Aboriginal-led households in core housing need in 2006. This represents 5% of all renter households in core housing need in Surrey or 14% of all Aboriginal households in core housing need in Metro Vancouver.



ADRIANA GALESÌ PHOTO

Aboriginal households in “worst case” need

Of the 4,025 Aboriginal households in core housing need in Metro Vancouver in 2006, 1,595 (40%) were in core housing need and spending at least half (“INALH”) of their income on their housing costs.

These are households that are considered to be in “worst case” need; that is, households where a change in their income or an increase in their rent could push them deeper into poverty and homelessness. Our research shows that of the 570 Aboriginal-led renter households in core housing in Surrey in 2006, 215 (38%) were in “worst case” need.

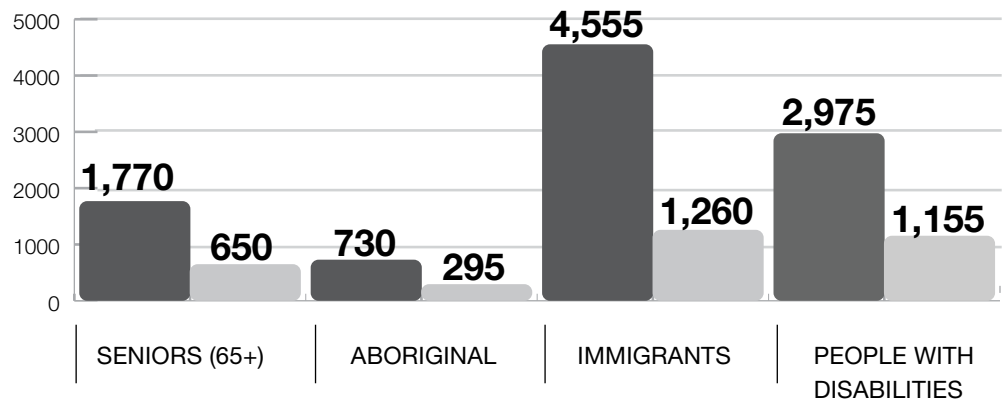
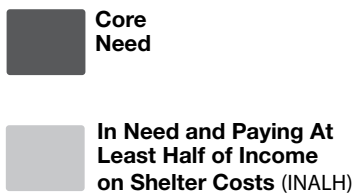
Homelessness among Aboriginal people

The 2011 homeless count reported 360 homeless people in Surrey. Of these, 89 (35%) identified themselves as Aboriginal. Given Aboriginal people comprise only 2% of the population of Surrey, it is evident that they are over-represented among the homeless population.

Who is in core housing need in Surrey?

HOUSEHOLDS IN “CORE” NEED AND “WORST CASE” NEED

GRAPH 2 Many vulnerable populations in core housing need are paying more than 50% of their income on housing.





LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

7 immigrants

Our research shows that almost 40% of the population in Metro Vancouver was born elsewhere and had immigrated to Canada. This includes 151,695 people who had moved to Metro Vancouver between 2001 and 2006.

Within the City of Surrey, approximately 38% of the population was born elsewhere including 29,230 who moved to Surrey between 2001 and 2006 from outside of Canada.



this is a campaign to end poverty in Surrey.
transportation / housing / income / support



Between 2001 and 2006, over 29,000 new immigrants made Surrey their home.

this

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What we know from our research

There is significant diversity in Surrey

Not only is there significant diversity within the population in Surrey but Surrey is home to a large percentage of recent immigrants and newcomers to Canada. Between 2001 and 2006, Metro Vancouver welcomed approximately 151,695 new immigrant families and individuals, of which 29,230, or approximately 1 in 5, made Surrey their home.

Access to work opportunities for new immigrant families and individuals

Of recent immigrants (those moving to Surrey between 2001 and 2006), approximately 24,445 were 15 or older. Furthermore, of these, approximately 16,675 were part of the labour force while 7,750 were not. There were also 1,890 recent immigrants who were in the labour force and looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census. This translates into an unemployment rate of approximately 11% among recent immigrants living in Surrey.

Access to work opportunities for new immigrant youth (15 to 24)

Among younger recent immigrants (those 15-24) the unemployment rate was approximately 12%, which translated into 370 individuals who were looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census.

The quality and nature of work opportunities

Of the recent immigrants who were part of the labour force, approximately 5,055 (31%) reported that they worked for a full year, full time. There were an additional 10,721 (66%) who worked part-time and 3% where the nature of their employment was undefined. Of those who worked full-time, their average earnings were \$30,721 while the median earnings were \$27,752. Among those working part-time, the average earnings were \$14,877 while median earnings were \$10,721.

Average hourly earnings for full-time employment

Based on average annual earnings of \$ 30,721, the average hourly wage among recent immigrants who worked for a full-year, full-time was approximately \$15.75 per hour assuming a 37.5 hour week and 52 weeks of employment. The median hourly wage was \$14.23.

Access to employment opportunities for recent immigrants

Of recent immigrants who were part of the labour force, 11,065 reported that that they travel to a usual place of work. Of those who travel to a usual place of work, 4,785 (43%) reported that they work in Surrey while 5,950 (54%) reported that they worked elsewhere in the Metro Vancouver. The remaining 335 (3%) worked outside of Metro Vancouver.



Travel to work

There were approximately 13,955 recent immigrants living in Surrey who provided information on how they get to work. Of these approximately 2,620 (19%) reported that they take public transit to work while 10,650 (76%) reported that they take a vehicle to work either as a driver (7,505) or as a passenger (3,145).

Access to education and other opportunities

Approximately 18% of recent immigrants living in Surrey reported that they did not have a certificate, diploma or degree in 2006. There were an additional 21% who reported that they had at least high school or the equivalent. Approximately 61% reported having a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program with 79% of all those in this category reporting that they have a university degree.

TABLE 1 ALL IMMIGRANTS IN LOW INCOME

	All Immigrants	Total Immigrants in Low Income	Immigrants in Low Income	Immigrants (1996-2000)	Immigrants in Low Income (1996-2000)	% in Low Income (1996-2000)
Metro Vancouver	829,870	223,230	26.90%	148,565	49,295	33.20%
Surrey	150,130	33,410	22.30%	26,330	6,930	26.30%
Burnaby	101,840	31,590	31.00%	20,620	7,895	38.30%
Coquitlam	44,745	13,025	29.10%	9,535	3,310	34.70%
Delta	27,015	4,915	18.20%	3,775	1,130	29.90%
Greater Vancouver A	5,050	2,080	41.20%	1,180	390	33.10%
Langley	4,165	1,060	25.50%	545	190	34.90%
Langley	15,875	2,355	14.80%	1,870	385	20.60%
Maple Ridge	11,690	2,185	18.70%	1,340	265	19.80%
New Westminster	18,345	4,245	23.10%	3,130	625	20.00%
North Vancouver	16,385	4,295	26.20%	3,170	1,010	31.90%
North Vancouver D	25,985	5,210	20.10%	4,270	1,125	26.30%
Pitt Meadows	3,240	565	17.40%	395	135	34.20%
Port Coquitlam	14,730	3,035	20.60%	3,020	715	23.70%
Port Moody	8,035	1,690	21.00%	1,535	415	27.00%
Richmond	99,535	33,095	33.20%	21,985	9,230	42.00%
Vancouver	260,065	75,990	29.20%	42,520	14,500	34.10%
West Vancouver	15,450	3,640	23.60%	2,485	915	36.80%
White Rock	4,375	740	16.90%	480	95	19.80%
Other*	1630	95	--	140	35	--

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

TABLE 2 RECENT IMMIGRANTS (1996 TO 2006) IN LOW INCOME

	Total # of Immigrants (1996-2000)	Total # of Immigrants (1996-2000) in low income	% of Immigrants (1996-2000) in low Income	Total # of Immigrants (2001-2006)	Immigrants in low income (2001-2006)	% in low Income
Greater Vancouver	148,565	49,295	33.2%	151,455	68,245	45.1%
Surrey	26,330	6,930	26.3%	29,230	10,100	34.6%
Burnaby	20,620	7,895	38.3%	21,690	11,065	51.0%
Coquitlam	9,535	3,310	34.7%	8,930	4,380	49.0%
Delta	3,775	1,130	29.9%	3,695	1,335	36.1%
Greater Vancouver A	1,180	390	33.1%	2,100	1,245	59.3%
Langley City	545	190	34.9%	700	190	27.1%
Langley District	1,870	385	20.6%	2,350	805	34.3%
Maple Ridge	1,340	265	19.8%	1,420	575	40.5%
New Westminster	3,130	625	20.0%	4,250	1,715	40.4%
North Vancouver City	3,170	1,010	31.9%	3,470	1,355	39.0%
North Vancouver District	4,270	1,125	26.3%	4,075	1,875	46.0%
Pitt Meadows	395	135	34.2%	445	105	23.6%
Port Coquitlam	3,020	715	23.7%	2,045	870	42.5%
Port Moody	1,535	415	27.0%	1,535	655	42.7%
Richmond	21,985	9,230	42.0%	18,760	10,015	53.4%
Vancouver	42,520	14,500	34.1%	43,380	20,450	47.1%
West Vancouver	2,485	915	36.8%	2,300	1,310	57.0%
White Rock	480	95	19.8%	530	195	36.8%
Other*	140	35	--	140	15	--

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

TABLE 3 MORE RECENT IMMIGRANTS AS A % OF ALL IMMIGRANTS IN LOW INCOME

	All Immigrants	All Immigrants in low income	All immigrants (1996 to 2006) in low income	% of all immigrants in low income
Greater Vancouver	829,870	223,230	117,540	52.7%
Surrey	150,130	33,410	17,030	51.0%
Burnaby	101,840	31,590	18,960	60.0%
Coquitlam	44,745	13,025	7,690	59.0%
Delta	27,015	4,915	2,465	50.2%
Greater Vancouver A	5,050	2,080	1,635	78.6%
Langley City	4,165	1,060	380	35.8%
Langley District	15,875	2,355	1,190	50.5%
Maple Ridge	11,690	2,185	840	38.4%
New Westminster	18,345	4,245	2,340	55.1%
North Vancouver City	16,385	4,295	2,365	55.1%
North Vancouver District	25,985	5,210	3,000	57.6%
Pitt Meadows	3,240	565	240	42.5%
Port Coquitlam	14,730	3,035	1,585	52.2%
Port Moody	8,035	1,690	1,070	63.3%
Richmond	99,535	33,095	19,245	58.2%
Vancouver	260,065	75,990	34,950	46.0%
West Vancouver	15,450	3,640	2,225	61.1%
White Rock	4,375	740	290	39.2%
Other*	1630	95	50	--

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

TABLE 4 IMMIGRANTS 1996 TO 2006 IN LOW INCOME (BEFORE AND AFTER TAX)

	Total # of Immigrants (2001-2006)	# of Immigrants (2001-2006) in low income (Before Tax)	% of Immigrants (2001-2006) in Low Income (Before Tax)	# of Immigrants (2001-2006) in low income (After Tax)	% of Immigrants (2001-2006) in Low Income (After Tax)
Greater Vancouver	151,455	68,245	45.1%	57,350	38%
Surrey	29,230	10,100	34.6%	8,179	28%
Burnaby	21,690	11,065	51.0%	9,322	43%
Coquitlam	8,930	4,380	49.0%	3,829	43%
Delta	3,695	1,335	36.1%	1,218	33%
Greater Vancouver A	2,100	1,245	59.3%	1,050	50%
Langley City	700	190	27.1%	125	18%
Langley District	2,350	805	34.3%	702	30%
Maple Ridge	1,420	575	40.5%	509	36%
New Westminster	4,250	1,715	40.4%	1,528	36%
North Vancouver City	3,470	1,355	39.0%	1,180	34%
North Vancouver District	4,075	1,875	46.0%	1,667	41%
Pitt Meadows	445	105	23.6%	57	13%
Port Coquitlam	2,045	870	42.5%	716	35%
Port Moody	1,535	655	42.7%	583	38%
Richmond	18,760	10,015	53.4%	8,630	46%
Vancouver	43,380	20,450	47.1%	17,340	40%
West Vancouver	2,300	1,310	57.0%	1,058	46%
White Rock	530	195	36.8%	196	37%
Other*	140	15	--	0	0%

*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

The incidence of poverty among recent immigrants

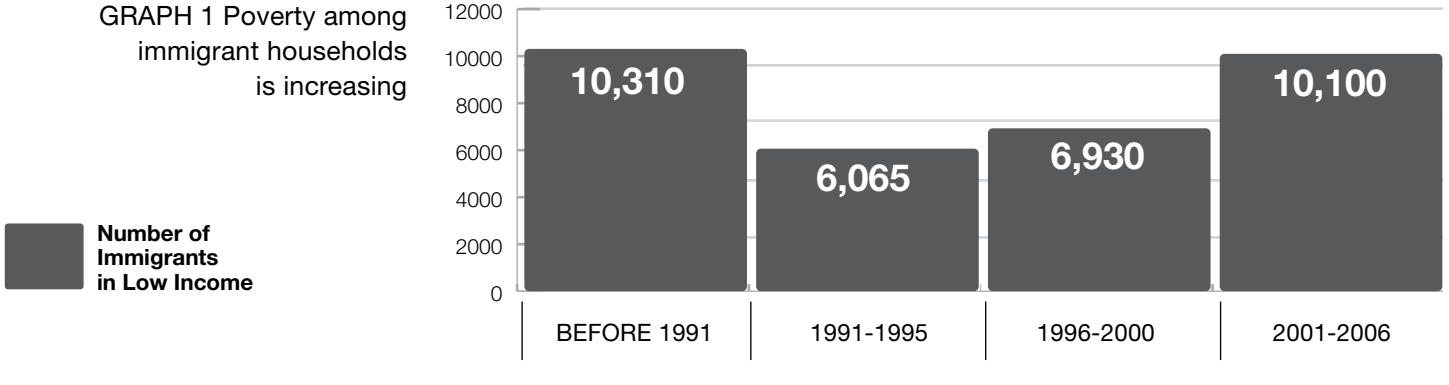
Our research shows that of the 151,695 recent immigrants moving to Metro Vancouver between 2001 and 2006, approximately 68,263 had incomes which were below the poverty line. This translates into a poverty rate of approximately 45% among all recent immigrants.

Within the City of Surrey, there were approximately 10,230 recent immigrants who were living in poverty representing approximately 15% of all recent immigrants living in poverty in Metro Vancouver or approximately 35% of all recent immigrants living in Surrey.

How does poverty affect immigrant households?

NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS IN LOW INCOME

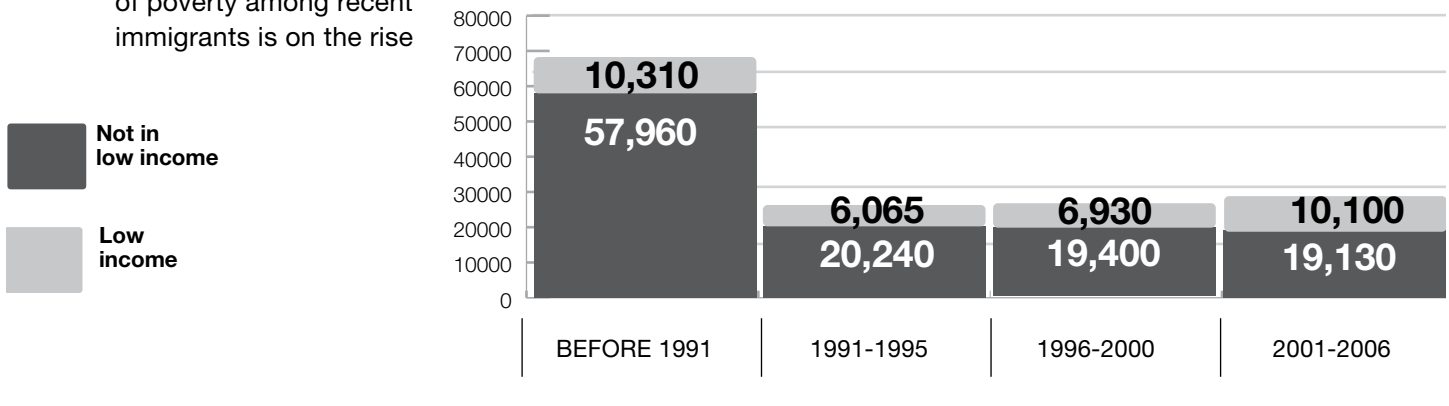
GRAPH 1 Poverty among immigrant households is increasing



Does length of time in Canada make a difference?

LOW INCOME AMONG IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS BY DATE OF IMMIGRATION TO CANADA

GRAPH 2 The prevalence of poverty among recent immigrants is on the rise



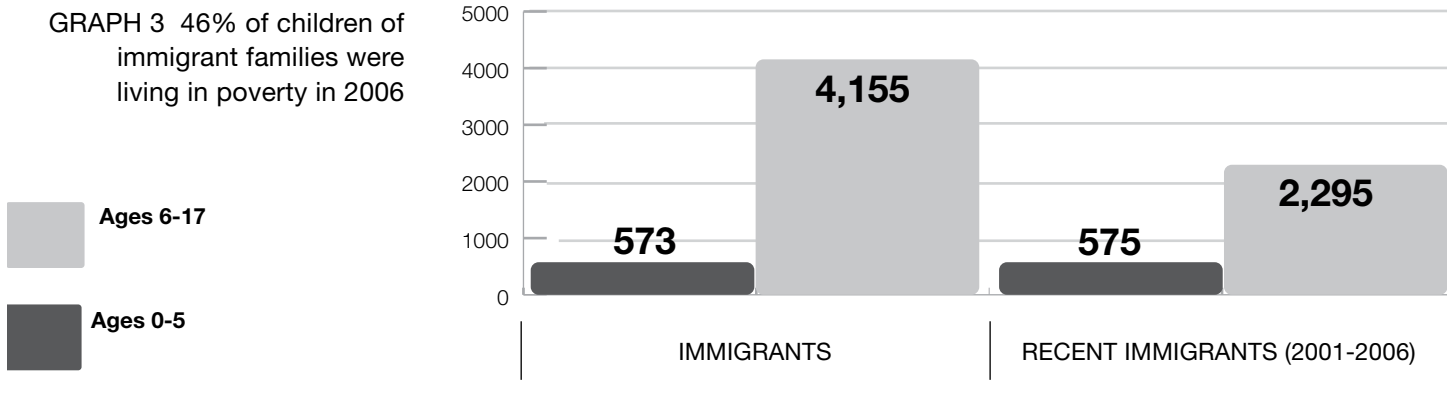
Immigrant children living in poverty

Of the 29,230 recent immigrants who moved to Surrey between 2001 and 2006, approximately 6,295 were between the ages of 0 and 17 including 1,175 between the ages of 0 and 5. The remaining 5,120 were between the ages of 6 and 17. Children between the ages of 0 and 17 represent almost 22% of all recent immigrants.

Our research also shows that, of 6,295 recent immigrants between the age of 0 and 17, approximately 46% were living in poverty.

How are immigrant children affected by poverty?

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN LOW INCOME



Immigrant seniors living in poverty

Among all immigrants living in poverty in Surrey, approximately 22,855 were 65 or older. This includes approximately 1,380 who were recent immigrants. Of all immigrants 65 or older, approximately 19% were living in poverty. Immigrant seniors living in poverty were less likely to be recent immigrants and more likely to have moved to Canada in a prior period.

Immigrant families living in poverty

Of the 16,100 economic families living in poverty in Surrey, almost two-thirds (10,100) had children 18 or under living at home. Of these, approximately 6,875 (42%) were immigrant families. This includes approximately 5,600 immigrant couples with children and 1,275 immigrant-led single parent family households.

Immigrant women living in poverty

Among all immigrants living in poverty in Surrey, women accounted for approximately 54%. Our research also shows that the highest incidence of poverty among immigrant women is among those in the 24 to 34 age cohort, where 56% of all immigrants living in poverty in 2006 were women.



Of the 4,555 immigrant-led renter households in core housing need in Surrey in 2006, 1,260 were in “worst case” need.

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Immigrant households in core housing need

Across Metro Vancouver, there were 79,365 renter households in core housing need. Of these, 34,145 were immigrant-led households. This represents approximately 43% of all renter households in core housing need.

Within Surrey there were 10,430 renter households in core housing need in 2006. Of these, 4,555 were immigrant-led households. This represents 13% of all immigrant-led households in core housing need across Metro Vancouver and approximately 44% of all renter households in core housing need in Surrey.

Immigrant households in “worst case” need

Of the 34,145 immigrant households in core housing need in 2006 in Metro Vancouver, 12,110 were in need and spending at least half of their income on their housing costs (INALH). This represents approximately 35% of all immigrant-led households in core housing need in Metro Vancouver. These are households that are considered to be in “worst case” need; that is, households where a change in their income or an increase in their rent could push them deeper into poverty and homelessness.

Of the 4,555 immigrant-led renter households in core housing need in Surrey in 2006, 1,260 were in “worst case” need. This represents 28% of all immigrant-led renter households in core housing need in Surrey.

Homelessness among newcomers to Canada

The 2011 homeless count identified 360 individuals who were homeless on the night of the count in Surrey. Of these, approximately 12 individuals (3%) identified themselves as a newcomer to Canada.



Vibrant Surrey is pleased to present the findings of the Collaborative Research Project on Poverty in Surrey. In 2011 Vibrant Surrey convened a core working group that included the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, City of Surrey staff, representatives of Fraser Health and of Kwantlen Polytechnic University and, partnering with the Social Planning and Research Council of BC, carried out research that compiled existing data on poverty in Surrey.

As a result of this research, we have produced a series of Fact Sheets that describe poverty as it affects specific populations, as well as how four important factors —Transportation, Housing, Income and Supports — affect the people living with low incomes.

Strong research and partnerships will provide a foundation for collaboration with the local business community to engage local, provincial and federal governments in poverty reductions strategies because together we can do this.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2012CFD0017-000455
April 12, 2012

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Union of BC Municipalities

Seven communities to pilot poverty reduction strategies

VICTORIA – The Province and the Union of BC Municipalities have identified seven communities to participate in a pilot project where poverty-reduction strategies will target the unique needs of families struggling to get out of poverty in those communities.

Prince George, Cranbrook, Port Hardy, Surrey, New Westminster, Stewart and Kamloops have been identified as the first to pilot community poverty-reduction strategies. These communities were recommended by the UBCM to reflect a mix of metro, urban, rural and remote communities across B.C.

“Communities are different. Families are different. That is the essence of this project that promotes collaboration and sharing new, innovative ideas that recognize each community and each family has distinctive needs and resources,” said Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development. “The goal is to provide low-income families with tailor-made springboards out of poverty by focusing on their strengths – not just their needs.”

The ministry is appointing seven community poverty strategy consultants to forge partnerships with local governments, community organizations and local businesses. The consultants will coordinate and lead community teams in developing action plans that address the needs of families living in poverty. Action plans with measurable targets will be developed over the summer with implementation scheduled for September 2012.

The strategies will optimize existing resources and will initially focus on families with children living in poverty. They will be guided by feedback from town hall meetings, community discussions and conversations with low-income families and individuals vulnerable to poverty. Key to developing successful strategies is recognition that each community has distinctive needs and resources.

Community teams will take responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of the project. Key to these strategies is working directly with families to understand their individual needs, connect them with supports and to develop personalized paths out of poverty designed by families themselves.

“By customizing strategies to draw upon the assets in each community, this initiative will provide better support to families in need,” said UBCM President Heath Slee. “UBCM has been pleased to work closely with province on this project and we look forward to contributing more as part of the Provincial Steering Committee.”

“We firmly believe that helping people find their way out of poverty goes beyond addressing immediate needs and requires governments, businesses and community-based service providers to work collectively in developing approaches that address the underlying factors that result in families living in poverty,” said Executive Director of the United Way of Northern British Columbia Trevor Williams. “It is encouraging to see that this initiative involves a number of key partners in addressing the issue of families vulnerable to poverty.”

The Province will appoint a provincial steering committee, including representatives from provincial cabinet, the UBCM, the voluntary sector and the business community to guide the project.

Once the project has been implemented in the first seven communities, it will be evaluated and expanded to include 20 more communities each year for the next two years. Future strategies will be based on the successes of participating pilot communities and innovative approaches used successfully in other jurisdictions.

For more information on supports for vulnerable families please visit <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/children-and-family-development/factsheets/reducing-poverty-for-low-income-families.html>

Contact:
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250 356-0543

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UBCM Healthy Communities Committee
604 270-8226 ext. 110

Connect with the Province of B.C. at www.gov.bc.ca/connect