

GOLDEN & AREA A'S

**VitalSigns**<sup>®</sup>

**2017**

**Thirteen** key issues

**511** citizen graders

**One** snapshot of our community

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# Our Communities

Golden Electoral Area A includes:

Golden Field	Donald Castledale	Kicking Horse Parson
Harrogate Habart	Nicholson Blaeberry	Moberly



# An International Initiative with a Community Focus

GOLDEN & AREA A'S

# VitalSigns®

## Question 1: How is Golden & Area A performing in 2017?

**A) Better. B) Worse. C) The same. D) All of the above.**

Thanks to some dedicated volunteers and collaboration from a number of organizations, the Golden & Area A community has a better idea of it's performance and direction.

Every 3 years, the Golden & District Community Foundation (GDCF) leads the publishing of an indicator report for Golden & Area A called "Vital Signs." We do this every 3 years because it gives the community adequate time to Plan, Do, Check, and Act.

This year's report includes data from the 2016 Census, which has already shown that the community has reversed the shrinking trend of the last two censuses. The data and community priority-setting process in Vital Signs has helped local funders allocate resources and funding to groups that are working to address key community needs. Vital Signs continues to rely on local experts and volunteer researchers, while leveraging the project manager and the Vital Signs community across Canada and around the world to help collect and analyze local data and share ideas for community development.

Our volunteer researchers were able to access new data sources and partners, like the Vancouver Foundation's 2016 BC Community Survey and the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute's Community Data Program, along with the 2016 Census. Through this process, we hope that this 3-year update can provide a clearer picture of the community, and direction for interested individuals, local organizations, and all levels of government.

This third iteration of the Vital Signs public survey yielded information counter to the 2011 and 2014 trends. Unlike previous years, some issue areas saw poorer citizen survey scores. Between 2014 and 2017, survey respondents perceived the community's performance to hold steady on seven issue areas, improve on two, with four declining.

Looking forward to 2020, respondents expect the community's performance to hold steady on six issue areas and improve on seven. However, Housing - the top priority issue area - is still expected to remain at the bottom of the Likert scale.

Our Project Team spent considerable effort identifying progress made in each issue area between the 2014 and 2017 reports, as well as opportunities and challenges ahead. Local citizens (and survey respondents) were then informed of this summary through a social media campaign called "Points of Interest." We saw a maturing in the survey responses this year. Not everything in our community is all rosy for everyone. Nor are issue areas going to improve tomorrow. However, identifying the challenges and the collective priorities are the first steps to improving our community. We have many capable community organizations that can devise projects that will raise the quality of life for everyone.

This Report was only made possible by donors and our volunteer Project Team members who donated their time, their skills and their expertise for the Golden & Area A. And for our future.

The 2017 report is a community check-up that measures the quality of life in the Town of Golden (Golden) & Columbia Shuswap Regional District Electoral Area 'A' (Area A).

## Community Engagement

Vital Signs builds on partnerships with many community-focused organizations who contribute their expertise and data. In addition, over 500 residents were actively engaged in the development and grading of this report.

## Goals

Highlight areas of need to encourage further dialogue, resources and action from all community stakeholders; Encourage cross-sector thinking and collaborative solutions; Build community capacity by sharing information.

## Community Population

Population (Census)	2001	2006	2011	2016
Golden & Area A	7,155	6,908	6,766	6,856
Town of Golden (11 km <sup>2</sup> )	4,020	3,811	3,701	3,708
CSRD Area A (13,735 km <sup>2</sup> )	3,135	3,097	3,065	3,148

## Our Mission

The Golden & District Community Foundation's mission is to attract and effectively grow permanent funds; provide leadership and administration that helps in addressing significant community needs; and help donors fulfill their philanthropic interests.

## Research Network

We thank the many people and organizations we have contacted over the last year for sharing resources, including the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (CBRDI), BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC), Community Data Program (CDP), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and the Vancouver Foundation (VF).

## Project Team

Connie Barlow	Judy Brook	Kim Bryan BA	Karen Cathcart MBA
Bev Collins	Flec Demmon	Jill Dewtie BA	Denise English MF
Chris Hambruch	Jessie Jones CPHR	Stephanie Knaak Ph.D.	Marcella LaFever Ph.D.
Annette Luttermann Ph.D.	Nola Milum	Colleen Palumbo	Renee Quanstrom BA, BScEd
Lynne Romano MBA	Michele Rowe MDiv	Derek Smith	Gillian Starke
Shelly Wadden BA	Kerri Wall MA	Ryan Watmough MBA	

### Question 2: What does Golden & Area A need most?

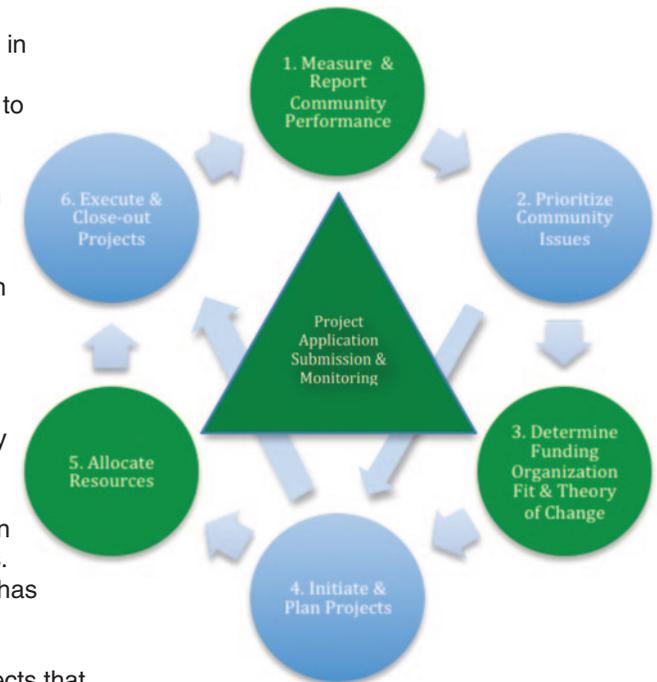
**Answer: You, your interest, your engagement, and your support. Reach out to a project team member or the GDCF today!**

## Resource Allocation

In 2015 & 2016, the GDCF brought together funders in Golden, Area A and the Columbia Valley through a series of meetings called "Better Granting Together" to discuss their funding focus, practices, and theory of change. These sessions create clarity around the roles and continuous improvement process between funders and community projects.

Data collection, analysis and issue area prioritization are key first steps in community development. Vital Signs is designed to help communicate historical data, current citizen priorities and ideas for future initiatives to funders, local government, donors and the public so that they can allocate resources quickly and efficiently.

The GDCF's Community Grants Program Application has been updated to reflect the new citizen priorities. Over time, the GDCF's Grants Advisory Committee has learned how to allocate resources to projects that address higher priority issue areas and community organizations have become better at designing projects that address top priorities.



## Housing

Residents of Golden & Area A are more aware than ever about the direct link between the availability and quality of housing, and economic stability.

According to 2016 Canada census data the number of single person households both in town and rurally has increased by 10.2% while lack of accommodation continues to put pressure on the community. With Vital Signs' first-ever "terrible" survey score and plans for major highway construction (>\$1B) in the next few years our community needs to act urgently.



4.29%

represents by far the largest in-town increase for both residential and commercial properties in the Kootenay-Columbia region for BC Assessment Authority.

92+

of the 230 winter seasonal workers at KHMR in 2017/18 need to find accommodation.

0

vacancy rate for managed long-term rental properties with 37% decrease in rental stocks.

10%

average increase in one and two-person households (both in town and rurally) while all other types of households had a net decrease between the 2011 and 2016 Census.

### Celebrate Success

In 2017, both Helping Hands and Golden Community Resources Society were engaged in data-collection related to housing affordability needs in Golden.

The Town of Golden is working on fully understanding short-term rentals as an impact on housing availability.

Community entrepreneurs are putting forward plans for construction that will meet some of the existing housing needs.

### Take Action

Participate in the Housing Affordability Survey.

Encourage partnerships among government, business, and employers to create housing for seasonal workers.

Rent your extra room to a seasonal employee.

Get involved in community discussions about housing.



# How to Use this Report

## Issue Areas

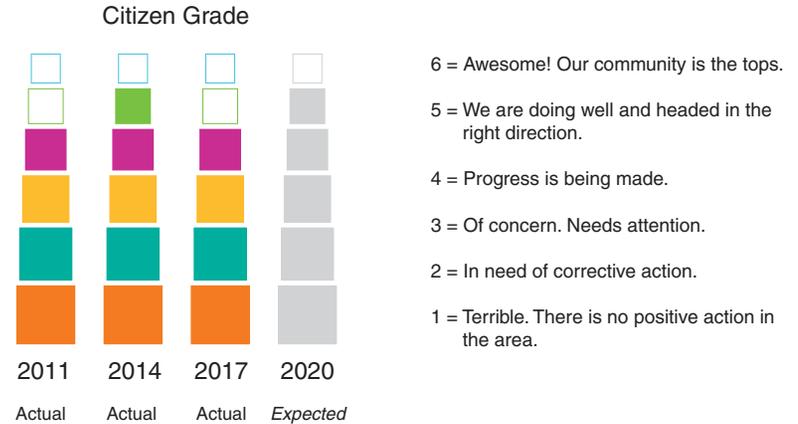
This Report covers 13 Issue Areas that should be considered when assessing the overall health and vitality of a community. Golden & Area A have tracked most of these issue areas since 2011.

## Research Findings

The statistics collected with the assistance of Community Foundations of Canada, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, and many regional and local organizations. Reliable sources such as Statistics Canada were used with an emphasis on the most current and geographically specific data possible.

## Survey Grade

Citizens were invited to complete a survey on the health of their community, measuring the 13 key issue areas on a Likert-type scale from 1 to 6. The mode of the citizen grade is illustrated in each issue area over time, including surveys from 2011, 2014, 2017 (in colour) and expectations for 2020 (in grey).



## Citizen Priority Seal

Indicates issue area considered most important by survey respondents (Q.15 "Looking forward, what are the three (3) most important Issue Areas facing the community of Golden & Area A?").



## 425 Ideas

When asked, "What one change or action will have the most significant positive impact on the quality of life for residents in Golden & Area A?" 425 respondents had a lot to say. See pages 18 & 19 for details of what citizens said and how the community can improve.

## Research Findings

Not all respondents completed every survey question. Survey grades are intended to give a sense of public opinion on the matter.

## Citizen Graders

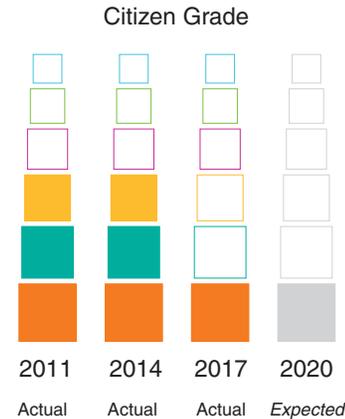
511 residents completed our 25-question survey (over 5% of our population), assigning grades from 1 to 6 to the 13 issue areas, based on their individual perceptions of past, current and expected future performance. Of the respondents:

- 47% lived in Golden & Area A for more than 16 years
- 60% are female (67% in 2014, 59% in 2011 surveys)
- 27% were under the age of 35; 37% from 35-49; 37% were 50+ years old
- 92% are full-time residents (94% in 2014)
- 425 provided additional comments (up from 290 in 2014; 246 in 2011)

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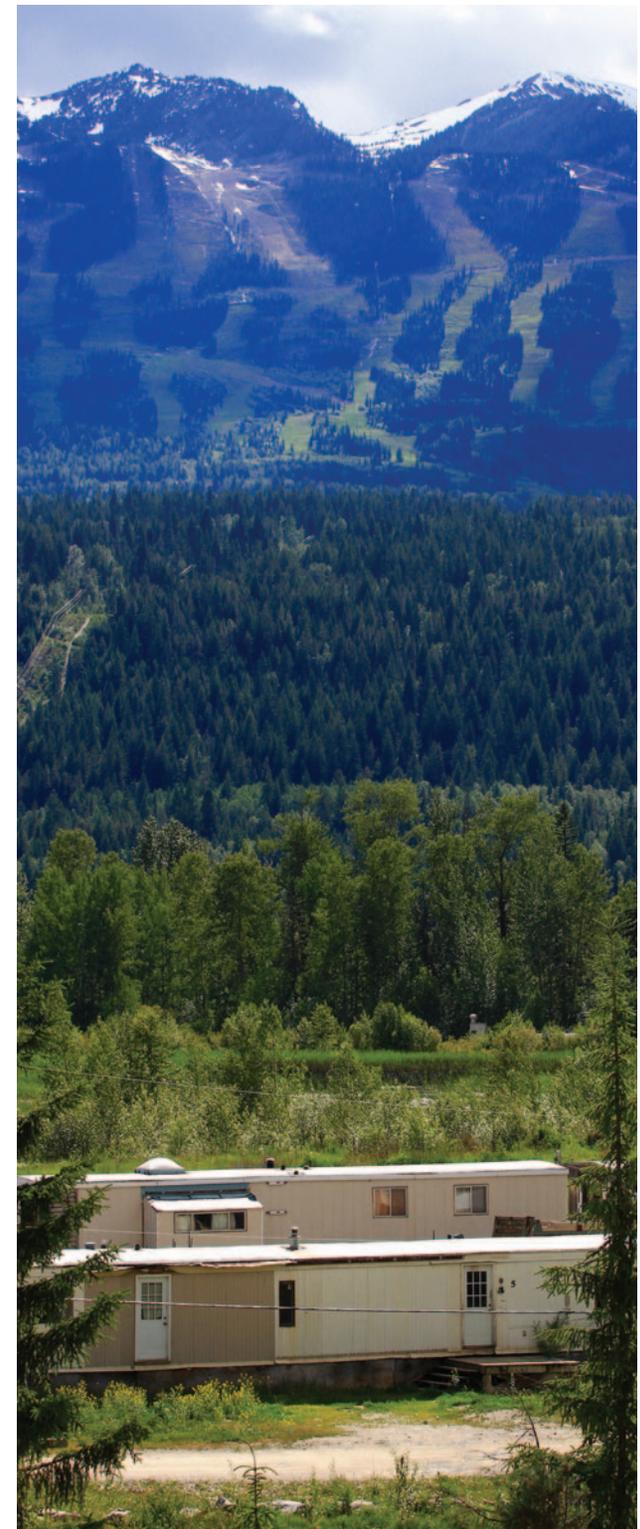
## Take Action

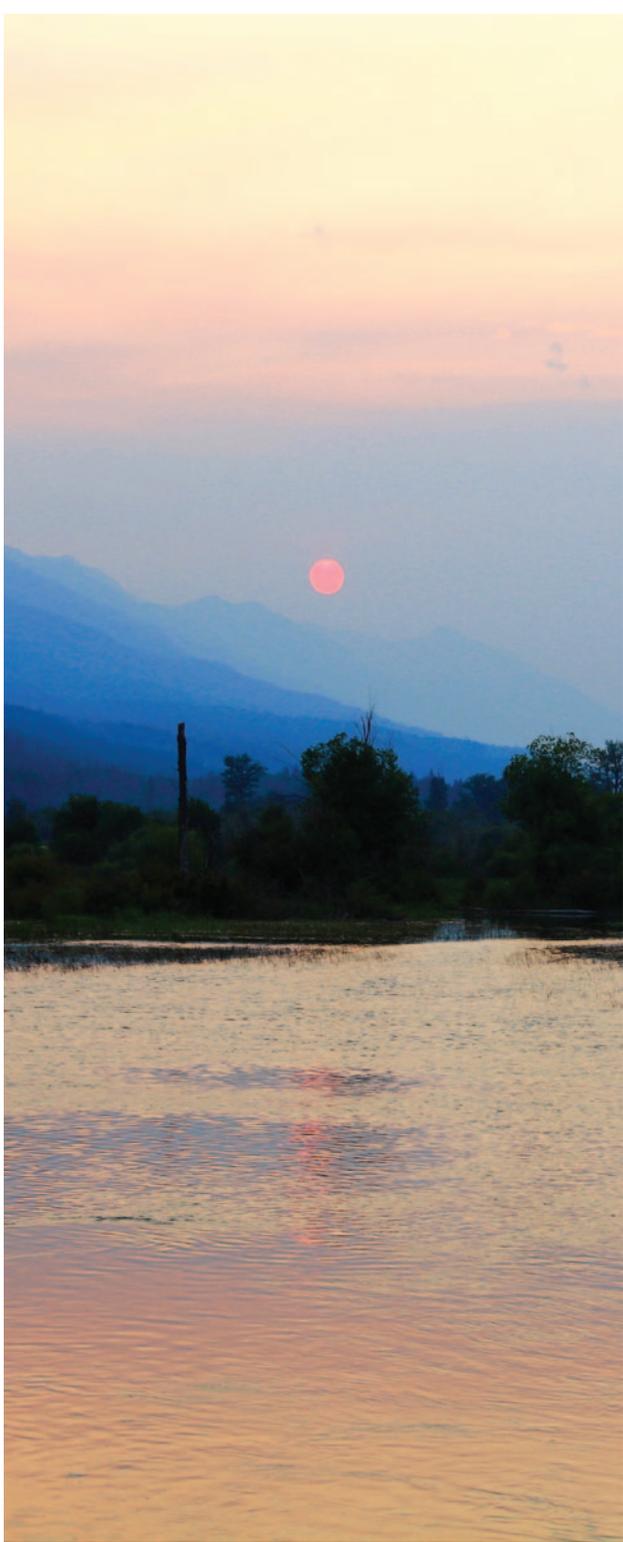
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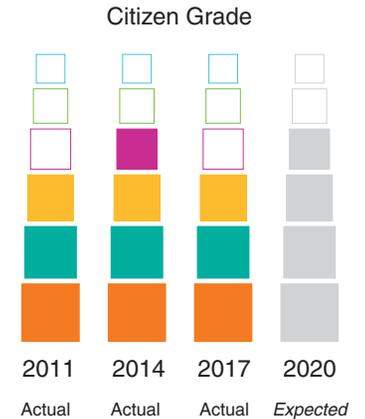




# Health

**Healthy citizens are a vital component of healthy communities. There are many aspects that contribute to health, including the social determinants of health, lifestyle choices and mental health.**

The social determinants of health include our income, education, housing, social supports, access to health services, and the conditions of our early childhood. Research consistently shows that people who struggle in these six areas are the least healthy, and the most in need of health care services and supports.



**34**

is the total number of designated assisted living and short and long term stay beds for our aging population, not including Golden's eight hospital beds. Given current population and demographic levels, we should have 48.

**51%**

of grade 12 students in Golden say they eat 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day. BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health has a target of 55% of the population eating 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day.

**22%**

is the recorded rate of mood and anxiety disorders among Golden residents. The prevalence rate of mood and anxiety disorders for Interior Health is 33%; the provincial rate is 30%.

**42.6**

is Golden's low birth weight rate (per 1,000 live births) for 2011-2015. This is considerably better than the BC average of 57.0 and Interior Health's rate of 48.6. This is a notable improvement from 2009-2013, when Golden's rate was recorded at 55.8 per 1,000 births.

## Celebrate Success

Golden's proportion of kindergarten-aged children considered 'vulnerable' on one or more of five main development domains – physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive ability, and communication skills and general knowledge – has decreased from 40% in 2009-2011, to 26% in 2013-2016. The Interior Health average is 30% and the BC average is 32%.

Golden also has lower incidence and prevalence rates of major chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart failure than the BC average.

## Take Action

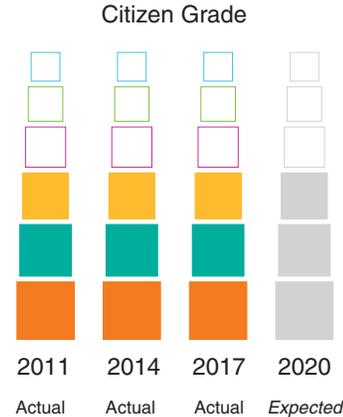
Opioid and substance use problems are on the rise in Golden. The Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative and Golden Local Action Team have been working to implement a number of education and harm reduction initiatives, key for improving prevention, help-seeking and early intervention and recovery.

Embrace opportunities that support both physical and mental health. Prioritize initiatives that make positive health behaviours easier to adopt.

# Work

## Golden is a community where people want to live to pursue their diverse lifestyles and activities while finding meaningful work.

Lifestyle is an important factor in choosing Golden as a place to live. Sustainable employment and a living wage provides the opportunity to thrive and improves the quality of life. A diverse economy and labour market aids in resiliency and is essential for growth and prosperity, but for many people, steady, well-paying work is still a struggle to find and maintain.



**5.6%**

is the unemployment rate for the Thompson-Okanagan region which includes Golden. Kootenay and BC rates are 7.5% and 5.3%, respectively. The Youth rate for BC 8.2%.

**105**

businesses participated in the Business Walk Event, supported by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Town of Golden and Kicking Horse Chamber of Commerce.

**183**

job seekers attended the EK Employment job fair, along with 17 employers and agencies. In 2016, 324 jobs for the Golden area were posted on the EK Employment website.

**4**

employer support areas. Employers requested support in human resources, marketing partnerships, customer services, and business planning. Employees find housing, transportation and a livable wage challenging in Golden.

### Celebrate Success

More childcare options for working families.

Employment focus training at the College of the Rockies (Golden Campus) includes Mountain Hospitality Program, Targeted Initiative for Older Workers Program, Class 1 Driver Training, Health Care Assistant Program.

Tourism Golden saw increases far above BC average. Resort Municipality funding renewed for 5 years in 2017.

Funding of \$669 million was announced for Phase 4 of the Kicking Horse Canyon project.

### Take Action

Support development of a Housing Strategy.

Build an inviting workplace by creating a fun, flexible and fairly compensated environment for employees.

Improve your skills with training and courses through the College of the Rockies or other programs.

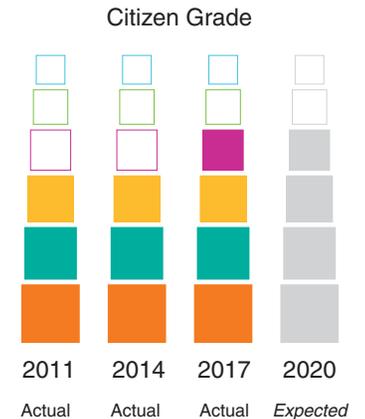




## Economy

**Current economic factors show that Golden is growing at a healthy rate and its economy is on the rise. There is an increased demand for residential and commercial property, which is creating affordability issues for some portions of the population.**

In an increasingly competitive world, local businesses need to constantly evolve and anticipate the needs of their market. While macro economic factors are currently favourable for Golden businesses, investments in equipment, processes, technology and people are needed to remain competitive. Those investments can be coordinated and supported through local industry associations, or through collaboration with two or more businesses or non-profit organizations.



**100%**

increase in hotel room tax between 2006 and 2016. This hotel tax funds Tourism Golden's marketing efforts to bring more visitors to Kicking Horse Country.

**2x**

the number of buses stopped in the Yoho National Park Visitor Centre in 2016, compared to 2013. The 1,225 buses brought 47,450 visitors in 2016. This bus traffic greatly out-paces the 7.4% increase in people through the door.

**36%**

increase in non-market change to the Town of Golden tax roll, from \$3.9M in 2016 to \$5.3M in 2017. The non-market change is defined as changes in property value as a result of new construction, subdivision/land assemblies, and zoning changes.

**\$5.9M**

is the grant request for 100% of the Kicking Horse River dike improvement in the downtown core. If the dike is raised as planned, recreational whitewater features may be possible along the downtown section of the river.

### Celebrate Success

Whitetooth Brewing opened a new state-of-the-art facility in 2016, which can increase its capacity 10-fold.

Businesses with 1-5 employees comprise 76% of Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce members. Small businesses increase the resilience of the local economy.

The Town of Golden's Community Funds Local Select Committee uses the citizen priorities from Vital Signs to award over \$300K to priority projects each spring.

### Take Action

Rebuild the Economic Development function to coordinate priorities for a vibrant, robust socio-economic climate in Golden. In 2014, this was considered too important to be delayed, but still remains absent in 2017.

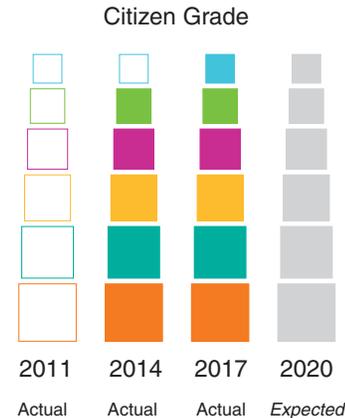
Make sure your business has a Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce membership.

Support the Chamber of Commerce; use the community calendar; promote open dialogue and collaboration between businesses.

# Recreation & Leisure

**There is no lack of opportunities for recreation and quality leisure time in Golden & Area A. Our outdoor and indoor facilities provide space for many interests, for both individuals and teams.**

Local businesses, non-profits and government provide facilities and programs for locals and visitors of all ages to participate in sports, games and hobbies. Together, these recreation opportunities help retain and attract residents whose values align with this lifestyle. This is the 1st issue area to ever receive top marks in the Vital Signs survey.



**58%**

increase in Town of Golden's Universal Passes from 2012 to 2017, 35 to 93, respectively; with Golden residents purchasing 75% of them.

**95%**

increase in pool program attendance from 2012 to 2016, from 7,400 visits to 14,433 in 4 years.

**1/2**

of the Town of Golden's Universal Winter Passes were sold to seniors in 2016-17. This is one of the best ways for seniors to stay active in the winter.

**30%**

of the Mount 7 Rec Plex's total drop-in programming visitation consisted of pickleball players. Go see what all the excitement is about.



## Celebrate Success

The Town has been working to ensure a diverse and consistent line up of drop in programming offered at our local recreation facilities and to make it easier for volunteers to help drive the new programs.

In 2016, the Town of Golden completed a Facilities Assessment Plan to determine long-term capital costs of public facilities.

The Golden Two-Four mountain bike race (June) and Golden Ultra Marathon (September) are held annually.

## Take Action

An Area A Regional Trails Strategy is expected to be rolled out in late 2017 and executed over the coming years.

Volunteer with a club, buy a membership and give back so that recreation groups and facilities can continue to service Golden & Area A.

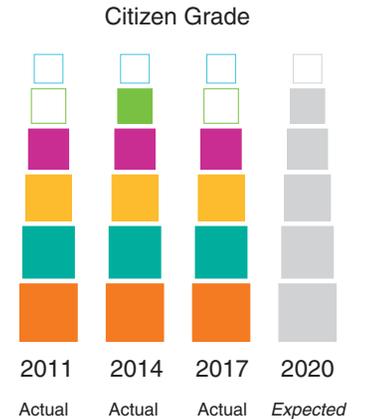
Reach out to similar organizations to share space, staff and volunteers and create resilience.



## Safety

The safety of those who live in and visit our community is dependent on a variety of factors, including safe roads and infrastructure, proper equipment, prevention and awareness programs, and having trained personnel, including volunteers, in place.

Community members have a responsibility to take care of themselves and each other and to access services and programs that will help them when needed and/or required. Emergency services and organizations require people to report incidents and learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies and safety concerns.



8%

lower rate of total property criminal code violations in Golden/Field compared to overall rate for British Columbia in 2016. But up by 11% in Golden/Field since 2015.

98.8

overall crime severity index in Golden/Field in 2016, compared to 93.6 in BC, 70.1 in Canada.

21.4%

decrease in overall crime since 1998 in Golden/Field.

5%

of the locking garbage bins audited were not following protocols in spring 2017. The bins should be locked 24/7 and then only unlocked for garbage day pick up. Garbage is the number one reason why people call the RAPP line.

### Celebrate Success

Road rescue is now covered by the Town of Golden Fire Department Association (\$450,000 from BC Gaming for new road rescue truck). The Nicholson Fire Protection area has been increased twice in the last 3 years.

The Golden Women's Resource Centre began their Recognizing and Addressing Abuse and Neglect project.

The Town of Golden has added 400 locking garbage bins to high wildlife conflict neighbourhoods in 2017. All remaining residents should receive them by 2020.

### Take Action

Avoid attracting bears and cougars by storing garbage inside until pick up day.

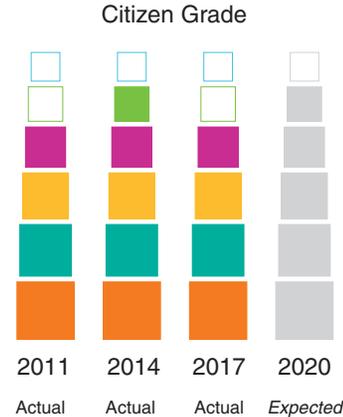
There has been an increase in Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) throughout Golden, yet some key facilities still lack them. Advocate for more AEDs.

Volunteer, donate and participate in prevention programs and services that work towards ending violence against women and girls including sexual assault and foster positive male role models for boys/men.

# Environment

**Protecting the beauty and ecological diversity of our stunning natural environment now and into the future is vital for our health, economy, and overall quality of life.**

We cannot take clean air, water quality, abundant forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands and alpine ecosystems in the Golden area for granted. All of these valued ecosystem services are under pressure from numerous and increasing human interests. We need to carefully monitor our environmental impacts, and make wise decisions based on managing for long-term protection.



**26%**

decrease in average ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5 - 24 hr) during winter months of 2016-17 as compared to 2013-14. This is an indicator of an improvement in air quality, however much more needs to be done to reduce air pollution.

**4%**

increase in the quantity of municipal solid waste landfilled at the Golden site in the two-year period 2015-16 over 2013-14. Choose goods that last longer and have less packaging.

**21%**

decrease in the tonnage of recyclable materials collected region-wide at depots and at curbside in 2016 over 2013. More support is needed for commercial recycling.

**8.3%**

increase in the total volume of water used over one year in the Town of Golden in 2016 over 2013. 22% of residential use is considered to be wasted water due to leakage. Use water wisely.

## Celebrate Success

Over the past three years, 83 volunteer citizen scientists with the Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey have monitored migratory birds at over 100 sites and documented 26,627 water birds.

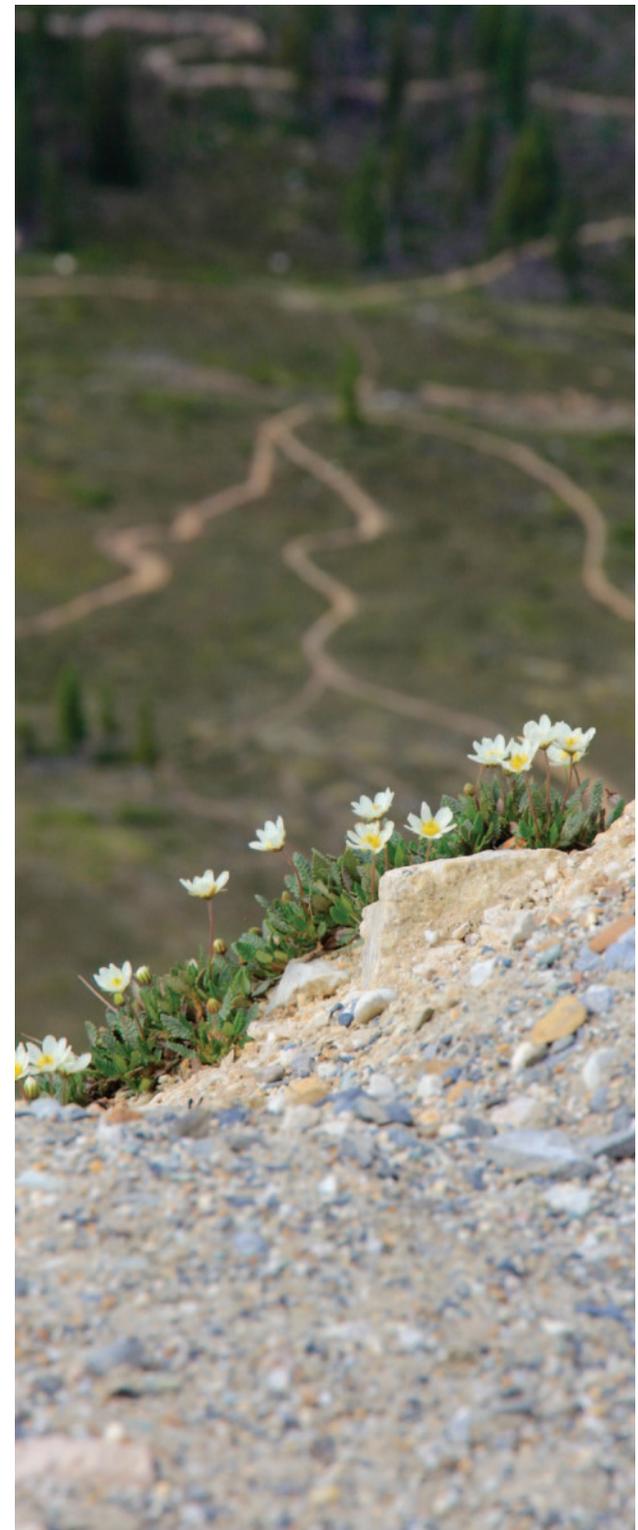
Federal boating regulations were enacted in 2016 on the Columbia River main channel, providing additional protection to North America's longest intact interior wetland.

## Take Action

Ride off-road vehicles including mountain bikes responsibly by staying on hardened, dry trails and avoid wet areas and sensitive vegetation.

Help to improve local air quality by reducing needless idling of vehicles and by burning woodstoves cleanly without smoke. Never throw cigarettes out of your car.

Reduce your waste production by conserving water and recycling materials as much as possible.

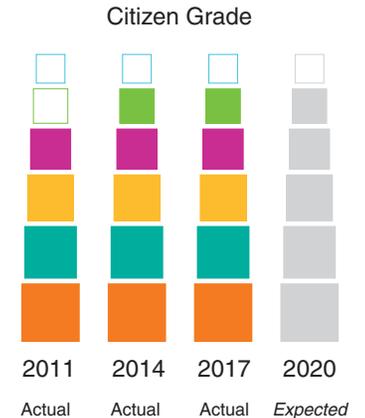




# Getting Started & Staying

**The Age Friendly Committee has begun to make progress with seniors' services. A similar effort focused on youth workers will help to keep the population steady.**

School enrolment, children at risk, changing demographics, migration, immigrant in-flow for quality of life, youth and seniors leaving our community for new opportunities and amenities are all indicators of our ability to maintain a vibrant and welcoming community.



**5**

percentage point decrease in youth unemployment rate, from 14.9% in 2011 to 9.4% in 2016 for the Thompson-Okanagan (including Golden). This is below the national unemployment rate of 13.1%.

**1.3%**

increase in Golden & Area A's population from 2011 to 2016; less than Revelstoke & Area B's 5.9% and Invermere & Area F's 9.4% increase.

**1.5%**

increase in Golden student enrolment between 2014/15 & 2016/17, which is less than 4.7% across School District #6, but greater than the BC average of 1.2%.

**50%**

of Golden's respondents to the 2016 BC Community Survey indicated that "when someone new moves onto my street, they are welcomed into the neighbourhood;" below the BC average of 54%.

## Celebrate Success

In 2015, the Golden Women's Resource Centre led a project titled "Sustainable Volunteer Programs in the Community."

In 2017, Golden's Age Friendly Committee successfully secured an advocate who has an open office for seniors and their advocates.

St. Andrew's United Church & Centre for Peace led the Golden Opportunities for Refugees project, which could produce lessons for attracting & retaining many more families.

## Take Action

Create a greater sense of belonging with your new neighbours by offering a "hello," support, and connection to your network of friends.

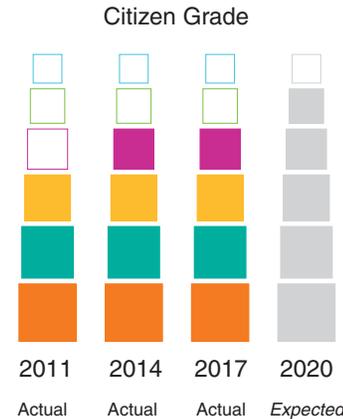
Encourage newcomers to be volunteers and community leaders today.

Support the creation of federally subsidized day care so that young families can afford to live here.

# Learning

**Education and learning are important for the social and economic well-being of individuals and for a vibrant, prosperous community. Lifelong learning opens up your mind and keeps your brain working well.**

The childcare shortage in Golden has been addressed with new facilities. The College of the Rockies is “closing the skills gap” in hospitality and tourism, retraining older workers from Golden & Area A, so that they can re-enter the workforce. The Golden Campus is also improving direct entry into the workforce through truck driver and trades training.



**26%**

or 33 of 129 Wave 6 (2013-16) children from Golden are vulnerable on one or more EDI (Early Development Instrument) Scales, which is below the School District average of 29% and BC average of 32.2%.

**27%**

increase in referrals from Child Care Resource and Referral between 2014/15 (459) and 2016/17 (580), with 282 of those looking for community program referrals.

**31.2%**

decrease in the percent of residents that “Have not” completed high school (aged 15 and over) from 2010-2016.

**30%**

of Adventure Tourism Business Operations diploma graduates continue on to a university degree program.



## Celebrate Success

Early Childhood Development Coalition (ECDC) has set up a week each year dedicated to go screen-free, with free Unplug & Play activities. The ECDC has secured funding for 2016-18 for a BC Early Years Centre which offers free info and services for children & families.

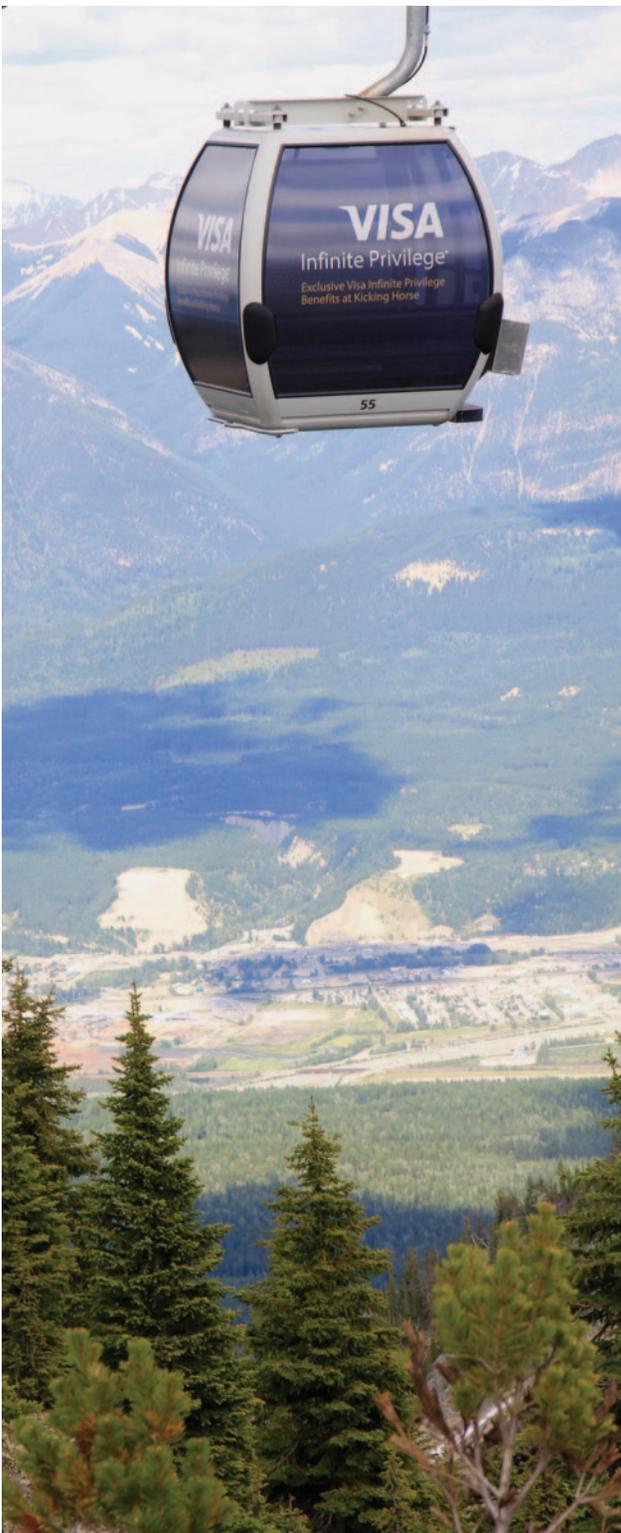
College of the Rockies delivered the Mountain Hospitality Program in 2016/17.

The new BC government has announced that Adult Basic Education (ABE) is now free.

## Take Action

Be aware of time spent in front of screens. Set up a Family Media Use Plan to improve self-regulation and become a good role model for your children.

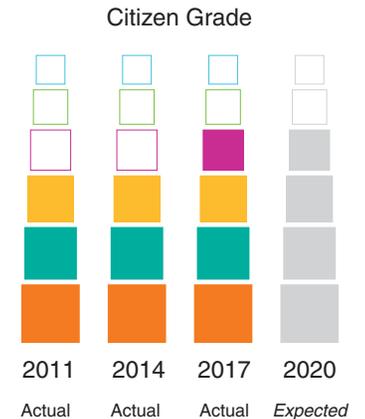
The demand for child care is growing, and with that the demand for more early childhood educators (ECEs) in the community. Interested individuals should register with the College of the Rockies’ Health Safety & Nutrition course to get your start into ECE. College of the Rockies seeks input from local employers so that they can offer the right training at the right time.



# Gap Between Rich & Poor

**The gap between rich and poor, also known as ‘income inequality,’ is the extent to which income is distributed unevenly. A wide gap between the incomes of the rich and poor is unhealthy for a community.**

High inequality can diminish economic growth if it means a community is not fully using the skills and capabilities of all its citizens, or if it undermines social cohesion, leading to increased social tensions. Income influences health most directly through access to material resources such as better quality food and shelter. Higher incomes and improved health outcomes are directly related. High inequality raises a moral question about fairness and social justice.



**\$22.23/hr**

is the Living Wage calculation for 2 adults in Golden, each working 35 hours/week with one child in full time care and one child in before and after-school care. This doesn't allow for savings, debt payments, vacations, etc.

**25%**

of the households in Canada that may need help accessing food actually seek charitable food assistance. Those people who do use food banks are very likely to be severely food insecure.

**100**

households in our community access the Food Bank on a monthly basis. These households include 191 adults and 65 children who need monthly support to access food.

**0.4%**

Gini Coefficient for Golden in 2014, up from 0.39 in 2011, so income inequality seems to be increasing. Income disparity is slightly worse in BC and Canada (0.44).

## Celebrate Success

Kicking Horse Culture offers free musical performances in the summer and the Snow King Masque Parade in the winter for all residents of our community.

Local Food Matters is tackling systemic issues of food access, food production, and creating sustainable local food systems.

Whitetooth Affordable Ski Program continues to offer resources to get local kids out on the slopes regardless of their household ability to afford gear, lessons, and lift passes.

## Take Action

Encourage employers to pay a living wage, or supply equivalent benefits to all employees.

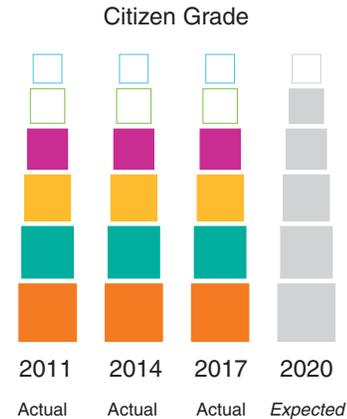
Talk to your elected representatives and use your vote to influence systemic change for poverty reduction, affordable housing, child care, income assistance or whatever equality issue you are passionate about.

Your donations to local charities, and support of local fundraisers and projects helps build community capacity and makes Golden & Area A a better place to live for everyone.

# Getting Around

**Our community's geography and climate can make travel challenging, if not exciting. Many groups are trying to help us move about safely and sustainably.**

The ability to get around is central to our quality of life and supports business. Accessibility impacts our ability to work, our health, as well as our community's ability to be fully inclusive. The community is making progress in many areas; however highway construction projects will require substantial investment of resources (>\$1B) committed at the provincial and federal level.



**270 kms**

of hiking trails, 150 kms of downhill cycling trails and 1,200 kms of snow machine trails in and around the region are attracting national and international events.

**10,400**

vehicles represent the summer average daily traffic on the Trans-Canada Highway through Yoho National Park. The annual growth rate is predicted to be 3%.

**22 kms**

of sidewalks maintained all-season by the Town of Golden. In addition, there are over 230 downtown parking spots.

**214**

members in Facebook's Golden Local Rideshare, and another 2,144 on Golden Rideshares, help to match people moving around with those who need rides. Ridesharing will likely increase in the future.

## Celebrate Success

The Town of Golden, Golden Museum & GDCF hosted a Jane's Walk in May 2017 to examine the downtown's active transportation infrastructure and walkability.

In 2017, the CSRD commissioned a Regional Trails Strategy, which will set priorities for use and improvements for years to come. Substantial trail damage from the 2017 windstorm has been cleared by the Town of Golden and Golden Cycling Club.

The Golden Airport (CYGE) supports 630 fixed and rotary wing aircraft landings per year.

## Take Action

Invest in public accessibility for the disabled. Make sure your workplace is accessible. Park and walk to enable closer spots are available for those that require them.

Engage in public forums about the proposed 10th Ave Kicking Horse River Bridge and address road safety and access for cyclists on Highway 95.

Runway maintenance and improvements at municipal airport will be required in the near future.

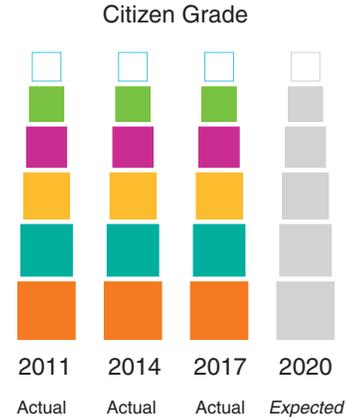




# Arts, Culture & Heritage

**Arts can help individuals express themselves, connect with one another, improve their health, and create a greater sense of belonging. Culture connects you to your community. You, in turn, build the community's culture.**

In Kicking Horse Country, there are many opportunities to attend or participate in local events and for diverse groups to celebrate their cultures and values. Over time, there has been a greater appreciation for the preservation and honouring of our heritage and how it impacts our culture and community.



**2,300**

hours were worked by 110 Kicking Horse Culture volunteers in 2016/17, up from 2,000 and 86, respectively, in 2012/13. Volunteers add value to the community and create a sense of belonging.

**60%**

increase in attendance at community arts activities between 2016/17 and 2012/13. Community events are planned and priced so that every resident can attend. Introduce a friend to the arts by bringing them to the next event.

**9**

film/video /media screenings in 2016/17 represent a 50% increase over 2012/13. In that same period, the number of attendees increased 13% from 507 to 575.

**27%**

increase in the number of artists to whom Kicking Horse Culture paid artists fees, and who reside in Golden & Area A, between 2012/13 and 2016/17.

## Celebrate Success

Many organizations collaborate on cultural events like Summer Kicks concert series, Golden Museum Fall Faire, Film Kicks, Snow King Masque Parade, Golden Sound Festival, Golden Mountain Festival and the Canada Day Celebration.

Golden's Sikh Heritage recognized by the BC Government after nomination by the Golden Museum.

A new roof and new windows in the Old CPR Station means the Golden Museum is making room for many new exhibits.

## Take Action

Support local arts, culture and heritage through memberships, participation and volunteering.

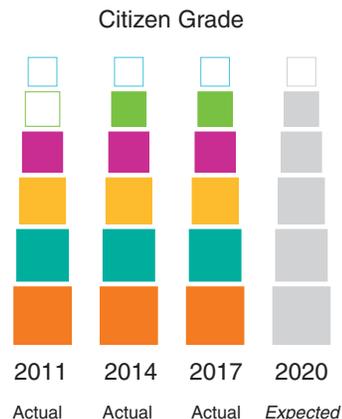
The future of Resort Municipality Infrastructure (RMI) funding is unknown after March 2018, which may reduce funding for tourism-connected community infrastructure.

Check out the Golden Museum's new exhibits on "Donald BC, Its Rise and Fall" as well as their expanded mini exhibits for local businesses.

# Belonging & Leadership

**Rural communities rely on the energy of volunteers and community spirit to create a strong sense of place. It is imperative that everyone is open to collaboration and inclusion.**

The high level of motivation and commitment in our small community is astounding. Citizens find ways to work together to develop a strong and vibrant community. With over 100 non-profit organizations, there are plenty of ways for residents of Golden & Area A to lead, follow, give back and create a sense of belonging for everyone.



**79%**

of 2016 BC Community Survey respondents living in the East Kootenay described “their sense of belonging” as strong, versus 66% in the BC sample. Local respondents reported that they could confide in 6.7 people, versus 5.9 for BC.

**\$250**

is the average charitable donation from residents of the Town of Golden in 2015, which is lower than the BC average (\$430) and national average (\$300).

**\$1,466**

on average, are donated to non profit groups each year by Vital Signs survey respondents. These same respondents, on average, volunteer with 2.1 organizations.

**43%**

of eligible Town of Golden voters cast their ballot in the 2014 municipal elections; compared with 34% in the 2012 by-election and referendum and 26% in 2011.

## Celebrate Success

Nicholson and Lady Grey elementary schools continue with implementing the *Leader In Me* program.

Rotary’s INTERACT Club is an award-winning organization for local youth to make the community a better place.

Director Cathcart commissioned a Capacity Building Needs Assessment prioritizing issues in the CSRD Area A community.

Since 2006, Town Council has honoured 17 exceptional individuals who contribute to the well-being of Golden.

## Take Action

Keep your giving within the community as much as possible.

Create a sense of belonging by attending a community event, supporting a local cause and ensuring that all residents can participate in all aspects of the community.

Think about how you support leadership in your community. Take on the role of a leader, a supporter, and a follower. Run for local government or as a school board trustee. Vote in the 2018 general election and encourage your friends and family to do the same.





# What one change or action will you do to help?

*"Equal playing field between airbnb and commercial lodges. The region is missing out on taxes that are not being paid by airbnb operators."*

*"Golden needs to become "denser"; more multi family dwellings, condos, etc. in traditionally single family neighbourhoods."*

*I think that the Town of Golden needs to really consider action on the housing crisis here in Golden. Perhaps a bylaw limiting vacation rentals or enforcing business licensing for those operation vacation rentals.*

## Housing

*"The availability for good and prompt and caring medical care for aging population lead by the Interior Health Authority through our local health practioneers and facilities."*

## Health

*"Private investment strongly encouraged and supported by municipal/regional government." • "Ensure Broad band capabilities."*

## Economy

*"Whitewater natural wave surf feature on the river within the town to promote Whitewater recreation which the public can see."*

## Recreation & Leisure

*"Higher paying jobs, without seasonal layoffs. Should be led by an economic development office in conjunction with the chamber."*

## Work

*"Make recycling easier for small business and area a to encourage more use." • "Air quality needs improvement." • "Mosquito control. All groups!"*

## Environment

*"Economic development, a coordinator for events in Golden, an organization that consistently makes Golden a better more inclusive place to live."*

## Getting Started

*"Would like to see more police patrols in Golden and out laying areas." • "More of an rcmp presence within the town itself."*

## Safety

*"Need more permanent full-time jobs, with a higher minimum wage starting point." • "Lower the taxes and cost of living."*

## Gap Between Rich & Poor

*"Fix the roads and install sidewalks for safety." • "Expand bike/walking trails within town limits - Led by the Town of Golden."*

## Getting Around

*"We need cheaper and easier childcare." • "French schools."*

## Learning

*"A push towards more things that will entice FAMILIES to stay and work in golden YEAR ROUND."*

## Arts & Culture

*"Keep the community things going!!! Indoor pool, out door BBQ along river! Getting the old locals involved in the new community network."*

## Belonging & Leadership

GOLDEN & AREA A'S

# VitalSigns®



admin@goldencommunityfoundation.ca  
[www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca)

PO Box 1485  
Golden, BC  
V0A 1H0

Vital Signs® is a community checkup conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada and with special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept.

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