

SQUAMISH'S

VitalSigns®

2014

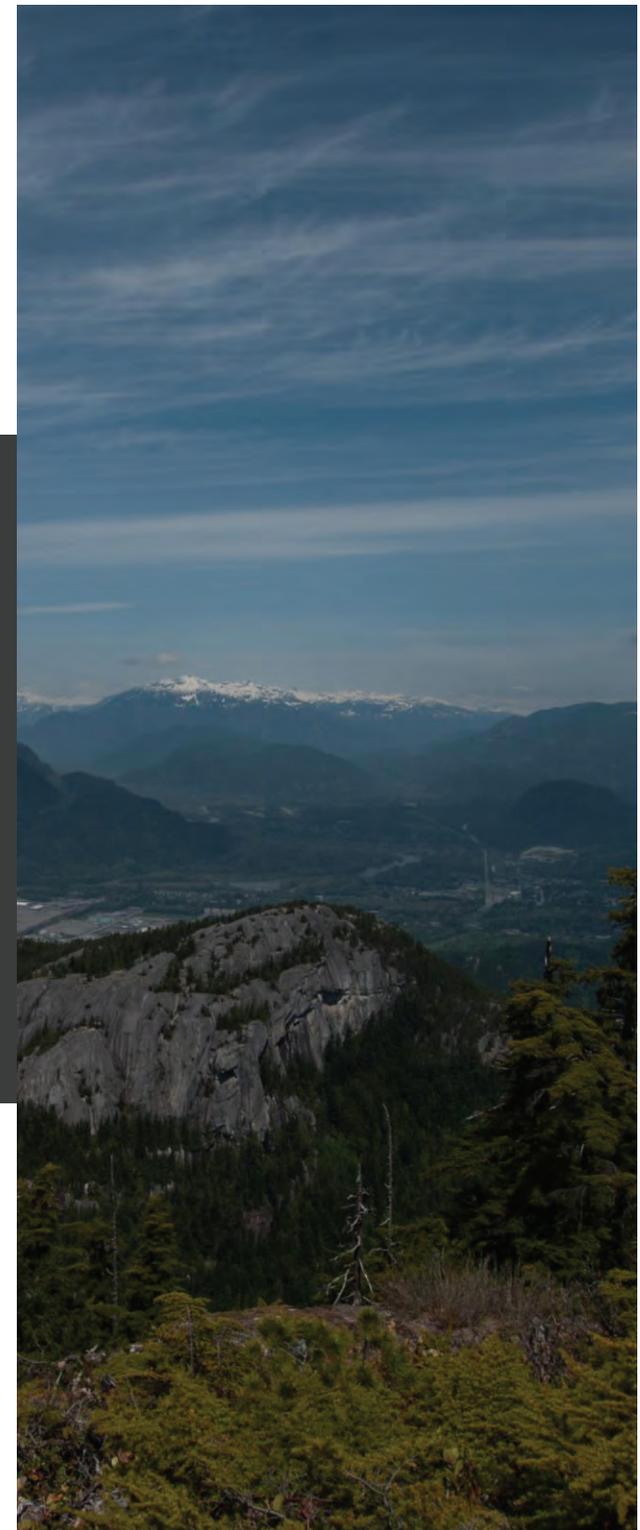
X Eleven key issues

X More than 100 citizen contributors

X One snapshot of our community



SQUAMISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



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SQUAMISH'S VitalSigns®

Intended as a long-term initiative, **VitalSigns** builds on partnerships with a broad range of community members who contribute their skills and expertise, along with citizens who are actively engaged in the development and grading of the report.

Community Engagement

Goals

- Highlight areas of need to encourage further dialogue and response from institutions, public leaders, charitable organizations and citizens
- Encourage cross-sector, holistic thinking on the overall vitality of our town and provide impetus for cross-sector initiatives
- Build community capacity through shared knowledge for good decision-making

Index of Grading

-  Very good: stay the course
-  Good: but some improvements could be made
-  Fair: suggest additional effort be made to address these issues
-  Poor: substantial additional work is required
-  Fail: immediate action is crucial

Research

Research Network

Community Foundations of Canada provided lists of indicators for each issue area. The directorship of the Squamish Community Foundation, with the assistance of local issue area experts and through a survey of the local community, identified and selected indicators for Squamish's **VitalSigns** that were relevant, accurate and comprehensive. *Community Foundations of Canada* provided additional expertise through the retention of the Centre for the Study of Living Standards to undertake national research. Specific research was commissioned from the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit, and data was solicited from the District of Squamish and from Search and Rescue.

Methodology

Indicator Selection

Indicators were selected and prioritized based on the following guidelines:

Indicator Characteristics:

- Perceived public interest, as identified by the results of our on line community survey in Spring 2014.
- Does the indicator inspire action?
- Does the indicator report on an issue or trend that individuals or communities can do something about?

Overall Indicator Set:

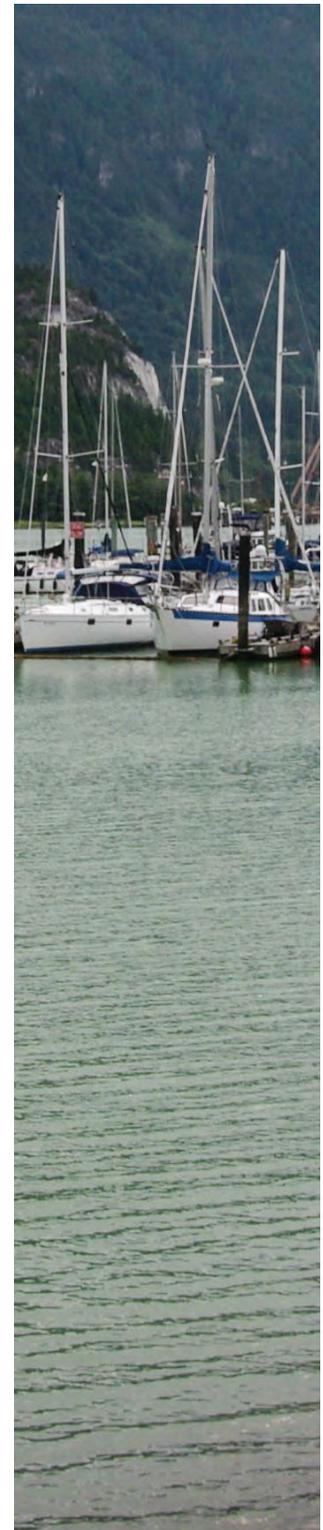
- Does it reveal both strengths and weaknesses of Squamish?
- Does it reflect a balance of focus on people, the economy and the environment?
- Has it already been reported in another local publication?

Data Selection

- Understandability and measurability
- Ease and cost of collection
- How current the information is, and frequency of collection for future use, in order to identify possible trends

Data Trends Since 2011

The Squamish Community Foundation produced Squamish's first **VitalSigns** report in 2011. This report does revisit 27 of the 45 indicators chosen in 2011 for community presentation. Many of the indicators highlight whether the data represents an improvement or a decline in our community health. If our community graders thought that a positive or negative trend was evident, these trends are broadly represented on p. 3 using "thumbs up 👍 or thumbs down 👎" imagery.





2014 Report Highlights

Learning

Congratulations are due to the integrated team that focuses on aboriginal education in Squamish; and migrants coming to Squamish are generally well educated. 🍷👍

Getting Started

Migration to Squamish is ongoing, and affects many other trends that can be gleaned within this report's data. The impact of Squamish's growth will be an ongoing story in future VitalSigns.

Environment

Squamish enjoys clean air, clear water, and a enviable location between Howe Sound and the Coast Mountains. Citizens need to stay informed and engaged to maintain our environment. 🍷👍

Health and Wellness

We are fit and active, and enjoy the opportunities that exist in and around Squamish. However, people also report feeling uptight, and an increase in self-rated mental health is evident. 🍷👍

Housing

Recent discussions in the community about a 0% rental availability highlights a potential emerging story. This could be due to new residents (e.g. seniors arriving to be closer to grandkids), buying properties and displacing renters. It will be interesting to see how Squamish responds.

Arts & Culture

Squamish hosts cultural festivals throughout the summer, and has become "known" nationally and internationally. *CNN Money* declared Squamish the best 2014 summer mountain town destination. 🍷👍

Gap Between Rich & Poor

Squamish continues to have an alarming poverty problem that is in contrast to our image as a young, hip, and active community. This problem is getting worse despite efforts. 🍷👎

Public Safety

In VitalSigns 2011, the amount of crime in Squamish "represented the low point in the report". While still shockingly high, and well above national and provincial averages, the trends are improving. We still have a long way for us to go to reach an acceptable level of public safety. 🍷👎

Personal Safety

Squamish is the weekend playground for locals and visitors alike, and access to outdoor recreation opportunities continues to get easier. That leads to some risk, and more accidents are happening, with significant social cost. Teen suicide is a serious issue that needs to be explored.

Belonging & Leadership

The sense of belonging to the community and satisfaction with life in Squamish continues to be strong, and is once again a highlight in our report.

Work

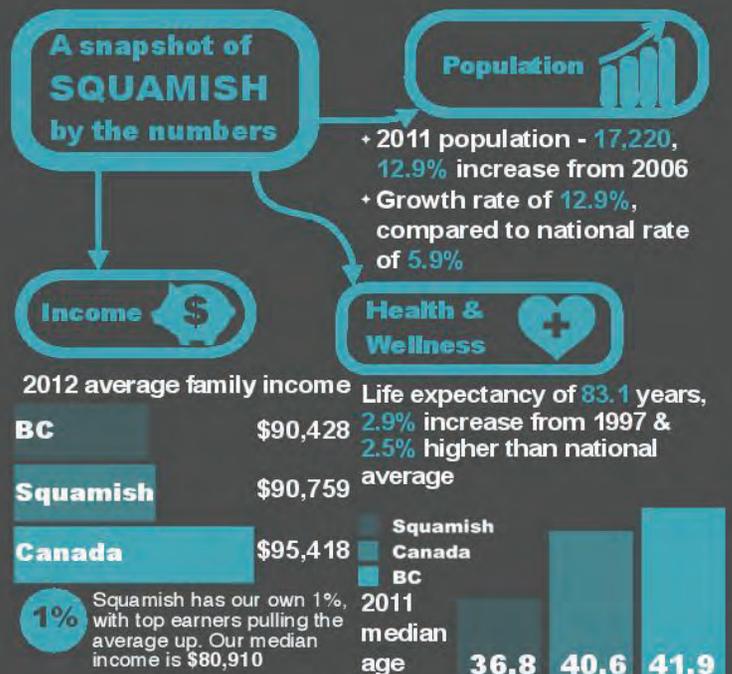
Recent data shows that employment growth remains strong in the region, and new businesses like the Sea to Sky Gondola should ensure that trend continues. New industries also face challenges as residents demand high standards before acceptance. Squamish also has a relatively high proportion of service sector jobs.

A Canadian Initiative with a Squamish Focus

Squamish's VitalSigns takes the pulse of our community, identifying areas of concern as well as some of the things that make Squamish such a great place to live. This report shares data to give citizens a voice and a clarity of vision to take action. It's not only how we celebrate successes but how we face our challenges that truly reflects the strength of our community.

The secret is out; people are coming to Squamish faster than ever. As in the 2011 Squamish VitalSigns report, we see themes of healthy, active and satisfied residents consistent with the claims of being Canada's outdoor recreation capital. With the growth comes growing pains and the exposing of sources of concern – affordability, rental availability, and an undercurrent of tension and stress, challenging our overall community mental health. High crime incidence rates may correlate to policing levels. Specific youth-related indicators have not been separated out, and are instead woven throughout the report.

In 2011 we reported on transportation in "Getting Around"; this area of interest was dropped in this report, as updated data was not available. In its place, we identified a new area that we think is of specific interest in Squamish, Personal Safety, with a focus on injury; this section also includes data from Search and Rescue.





Learning

Some positive trends are emerging as Squamish's population, and in particular our Aboriginal population, becomes better educated.

High School Non-Completion Rate

In 2011, 7.8 per cent of the population (between the ages of 25 and 64) in Squamish-Lillooet had not graduated from high school, down 3.0 percentage points from 10.8 per cent in 2006. This was 22.8 per cent below the provincial rate (10.1 per cent) and 38.6 per cent below the national rate (12.7 per cent).

Proportion with Post-Secondary education

In 2011, Squamish had a proportion of the population aged 15 and older with a post-secondary education of 54.9 per cent. This rate was 0.6 percentage points above the national average (54.3 per cent) and 0.8 percentage points below the provincial average (55.7 per cent). The Squamish rate was up 4.5 percentage points from its 2006 rate (50.4 per cent).

Aboriginal Educational Attainment

In 2011, 89.7 per cent of the Aboriginal population aged 25 to 64 in Squamish had at least one certificate, diploma, or degree, an increase of 19.7 percentage points from the 2006 rate of 70.0 per cent. The Squamish proportion in 2011 was 18.6 percentage points above the national rate of 71.1 per cent and 14.7 percentage points above the British Columbia rate of 75.0 per cent.

Average cost of Tuition, Post-Secondary

According to Statistics Canada, the average cost of tuition in British Columbia in the seven years from 2006 to 2012 varied little, ranging between \$4372 and \$4816; the highest cost year being 2007.



How the Foundation is helping...

In 2012 the Squamish Community Foundation granted School District #48/ Mamquam Elementary PAC \$1,300 to build a playground. In 2013, funds were granted to Big Brothers / Big Sisters to increase matches within the community, and to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to purchase readers for Sea to Sky residents.

How you can help...

- Learn a new language
- Support the Breakfast Program
- Attend a free lecture at QUEST University
- Read to your children



Getting Started

Significant migration to Squamish speaks to the attractiveness of our town as a place to live. With that growth comes challenges that demand a community response.

Recent Migration

In Squamish, 2.8 per cent of the population (475 persons) in 2011 had lived outside the province within the previous year, compared to 1.7 per cent for Canada and 1.2 per cent in British Columbia. In Squamish, 10.2 per cent of the 2011 population lived outside the province within the last 5 years.

Proportion of Immigrants

In 2011, the foreign-born population in Squamish consisted of 2,905 persons, representing 16.9 per cent of the total population. This compares to a provincial proportion of 27.6 per cent of the population and a national proportion of 20.6 per cent. The rate has declined by 2.2 percentage points from 2001 (19.1 per cent).

EI Benefit Usage

In 2013, regular employment insurance benefits beneficiaries in Squamish numbered 302. This is a 9.3 per cent decrease from 333 beneficiaries in 2012 and a 22.2 per cent decrease from 388 beneficiaries in 1997.

Youth Unemployment Rate, based on Census

In 2011, the youth (15-24 years old) unemployment rate in Squamish was 14.7 per cent. This was 11.4 per cent below the national youth unemployment rate of 16.6 per cent, and 8.1 per cent below the provincial average of 16.0 per cent. The youth unemployment rate has increased 1.0 percentage points from 13.7 in 2006.

Proportion of Single-Parent Families

In 2011, 14.9 per cent of the families in Squamish were headed by single parents, down 0.2 percentage points from 15.1 per cent in 2001. The proportion of families headed by single parents in Squamish was 1.4 percentage points lower than the national proportion of 16.3 per cent and 0.4 percentage points lower than the provincial proportion of 15.3 per cent in 2011.



How you can help...

- Mentor a new Squamish resident or new Canadian
- Host a neighbourhood event
- Hire and train youth

How the Foundation is helping...

In 2012, the **Squamish Community Foundation** granted \$2,200 to the Squamish Open Door Society to support single mothers with counselling, life skills, child support and supervision.





Environment

Squamish's climate is measurably warmer and drier over the last 40 years; we enjoy excellent air and water quality. We have room to improve in our goals to "act locally".

Air Quality

In Squamish, there were 0 days with a daily maximum 8 hour ozone greater than 65 ppb. This is compared to the 2001 to 2010 average of 0.3 days with a daily maximum 8 hour ozone greater than 65 ppb.

Total Average Daily Flow of Water for Residential Use

In Squamish (municipality) in 2009, 289.5 litres of water were consumed per capita per day. This is 18.0 per cent lower than the provincial average of 353.0 litres per capita and has decreased by 20.9 per cent from 2006.

Household Landfill Waste Production

The District of Squamish reports that in 2012, residents produced 630 kg of landfill waste per capita (down from 1,100 kg in 2008), while the BC average was 570 kg per capita.

Household Recycling Rate

The District of Squamish reports that recycling rates (by weight) for materials collected by Carney's Waste Systems have increased from 31.7% in 2011, to 42.5% in 2012 and 45.8% in 2013.

Household Food Security Status

In 2011, the proportion of households in the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi (HSDA) that were moderately food insecure was 5.0 per cent. This was a rate 0.7 percentage points below the national rate of 5.7 per cent and 0.2 percentage point below the provincial rate of 5.2 percent.

Green Buildings Certified BOMA BEST (Level 3 or 4) and LEED

In the spring of 2014, there were 0 green buildings certified BOMA BEST (level 3 or 4) and 0 green buildings certified LEED in Squamish.



How the Foundation is helping...

In 2014, the **Squamish Community Foundation** granted funds to the Squamish River Watershed Society for signage and information kiosks at several recreational fishing access points.

How you can help...

- Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost
- Follow the District water use guidelines
- Pick your fruit trees
- Ride and walk more



Health & Wellness

Squamish remains demonstrably healthy on the outside, with obesity rates (9.8% in 2013) well below the national (18.8%) and provincial (15.0%) averages. However, life stress and mental health stand out as challenges.

Self-rated Mental Health

In 2013, 72.3 per cent of respondents in the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi HSDA, which includes Squamish, rated their mental health status as “excellent” or “very good.” This represented a decrease of 3.9 percentage points from 76.2 per cent in 2003. The 2013 level was 1.7 per cent above the national rate (71.1 per cent), and 7.7 per cent above the provincial rate (67.1 per cent).

Self-rated Physical Health

In 2013, 78.4 per cent of respondents in North Shore/Coast Garibaldi HSDA, which includes Squamish, aged 12-19 rated their physical health status as “excellent” or “very good.” This represented an increase of 5.0 percentage points from 73.4 per cent in 2003. The 2013 level was 9.5 percentage points above the national rate (68.9 per cent), and 7.6 percentage points above the provincial rate (70.8 per cent).

Total Physicians per 100,000 People

In 2012 in North Shore/Coast Garibaldi (HSDA) there were 206 physicians per 100,000 people. This rate is 3.7 per cent lower than the national rate (214 physicians per 100,000 people) and was an increase of 7.3 per cent from 192 physicians per 100,000 people in 2002.

Perceived Life Stress

In 2013, 22.9 per cent of the population aged 15 and over in the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi HSDA, which includes Squamish, reported experiencing quite a lot of stress on most days. This represented an increase of 0.2 percentage points from 22.7 per cent in 2003. The 2013 level is 0.8 percentage points above the provincial level of 22.1 per cent and 0.1 percentage points below the national level of 23.0 per cent.

Leisure-Time Spent Physically Active or Moderately Active

In 2013, 71.0 per cent of the population aged 12 and over in the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi HSDA (includes Squamish) reported being physically active or moderately active during leisure time. This represented an increase of 3.9 percentage points from 67.1 per cent in 2003. The 2013 level was 28.6 per cent above the national level of 55.2 per cent, and 10.9 per cent above the provincial level of 64.0 per cent.



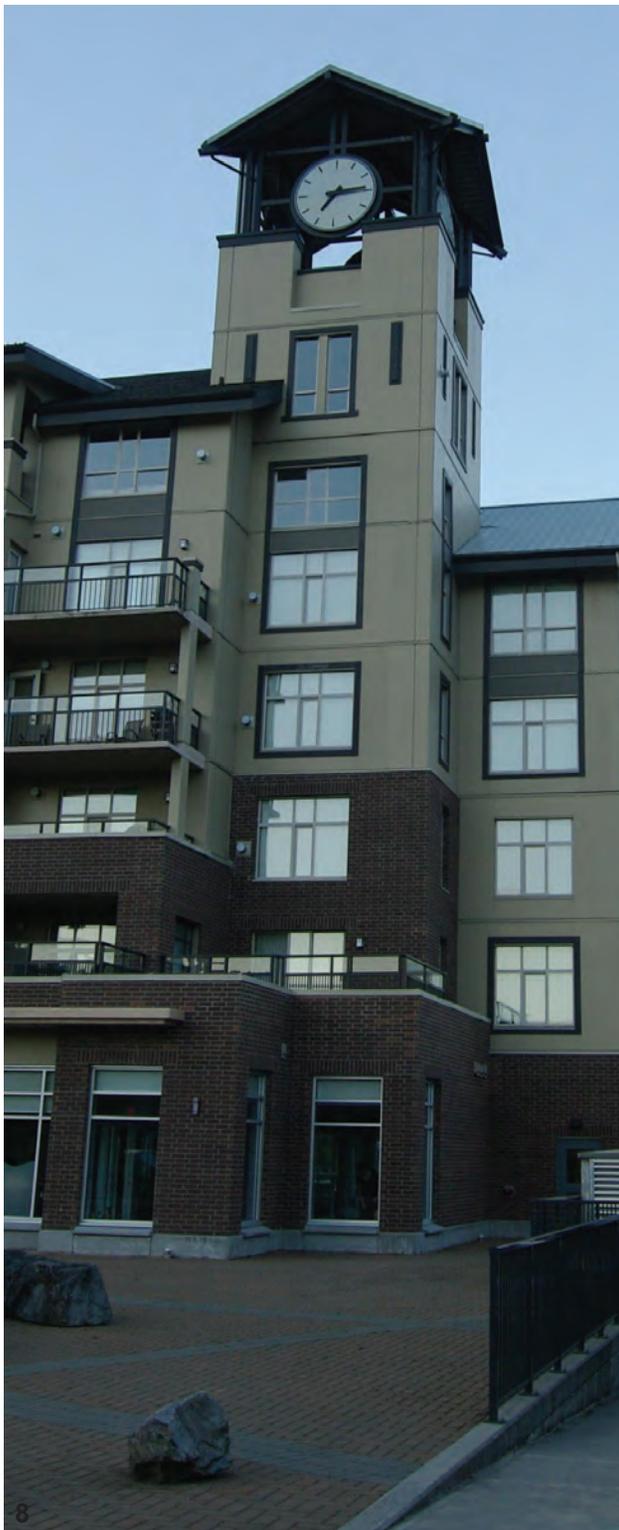
How you can help...

- Lend an ear and just listen to someone in need
- Eat less, sleep more
- Get active, get outside
- Find out about the Squamish Legacy Sports

How the Foundation is helping...

In 2014, the **Squamish Community Foundation** granted funds to support equipment and volunteers with BC Adaptive Snowsports, and to BC Special Olympics for a swim program.





Housing

Purchasing a house in Squamish is expensive; average residents need to spend nine times their annual income, almost double the national average. More than one half of Squamish residents are spending greater than 30 percent of their income on shelter.

Gross Shelter Income Ratio

In Squamish (CA), the proportion of households spending 30 per cent or more of their income on gross rent was 54.3 per cent in 2010, 14.2 percentage points higher than the national average (40.1 per cent). The proportion of households spending more than 30 per cent of income on owner's major payments on shelter was 29.8 per cent, 11.3 percentage points higher than the national average (18.5 per cent).

Ratio of Residential Prices and Median Family Income

In 2012 in Squamish, the ratio of the average residential price to the median pre-tax income for a Census family was 9.02, which is 10.7 per cent lower than its 2011 level of 10.11. The 2012 level was 84.9 per cent higher than the national average of 4.88.

Two-Bedroom Rental Vacancy Rate

In April 2014, the two-bedroom rental vacancy rate in Squamish was 0.0 per cent, down from 3.9 per cent one year earlier. The provincial average in April 2014 was 2.4 per cent.

Actual Rental Costs per Month.

In 2014, the monthly average rental rates by type of unit were as follows:

	Squamish	B.C.
Bachelor	\$587	\$817
1 Bedroom	785	954
2 Bedroom	845	1090

Number of Homeless Emergency Shelters and Beds

In 2012, there were 15 beds in one homeless emergency shelter in the community of Squamish; these are the same results as in 2010.



How the Foundation is helping...

In 2014, the **Squamish Community Foundation** granted funds to Sea to Sky Community Services to help equip the new **Centrepoint** kitchen. In 2013, Squamish Helping Hands Society received \$2,800 to assist with set up and supplies at a new location.

How you can help...

- Learn about and support Centrepoint
- Encourage legal suites
- Support social housing initiatives



Arts & Culture

The Squamish Valley Music Festival attracted over 35,000 attendees in 2014, and there is a cultural event almost every weekend in the summer. In 2014, Squamish hosted the 57th Annual Squamish Days Logger Sports Festival.

Number of Cultural Activities and Events

The 2010 Canadian Council on Learning's "Composite Learning Index" indicates that Squamish is at the high end of the national average in exposure to performing arts and museums and above the national average in learning from other cultures.

Public Library Usage

In the five year span from 2007 to 2011, the Squamish Public Library reported an increase in visitors of 25.8 per cent, for a total of 119,877 visits in 2011. In that same period, Squamish Public Library reported an increase in items borrowed of 45 per cent.

Use of Squamish as a Film Location

From 2011 through 2014, the District of Squamish has tracked a steady increase in the use of Squamish as a film location, and estimates a 2013 economic contribution of \$5 million.

Employment in Cultural Industries

In Squamish, cultural industries employed 300 persons in 2011, a decrease of 4.8 per cent from 2006 (315 persons). This industry accounted for 2.9 per cent of total employment in Squamish. By comparison, these industries accounted for 3.4 per cent of total employment in British Columbia and 2.9 per cent of employment in Canada.

Number of Employed that report themselves as Artist

In Squamish, in 2011, 35 people reported themselves as artists in the national household survey, which accounts for 0.4 per cent of the experienced labour force. By comparison, this proportion accounted for 0.5 per cent in British Columbia and 0.7 per cent in Canada.

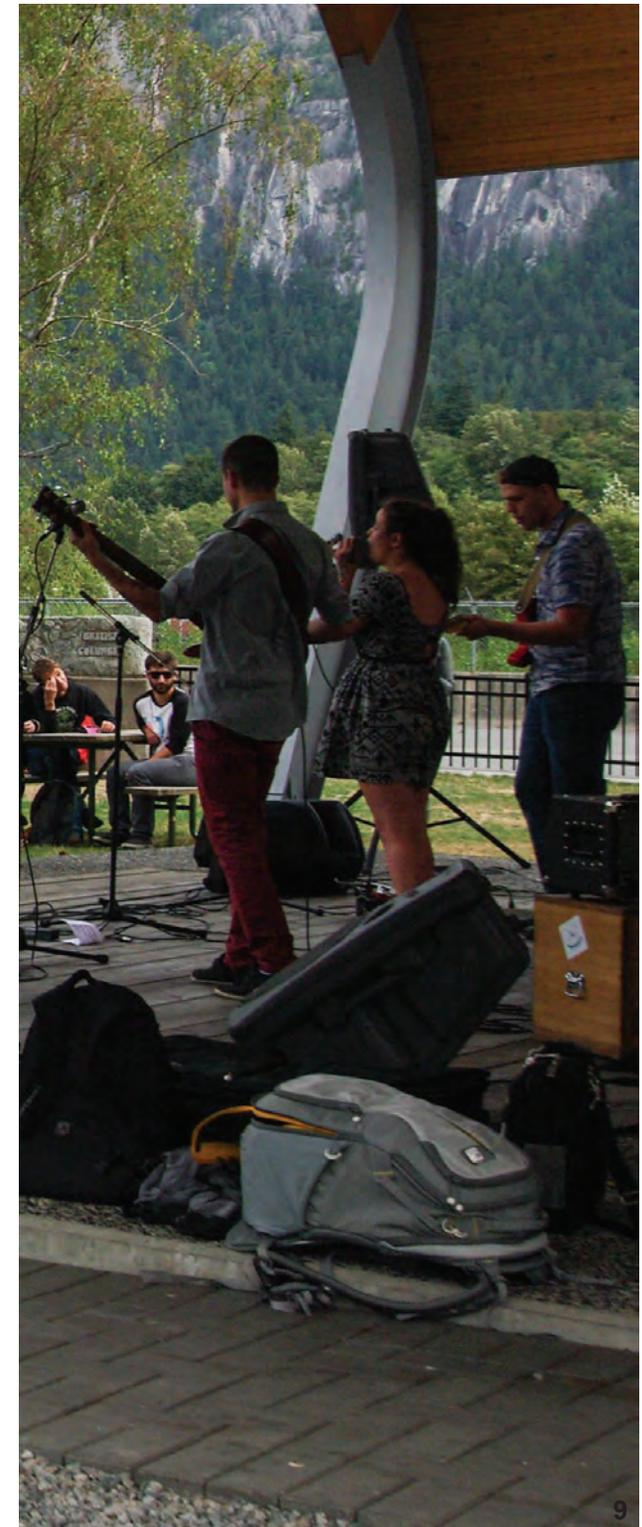


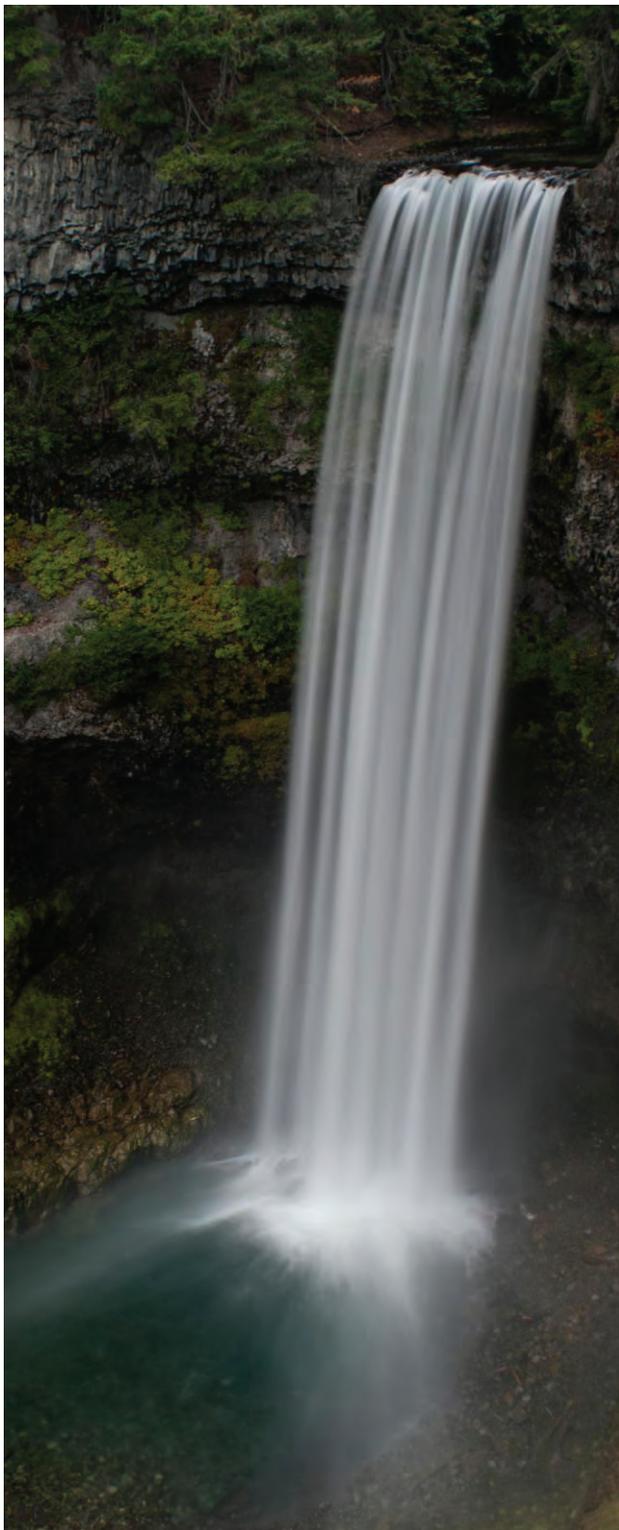
How you can help...

- Attend local cultural events galleries and museums
- Buy local art and crafts
- Support the farmers market

How the Foundation is helping...

The Squamish Community Foundation has issued grants to several Arts & Cultural events in Squamish, including Squamish Arts Council, Howe Sound Performing Arts, and Wild at Art.





Gap Between Rich & Poor

Poverty remains a pressing concern for Squamish; a coordinated approach by all sectors might lead the way to real progress, or at least identify some opportunities.

Child Poverty Rate

In 2012, the child poverty rate in Squamish (CA), based on the Low Income Measure (LIM), was 16.5 per cent, up 1.2 percentage points from 15.3 per cent in 2008, and up 0.1 percentage points from 16.4 per cent in 2011. The 2012 figure was 13.4 per cent below the national average (19.1 per cent), and 19.7 per cent below the provincial average (20.6 per cent).

Incidence of Poverty for the Elderly

In 2012, the elderly poverty rate in Squamish (CA), based on the LIM, was 5.3 per cent, down 0.3 percentage points from 5.6 per cent in 2000, and down 2.1 percentage points from 7.4 per cent in 2011. The 2012 figure was 8.3 per cent below the national average (5.8 per cent), and 12.8 per cent below the provincial average (6.1 per cent).

Overall Poverty Rate

In 2012, the overall poverty rate in Squamish (CA), based on the LIM, an indicator of relative poverty, was 15.1 per cent, up 1.5 percentage points from 13.6 per cent in 2008, and up 1.2 percentage points from 13.9 per cent in 2011.

The 2012 figure was 11.2 per cent below the national average (17.0 per cent), and 18.8 per cent below the provincial average (18.6 per cent).

Poverty Rate of Single-Parent Families

In 2012, the poverty rate of single-parent families in Squamish (CA), based on the LIM, was 34.2 per cent, up 0.8 percentage points from 33.3 per cent in 2008, and equal to the rate in 2011. The 2012 figure was 6.1 per cent higher than the national average (32.2 per cent), and 1.5 per cent lower than the provincial average (34.7 per cent).

Median Income of Single-Parent Families

In 2012 in Squamish (CA), the median before-tax income of single parent families (based on tax data) in current dollars was \$36,860, up 5.9 per cent from \$34,820 in 2011, and up 1.9 per cent from \$36,190 in 2008. The 2012 level was 6.3 per cent below the national level (\$39,350), and 1.5 per cent below the provincial level (\$37,420).



How the Foundation is helping...

In 2008 \$2,000 was granted to the Squamish Helping Hands Society to expand their services. We have also assisted the Women's Centre with some of their programs to help low income women. In 2013 and 2014, the **Squamish Community Foundation** granted \$2,500 and \$3,000 respectively to the Squamish Food Bank.

How you can help...

- Contribute to the food bank or Helping Hands Society
- Provide free child care to a neighbour in need
- Support the Women's Centre



Public Safety

As in the 2011 report, Squamish suffers from a remarkably high crime rate; this can't be dismissed based solely on stolen bicycles. Squamish RCMP reported a sharp spike in domestic violence reports in 2013.

Property Crime Rate

At 5,286 per 100,000 persons in 2013, the property crime rate in Squamish (Municipal) was 68.0 per cent above the national average (3,146 per 100,000) and 15.7 per cent above the provincial average (4,568 per 100,000). The rate decreased 3.4 per cent from 5,472 per 100,000 in 2012, and decreased 37.3 per cent from 8,428 per 100,000 in 1998.

Violent Crime Rate

At 1,878 per 100,000 persons in 2013, the violent crime rate in Squamish (Municipal) was 71.9 per cent above the national average (1,092 per 100,000) and 48.8 per cent above the provincial average (1,262 per 100,000). The rate decreased 5.9 per cent from 1,995 per 100,000 in 2012 and decreased 16.6 per cent from 2,250 per 100,000 in 1998.

Police Officers per 100,000

At 147 police officers per 100,000 in 2013, the number of police officers in the city of Squamish was 25.2 per cent lower than the national average (197) and 23.8 per cent lower than the provincial average (193). The rate was up 0.7 per cent from 146 in 2012.

Women and Children Shelters Usage

In 2013, the Squamish Women's Centre reported Safe House usage of 699 bed-nights by women and 307 bed-nights by children. This was an increase in usage of 6.6 per cent over 2012.

Sexual Assault Rate

At 58.7 per 100,000 persons in 2013, the sexual assault rate in Squamish (Municipal) was 3.1 per cent below the national average (60.6 per 100,000), and 5.4 per cent above the provincial average (55.7 per 100,000). The rate decreased 63.3 per cent from 160.0 per 100,000 in 2012, and decreased 19.8 per cent from 73.2 per 100,000 in 1998.

Overall Crime Severity Index

At 97.2 in 2013, the Overall Crime Severity Index in Squamish (Municipal) was 41.5 per cent above the national figure (68.7) and 9.0 per cent above the provincial figure (89.2). The level decreased 7.8 per cent from 105.5 in 2012 and decreased 35.7 per cent from 151.2 in 1998.

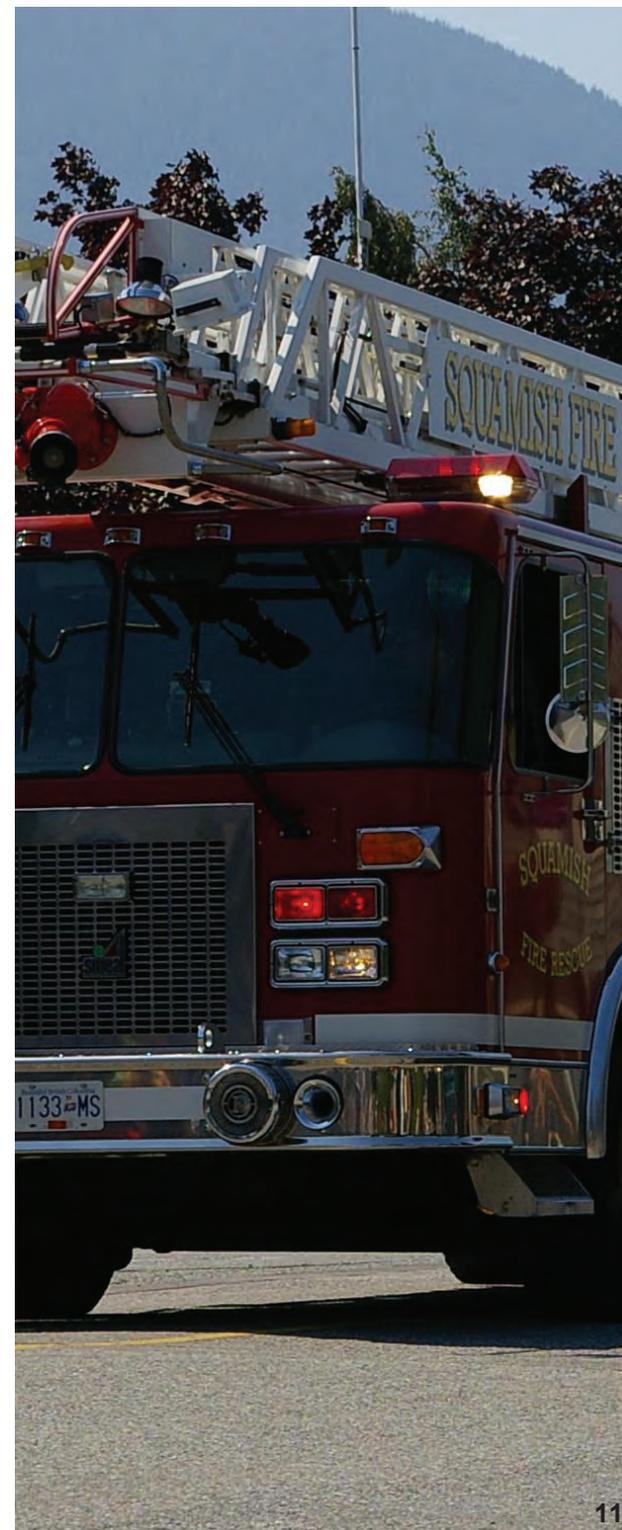


How you can help...

- Organize Neighbourhood Watch
- Be a strong role model to youth
- Help alleviate poverty and address mental health issues

How the Foundation is helping...

By drawing attention to a range of issues like Public Safety by publishing VitalSigns, the Squamish Community Foundation hopes to inspire community conversations about just what it takes to build and maintain an excellent place to live in Canada. Come join the conversation!





Personal Safety

In the region, injuries are the leading cause of death among those aged 44 years and younger. Injuries are not accidents. They are predictable and preventable.

Sport and Recreation-related Injuries

Thirty per cent of all injury hospitalizations in the region over the six years from 2005 were sport and recreation-related, with 48 per cent resulting from ski and or snowboard injuries, and 29 per cent from cycling injuries. Seventy-eight per cent of the injury hospitalizations in Squamish General Hospital over the six years from 2005 were among residents of the region, accounting for 84 per cent of the total hospitalization costs.

Road Safety

In 2009, the death rate of transport-related injuries in the region was 61 per cent higher than the provincial rate of 8.9 per 100,000 population and 2.2 times higher than the national rate of 6.6 per 100,000 population. The potential years of life lost due to motor vehicle crashes in the region over the last five years from 2007 is more than 40 per cent higher than the BC average.

The injury, road safety, and suicide data is from the Howe Sound Local Health Area, which includes Squamish, Whistler and Squamish-Lillooet.

Suicide

Deaths from suicide are increasing and are among the leading causes of injury deaths in the region after transport incidents and falls. The suicide death rate in the region over the five years from 2007 was 22 per cent higher than the provincial rate of 10.9 per 100,000 population. The risk of suicide deaths was highest among males aged 35-49 years than all other age groups. The risk of injury hospitalizations from attempted suicide in the region was highest among female youth aged 15-19 years.

Search and Rescue Tasks

Squamish Search and Rescue (SSAR) reports a general trend of increasing number of tasks each year. In 2013, SSAR was deployed on 81 tasks, making them the busiest SAR group in BC.

Squamish SAR HETS Missions

Squamish Search and Rescue reports an 8 Year Average of 5.6 HETS (Helicopter External Transport System) missions per year. SSAR completed nine HETS missions in 2013 and eleven missions between January and August 2014.

These SAR indicators were purposely not graded by the community scorers; this data was recruited and inserted to inspire a community conversation.



How the Foundation is helping...

In 2012, 2013 and 2014, **Squamish Community Foundation** granted \$2,500 (twice) and \$2,000 respectively to the Easter Seal House Society to help subsidize the cost of families from Squamish travelling to Vancouver for medical care.

How you can help...

- Wear a helmet
- Drive safely
- Volunteer or donate to Search and Rescue
- Hike and ride with a buddy and carry a phone



Belonging & Leadership

Squamish residents are satisfied and love their community, but struggle to contribute back. In 2012, 18.9% of tax filers made a charitable donation, well below the national (22.4) and provincial (21.0) averages.

Overall Sense of Community Belonging

In 2013 in the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area (includes Squamish), 77.3 per cent of people aged 12 and over reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging, 3.3 per cent higher than the 2012 level of 74.8 per cent. The 2013 level was 17.3 per cent higher than the national average of 65.9 per cent, and 9.8 per cent higher than the provincial average of 70.4 per cent.

Volunteer Rate

In 2010, the volunteer rate for Squamish (rural area) was 45.7 per cent. This figure is 1.3 percentage points lower than the national level (47.0 per cent) and 4.1 percentage points lower than the provincial level (49.8).

Charitable Donations

In 2012, the median amount of charitable donations in Squamish (CA) was \$260. This amount is 3.7 per cent lower than the national level (\$270) and 33.3 per cent lower than the provincial level (\$390). The median amount of charitable donations remained unchanged from 2011.

Life Satisfaction: Percentage (aged 12+) Satisfied and Very Satisfied

In 2013 in the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area (includes Squamish) 93.1 per cent of people responded that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall life, a 0.4 per cent increase from the 2012 level of 92.7 per cent. The 2013 level is 1.5 per cent higher than the national average of 91.7 per cent, and 2.1 per cent higher than the provincial average of 91.2 per cent.

Percentage Voter Turnout for 2008 and 2011 Federal Elections

In 2011, the voter turnout in Squamish (CA) was 63.3 per cent. This figure is 2.2 percentage points higher than the national level (61.1 per cent) and 2.9 percentage points higher than the provincial level of turnout (60.4 per cent). The voter turnout decreased 0.1 percentage points from 63.4 per cent in 2008.

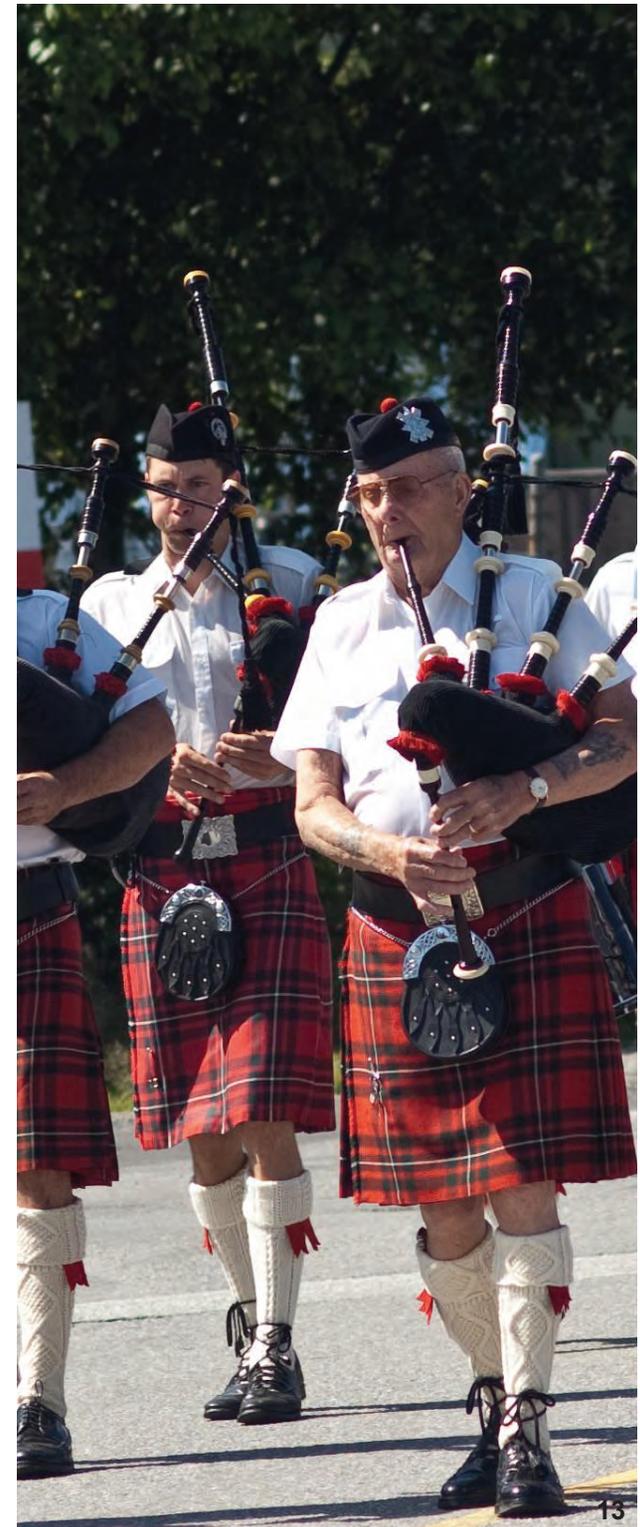


How you can help...

- Volunteer locally
- Get out and Vote!
- Donate to local charities

How the Foundation is helping...

In 2012 and 2014, grants were made to the Squamish Hospice Society. In 2012 and 2014, grants were also made to the Squamish Seniors Centre.





Work

In 2011, the Squamish labour force employed in the goods producing sector was lower than the national and BC averages. The service sector in Squamish accounts for a relatively higher proportion of workers.

Percentage Not Earning a Living Wage

In 2010, 32.3 per cent of all earners in Squamish (CA) were not earning a living wage (had an annual income of under \$20,000). This was 3.7 percentage points below the national level (36.0 per cent) and 5.6 percentage points below the provincial level (37.9 per cent). The amount of earners with an income of less than \$30,000 was 45.4 per cent of all income earners, 4.7 percentage points below the national level (50.1 per cent) and 6.0 percentage points below the provincial level (51.4 per cent).

Involuntary Part-time Workers

In 2013, the proportion of total workers that were involuntary part-time workers within the economic region of Lower Mainland - Southwest (includes Squamish) was 2.0 per cent. The proportion is 0.1 percentage points above the national average (1.9 per cent) and equal to the provincial average. The proportion of workers who were involuntary part-time workers decreased 0.1 percentage points from 2.1 per cent in 2012. The proportion of involuntary part-time workers in 2013 is up from 1.3 per cent in 2008.

Median Earnings in 2010 for Persons Working Full Year Full-time

In 2010, median annual earnings in Squamish (CA) were \$47,183, 1.4 per cent lower than the national median (\$47,868), and 4.0 per cent lower than the provincial median (\$49,143).

Average and Median Nominal Hourly Earnings

In 2013, median hourly earnings in the economic region of Lower Mainland – Southwest (includes Squamish) were \$21.63. This average is 3.0 per cent higher than the national average (\$21.00) and 0.7 percent lower than the provincial average (\$21.79).

Employment Growth

Between 2006 and 2011, Squamish (CA) experienced a 6.1 per cent increase in employment. This growth rate was 2.5 percentage points above the national rate (3.6 per cent), and 2.3 percentage points above the provincial rate (3.8 per cent).



How the Foundation is helping...

The **Squamish Community Foundation** provides individual and corporate donors with the opportunity for flexible gift giving that is respectful of specific donor direction. Through a wise and effective granting program the Foundation enhances quality of life in Squamish and helps make Squamish a great place to locate a business.

How you can help...

- Join and participate in programs offered by the Chamber of Commerce
- Shop and hire locally
- Use Training Innovations services



Acknowledgements

Community Leadership Group

Dora Gunn
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We would like to acknowledge our partnership with 26 other community foundations releasing VitalSigns reports this year

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VitalSigns Project Team

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David Thomson
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As one of a growing number of communities nationally publishing VitalSigns, The Squamish's VitalSigns increases the effectiveness of the Squamish Community Foundation's grant making through identifying key issues and priorities that provide guidance to better inform our donors about compelling funding opportunities requiring philanthropic support. Volunteers are the backbone of community. We'd like to thank our Board and Committee members who donate their time, skills and expertise as volunteers for the Squamish Community Foundation, with a special thanks to Doug Hackett for the photographs.

The Squamish Community Foundation is dedicated to strengthening community through innovative leadership, creative philanthropy and effective charitable endowments with the ultimate goal of evoking positive change and enriching quality of life in Squamish.

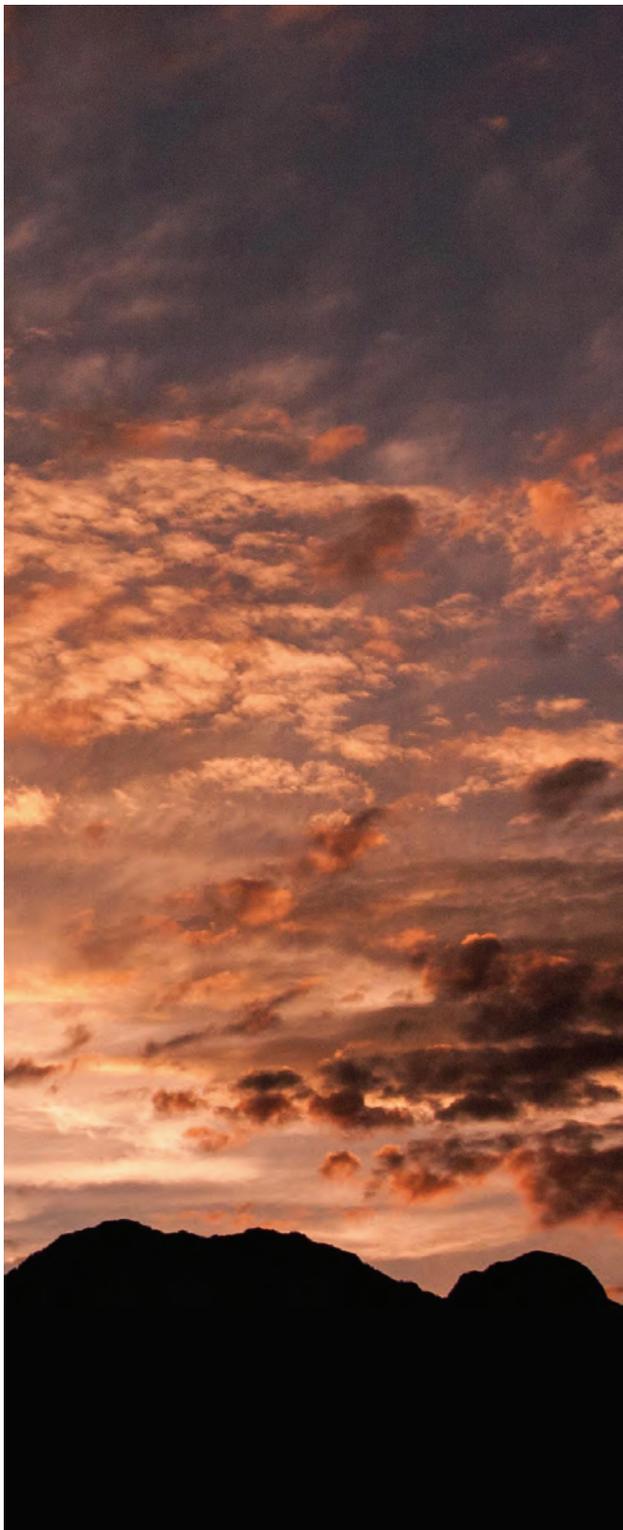
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Canada



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SQUAMISH'S
VitalSigns[®]



Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept, and to Community Foundations of Canada for supporting a coordinated national Vital Signs initiative.

For more information visit: www.vitalsignscanada.ca.



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