



Fraser Valley Future 2050

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT



HAVE YOUR SAY

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Introduction

The Fraser Valley is growing fast and we need an updated strategy that works for everyone. The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) is updating our Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) to reflect new legislation, growing relationships with Indigenous communities, and new challenges facing the region. *Fraser Valley Future 2050* is a high-level policy plan to help guide long-term growth in the region. It covers a wide range of topics, all of which are interconnected, and considers transit, housing, parks, and natural areas, economic development, and environmental issues from a regional perspective.

Phase 1 of the RGS update involved extensive engagement, which included, but was not limited to:

- Open houses throughout the FVRD (Boston Bar, Hope, Agassiz, Mission, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and University of the Fraser Valley (UFV)) and a public opinion survey;
- Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) meetings and a workshop;
- Meetings with FVRD member municipalities;
- Council of Councils workshop;
- Indigenous membership on the IAC; and
- Outreach to Indigenous communities and agencies.

In early 2021, the FVRD Board approved an updated RGS Consultation Plan that incorporates new legislation and COVID-19 engagement protocols. With COVID-19 limiting traditional public engagement methods, this phase of public engagement utilized the FVRD's new digital engagement site *Have Your Say FVRD* in addition to direct input received from residents in the form of letters and emails.

During the public engagement period of **August 3, 2021 to October 8, 2021**, visitors to the “Shape the Regional Growth Strategy” project engaged and became informed about the RGS Update by downloading a document, visiting the FAQ page, submitting questions, and by reading written contributions by members of the public. Visitors engaged further by completing the RGS survey, sharing their story, contributing to discussion forums, and by commenting on or “liking” other contributor’s ideas or comments.

This summary report provides a more detailed analysis of the considerable amount of engagement data collected during the Phase 2 public engagement initiative.

Project Overview

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is a strategic, high-level policy document for coordinating planning in the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and for informing provincial priorities. An RGS is a framework for planning and coordinating the activities of local governments, the provincial government, and other agencies to ensure that the region as a whole is working toward a common future. The RGS considers issues that spill across the boundaries between neighbouring municipalities and regional districts. It also provides a framework for Official Community Plans in Fraser Valley municipalities and directs development in unincorporated areas. It considers issues that impact all of us, such as transit, housing, parks, the environment, air quality and economic development from a

regional perspective. In recent years, building relationships with Indigenous communities have taken on a much more important role in the FVRD, and the updated RGS will reflect this change.

The first draft of the RGS update was presented to the Board for review in July 2014 and was sent out for referral to affected local governments, federal and provincial agencies; Indigenous communities and agencies; and other interested parties. Feedback from Indigenous communities and agencies required careful consideration, and major Official Community Plan updates in Abbotsford, Mission and the District of Hope and other priorities resulted in a decision to delay the second draft of the plan until municipal processes were completed. With other local government planning processes completed and strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities, the FVRD restarted the RGS update in early 2020 only to be delayed further by the COVID-19 pandemic. The process restarted in late 2020 with the release of the second draft of the RGS.



Phase 2 Public Engagement Overview

Public feedback has been encouraged throughout the RGS update process and also during related initiatives that have informed the RGS. In restarting the RGS update process it was important to reintroduce the RGS to the public and to obtain feedback on whether the plan and its policies are taking the region in a positive direction.

Members of the public were invited to participate in the review of the Fraser Valley Regional District's updated Regional Growth Strategy, Fraser Valley Future 2050 from August 3, 2021 – October 8, 2021 by becoming engaged as well as informed using the FVRD's new engagement site 'Have Your Say.' This was the first project launched on platform hosted by Bang the Table which helped to build awareness and over 400 registered participants to the site.

Visitors to the RGS project page could engaged and become more informed by downloading a document, visiting the FAQ page, or reading other's contributions. Once registered, visitors could participate further by taking the RGS survey, sharing their story, asking staff a question, or participating in a discussion forum.

Publicity and Outreach

A variety of public outreach methods were used, including, but not limited to:

- Posts and project updates on FVRD website
- *Have Your Say FVRD* Project Page, newsletters, engagement tools
- Social media posts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Social media ads
- Posts shared in local Facebook groups
- Media releases
- Newspaper articles
- Newspaper advertisements (2 advertisements, 5 papers)
- 40+ direct emails (community groups, ratepayers associations)
- Inclusion in community newsletters
- Posters on Bulletin Boards in the Electoral Areas, FVRD & Municipal Offices
- Presentation to UFV Planning Students
- Alterable App notification
- Deroche Digital Sign



HAVE YOUR SAY



Engagement Analytics

There were almost 2,000 visits to the site, with a maximum of 192 visits in a single day. Those visits resulted in 410 registrations to the site. There were 1,482 aware participants, 952 informed participants and 347 engaged participants as defined by Bang the Table HQ Engagement metrics¹.



Aware visitors are always just aware and NOT informed or engaged.

Informed visitors are also aware, but NOT engaged.

Engaged visitors are always informed AND aware.

ACTIONS PERFORMED					
AWARE		INFORMED		ENGAGED	
Visited at least one page	1,482	Downloaded a document	201	Contributed on Forums	36
		Visited an FAQ list Page	39	Participated in the Survey	326
		Visited Multiple Project Pages	569	Contributed to Stories	20
		Contributed to a tool (engaged)	346	Asked a Question	4
		Total Actions Performed	1,156	Total Actions Performed	386

53% visitors to the RGS Update project looked but did not do anything (aware participants), 34% clicked on something (informed and engaged participants), and 12% became engaged by interacting with at least one engagement tool. These are comparable engagement ratios to other Bang the Table’s recent engagement sites².

¹ <https://helpdesk.bangthetable.com/en/articles/402959-what-does-aware-informed-and-engaged-mean>

² <https://helpdesk.bangthetable.com/en/articles/1116049-how-much-engagement-should-you-expect>

ENGAGEMENT LEVEL RATIOS			
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	AWARE	INFORMED	ENGAGED
All Bang the Table Sites	60%	30%	10%
FVRD's RGS Project	53%	34% ↑	12% ↑

The requirement to register prior to engagement is a known barrier to participation, however there are significant short and long benefits having a network of engaged citizens including, but not limited to:

- Improved quality of data by preventing fraudulent responses from both humans and bots; and
- The ability to send targeted communications prior, during, and following the completion of a project.

Participant Demographics

The following table reflects the distribution of all of the participants by geographic location based on the postal codes provided by participants during registration to FVRD's *Have Your Say*. Based on the postal codes provided by registrants the project received input from all member municipalities and electoral areas, with 92% of participants residing in the region.

WHERE PARTICIPANTS LIVE	PARTICIPANTS	% OF TOTAL
Abbotsford	73	17%
Chilliwack	117	27%
Mission	68	16%
Hope	26	6%
Kent	26	6%
Harrison	7	2%
Electoral Areas	86	20%
Metro Vancouver	30	7%
Outside of Lower Mainland	3	1%
Within FVRD	403	92%
Outside the FVRD	33	8%
Total Participants	436	100%

Based on postal code provided by participants at registration.

Information Shared

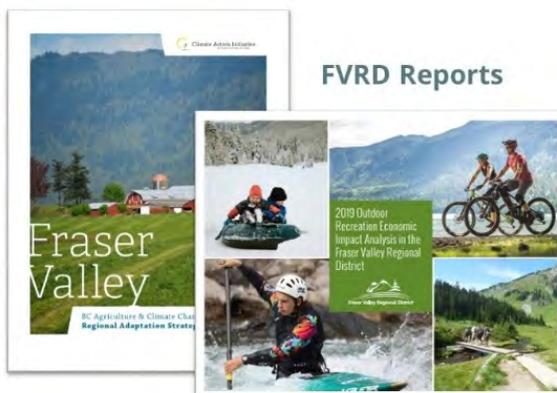
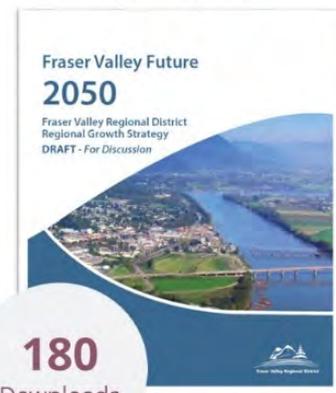
Visitors and registered participants could become more informed about the RGS Update and the role of the FVRD in regional planning by downloading one of the 25 related documents or by visiting the FAQ page. The RGS Fact Sheets are available in Appendix A and the Project FAQ in Appendix B.

There were a total of 300 document downloads by 201 visitors. The RGS Update was downloaded 180 times and the FAQ page was viewed 41 times. For more details regarding the documents made available and document downloads, please see Appendix C.

Documents Shared:

- Draft Fraser Valley Future 2050 RGS
- RGS Monitoring Report 2018
- FVRD RGS Fact Sheets
- FVRD Clean Economy Study 2019
- FVRD Electoral Areas Housing Needs Report
- 2020 FVRD Homeless Count and Survey Report
- Draft FVRD Air Quality Management Plan
- FVRD Regional Trip Diary 2014
- FVRD Solid Waste Management Plan
- FVRD Rural Broadband Connectivity Study 2020
- Freshet Flooding Agriculture Impacts 2017
- FVRD Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact Analysis 2020
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Fraser Valley Agriculture Climate Adaptation Strategies 2015
- Fraser Valley Agriculture Climate Adaptation Strategy 2018 update

RGS Update



FVRD Reports

RGS Fact Sheets



Engagement Tools Accessed

Almost 1,500 members of the public visited the project page to learn more about the RGS update, 952 participants became more informed, including 347 who participated in at least one engagement tool. The project utilized four engagement tools including a survey, 9 discussion forums, the ‘Share your Story,’ and the ‘Ask a Question’ tool.

ACTIONS PERFORMED BY ENGAGEMENT TOOL					
Engagement tool	Discussion Forums	Tell Your Story	Ask a Question	RGS Survey	All Tools
Actions Performed	36	20	4	326	386

Total of 347 participants

Engagement data collected from **August 3 to October 8, 2021** has been summarized in this report and will be reviewed further in comparison to the policy directives within the Updated RGS draft, with the objective of identifying additional support for, criticisms, gaps, and potential changes to be considered in regards to the updated document.

Though public engagement on the *Have Your Say* platform has concluded, members of the public can submit additional comments, feedback or ideas related to the RGS to the Strategic Planning team at stratplan@fvrd.ca.

RGS Survey

A total of 618 visitors to the survey tool and 326 completed surveys and a 53% engagement rate. Three respondents submitted hard copies of their responses, which were entered by staff and are included in the online engagement results.

The survey was composed of twenty-six questions, including five open-ended questions. Respondents were asked about their experiences, concerns, preferences, and priorities related to a range of regional planning topics such as housing affordability, transportation, climate change, and the environment. The survey questions can be found in Appendix D

Discussion Forums

There were 160 unique visitors to the discussion forum tool, resulting in 105 contributions made by thirty-six participants in the nine discussion forums. Participants engaged by posting a comment, responding to a comment, or by indicating if they ‘agree’ or ‘disagree’ with an existing comment.

Discussion forums reflected the eight RGS goals. Participants were asked to review the relevant section of the RGS Update before commenting. Each discussion forum provided links to an RGS Fact Sheet and FVRD reports related to that specific RGS Goal and discussion topic.

Based on the visitor and engagement data, the following discussion forum topics generated slightly higher levels of interest or rates of engagement, indicating the following discussion forums contain issues that are of significant relevance to participants:

- Living Well;
- Community Building;
- Ecosystem Health; and
- Transportation & Mobility.

DISCUSSION FORUM PARTICIPATION							
Forum Topic Name	Unique Visitors	Contributors	Rates of Engagement	Contributions			
				Comment	Agree	Disagree	Total
Join the Discussion	29 *	16 *	55% *	14 *	11 *	0	25 *
Collaboration	17	5	29%	3	2	0	5
Economic Strength & Resiliency	17	5	29%	3	5	1	9
Living Well	15	9 *	60% *	9 *	10 *	0	19 *
Community Building	30 *	4	13%	2	2	0	4
Ecosystem Health	11	8 *	73% *	5	9 *	0	14 *
Transportation & Mobility	18 *	9 *	50% *	8 *	8 *	0	16 *
Infrastructure & Services	13	7	54% *	8 *	2	0	10
Energy & Climate Change	10	3	30%	2	1	0	3
All Discussion Forums	160	*66	41%	54	50	1	105

* Indicates Above average
Total of 36 contributors responsible for all contributions

Tell Us Your Story

The Tell Your Story Engagement tool had 163 visitors and generated 20 contributions. Participants were asked to share their story about why they live in the Fraser Valley or what makes the region a great place to live, work and play?

Story contributions made indirect references up to four RGS Goals, with each story connecting to an average of three RGS goals. Topics related to RGS Goal #3 Living Well and RGS Goal #4 Community Building were noted in 80% of stories, indicating these goals contain issues that are of significant relevance to participants. For a breakdown of the RGS Goals reflected in story contributions, please see Appendix D.

Contributions often highlighted the importance of or made specific mention of 'sense of community' (connection to place and the people who live there), access to the outdoors and green space, the beauty of the natural landscapes, and the desire to protect the environment.

Criticisms largely were largely in relation to increasing housing costs and transportation systems, including highway traffic and lack of suitable public transit options.



Ask a Question

There were twenty-one visitors to the 'Ask a Question' tool and four questions submitted to the Strategic Planning team. Of which, two of the questions pertained to the RGS draft and were answered publically on the site.

Initial Takeaways of the Public Engagement Platform

At this point, the primary takeaway of the use of the *Have Your Say* platform is the requirement to register to use the tools. Not everyone is comfortable registering and this likely reduced the number of participants. While sending comments and materials directly to staff did not require registration, it is possible that more clearly identifying alternate methods could have increased participation for some.

Having said that, the registration requirement ensured that the input received was verifiable and legitimate. Recent experience with an unrelated smaller survey showed the disruptive potential of "bots" where significant time and effort was used to clean up the data. Given the importance of the RGS planning process the decision was made to require registration. Registration also allows for longer-term engagement and keeping participants interested through the life of the project.



Additional Engagement

Members of the public were encouraged to submit additional comments, feedback or ideas related to the RGS to the Strategic Planning team at stratplan@fvrld.ca. Five emails were submitted and have been included in the public engagement analysis. Please see Appendix E for additional input received by email. The comments and questions received by emails were related to the following RGS Goals:

- Goal #5 Ecosystem Health
- Goal #8 Energy & Climate Change
- Goal #6 Transportation & Mobility

What We Heard

Key Themes

Through analysis of the different tools some themes have come to the fore and are discussed below. Given the timing of the engagement from August to October 2021, the recent catastrophic climate-driven events of November 2021 are not reflected in this engagement. It is likely that recent events have heightened interest in and awareness of climate change impacts, mitigation and resiliency on a number of levels.

Housing

Housing costs are a challenge in the region, so it is no surprise that a range of negative impacts were cited by those both directly and indirectly impacted by current housing conditions. Despite most survey respondents owning a home, the top concern related to housing was the affordability of both renting and home ownership. Many respondents shared concerns about the housing challenges experienced by their adult children or aging family members.

Housing conditions were both a reason respondents lived in the FVRD as well as the reason they may end up leaving. Due to high rents, even those with 'good jobs' were unable to save enough to buy a home. Some reported moving to a different city to find more 'affordable' housing while some have given up on ever owning a home.

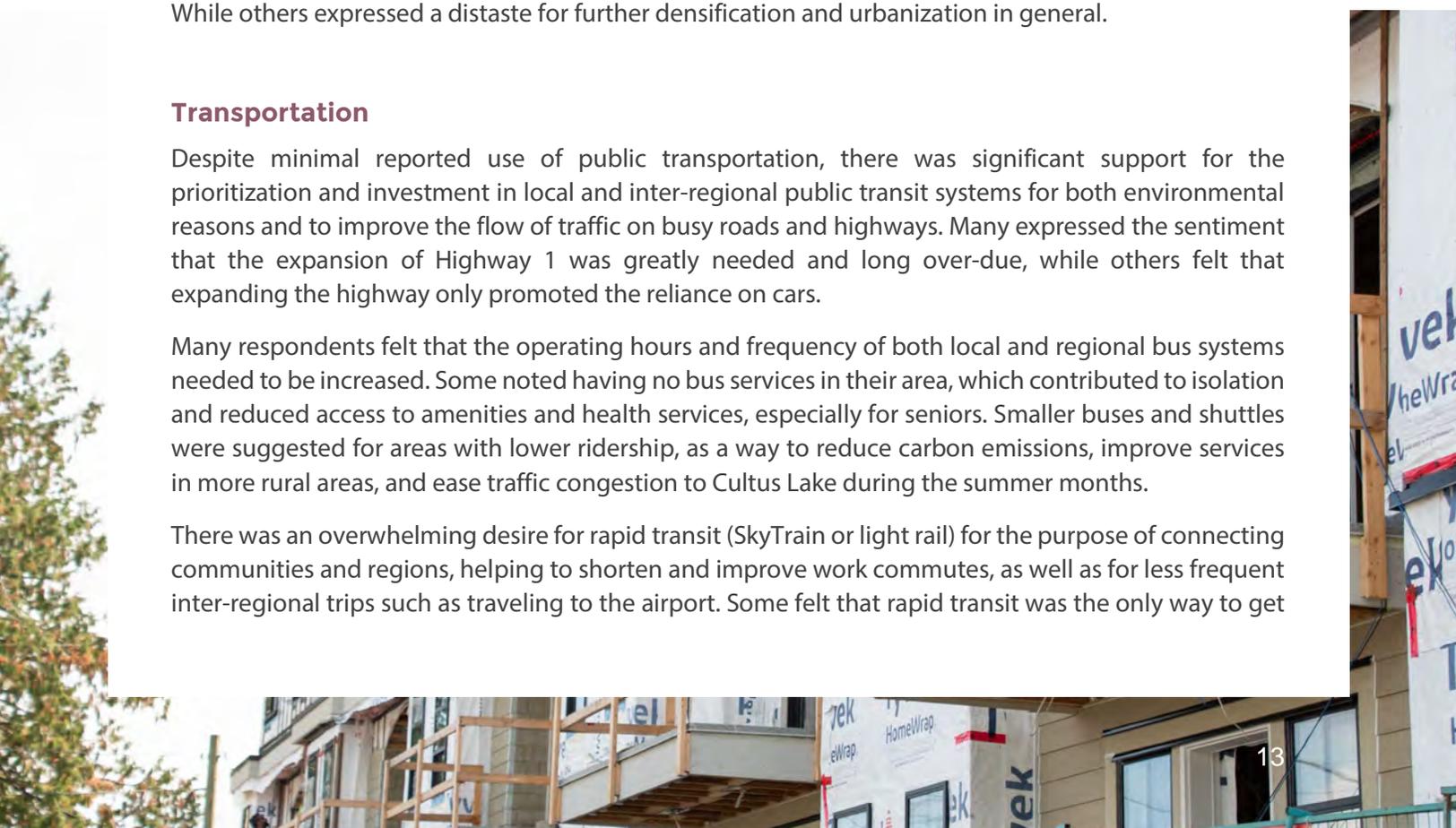
Concerns about the supply of suitable housing types was frequently cited, including the need for smaller homes for seniors and single adults, as well as larger homes for growing families. Many expressed a desire for increased density, smaller sized homes, and multi-generational housing options. While others expressed a distaste for further densification and urbanization in general.

Transportation

Despite minimal reported use of public transportation, there was significant support for the prioritization and investment in local and inter-regional public transit systems for both environmental reasons and to improve the flow of traffic on busy roads and highways. Many expressed the sentiment that the expansion of Highway 1 was greatly needed and long over-due, while others felt that expanding the highway only promoted the reliance on cars.

Many respondents felt that the operating hours and frequency of both local and regional bus systems needed to be increased. Some noted having no bus services in their area, which contributed to isolation and reduced access to amenities and health services, especially for seniors. Smaller buses and shuttles were suggested for areas with lower ridership, as a way to reduce carbon emissions, improve services in more rural areas, and ease traffic congestion to Cultus Lake during the summer months.

There was an overwhelming desire for rapid transit (SkyTrain or light rail) for the purpose of connecting communities and regions, helping to shorten and improve work commutes, as well as for less frequent inter-regional trips such as traveling to the airport. Some felt that rapid transit was the only way to get



people out of their cars as it would provide a better option to driving. Those wanting rapid transit cited environmental reasons (reduced carbon emissions) and as a way to improve the flow of highway traffic.

There was considerable interest in electric vehicles and demand for more charging stations. Of survey respondents who reported driving, 15% said they currently own or lease an electric vehicle. However, 53% of all survey respondents indicated that they were very likely, likely, or somewhat likely to own or lease an electric vehicle in the next 5 years. There was a desire for more charging stations in multi-unit housing developments, remote areas, and for home to be built with electric vehicles in mind. However, the cost of purchasing an electric vehicle appeared to be the largest barrier to ownership.

The Economy

The overall sentiment about economic development and employment in the FVRD was good. Based on survey responses, it is easier to find work, than find employees in the FVRD. Increased use of technology was reported by many and the need to continuously adapt to changes were cited as important in planning for the future. Many respondents also noted participating in remote work, some or most of the time. This was often due to the temporary work arrangements made due to Covid19, however many anticipated this would continue well after the pandemic was over.

About two thirds of survey respondents felt that finding trained, qualified and experienced staff was difficult. Less than 30% of survey respondents felt that they were unable to find suitable employment in the region. More than half of survey respondents indicated that good paying skilled jobs were available in region and that it was not difficult to find work in their field, industry, or profession. However, about half indicated that difficulties accessing child care made working in their field, profession or industry difficult.

Quality of Life

The top two reasons survey respondents said they lived in the FVRD was to access outdoor recreation and natural areas, as well as for quality of life, lifestyle and work/life balance. Many considered access to natural areas, parks and trails in the region to be good or very good, while access to mental health services needed to be improved. More than two thirds of survey respondents felt a connection to their community and to the region. However, many felt their communities were not inclusive or safe. A lack of affordable housing or unsatisfactory housing arrangements appeared to have the most negative impact on quality of life.

Environment

Respondents felt strongly about environmental protection and sustainability in relation to waterways, forests, and wildlife and fish habitats. Extreme weather events, forest fires, and emergency preparedness were topics of significant importance due to the impact to humans and the environment. Many had concerns about the water they drink and the quality of the air they breathe. Climate change, waste management and recycling, options for alternative energy, and improved management of sewage systems were all equally important issues to participants.

Many respondents indicated that their outlook on the future was negatively impacted by their concerns about the environment and/or climate change. A need for more trees and green spaces in urban areas and improved residential tree management was also commonly expressed. Education, environmental stewardship and improved development practices were noted as important components of managing some of the issues highlighted.

Rural Character

A strong appreciation for the character and lifestyle associated with rural areas was noted both in the *Have Your Say FVRD* engagement and through direct correspondence expressing a strong desire to protect and/or preserve the character and lifestyle associated with living in rural communities. This identifies a need to ensure the updated RGS clearly communicates the plan's intention to restrict urban development and higher densities to areas within the designated Regional Growth Boundaries and not electoral areas. There was clear concern that growth within the Lower Mainland has and will continue to impact rural communities in the region's electoral areas.

Discussion Forums

RGS engagement participants were invited to comment in the discussion forums on the topics specific to each of the RGS goals. It is important to note that the goals are interconnected, such as energy and climate change is very important to ecosystem health but these are separate goals in the RGS. Some of the comments are very specific to a particular topic related to the goal, while others are much broader.

Below are the comments made in the discussion forums tied to each of the RGS goals. Personal information has been redacted for protection of privacy.

Collaboration

- *"I think it is great when elders go into schools with artifacts and interesting stories and dance to give children hands on experiences with their cultures."*
- *"The FVRD and its municipalities could do much more to partner and collaborate with the region's Indigenous communities. There's a long history in the FVRD of using reserve lands to build dumps, 99 year leasehold gated communities, and dykes on the wrong side of reserves. True reconciliation means remediating reserve land, removing gates that keep Indigenous people from accessing their own reserves, and helping these small communities build dykes to protect from climate change."*

Economic Strength and Resiliency

- *"I think we need to encourage agritourism. Many people don't understand farming and this becomes a problem with rural vs city. I think when people are more exposed to the benefits and realities of farming they can see and understand better what it means to farm and how important it is to protect our fertile valley floor for crops. We need to encourage crop production. I would love to work more in this area."*
- *"In regards to economic stability there needs to be stricter laws on who can purchase residential property. Canadian residents should be the only qualifiers. Individuals on their own or through corporations or hidden by the multiple corporations and/or trusts they own should be limited in the number of residential properties they own. When housing prices are out of reach the economy disintegrates into haves and have not. And that doesn't apply to homes but to everything. Anything else is simply not going to make much difference. Homes need to be affordable and within the reach of the average family."*
- *"This region desperately needs more industrial land to generate quality, high paying jobs. The ALC has gone too far in protecting land that could generate far more (and better) employment and diversify the region's economy if some of it were used for manufacturing, film studios, warehousing, and other employment rather than exclusively farming. Think what even 100 acres of employment lands could do for the region's economy."*



Living Well

- *"I think parks are vital. Every single developer should be made to provide a large wonderful park in their build. Parks promote mental health and physical fitness. They give children exercise and joy. My little sister and I use so many parks in Chilliwack. We love them. The rotary trail shared with horses, bikes, people, and dogs is excellent. We love it there. Cultus Lake is super fun for locals. Too bad you have to go so early to park but it is okay. I enjoy some of the cultural events put on by the Chilliwack Arts. Especially their Christmas things which Ali take my dad to and we enjoy together. So nice to have events close when you get older."*
- *"Agassiz needs to improve walking and cycling trails. I think there is a plan for the dyke system. It would be awesome to make some kind of loop like on the Vedder. Apparently the 'Green Grind' is private property, so maybe there could be an 'Agassiz Grind' that is similar. Widening or adding a pedestrian bridge from Agassiz to Rosedale would encourage more walking and cycling. It is one of the best places to see the sun set!"*



- *“Chilliwack needs a new hospital. The one we have is out dated and inadequate to handle such rapid population growth. The hospital is overcrowded, understaffed and underfunded. Staff is burning out and there is a high turn over in staffing due to chronic understaffing. Patient care and safety is suffering. It’s also unacceptable for people to go without a family doctor. The doctor/patient ratio is unacceptable. Continuity of care is lacking and wait times for walk-in clinics are too long. Wait times for MRI and ultrasound are too long. I didn’t see anything addressing these issues in the growth plan.”*
- *“Stop logging and aggregate mining in residential areas.”*
- *“We need a new hospital in Chilliwack. Our current hospital is inadequate to sustain the current population growth. It is also chronically understaffed and underfunded. We also need better access to doctors, MRIs and ultrasounds. Do you have a plan for schools? We must maintain the integrity of our public education system. The current schools are bursting at the seams. Just look at all the portables in the fields. Also, just because there are caps on class sizes it doesn’t mean we need to max out every class. Considering ELL, SPED and bullying and behaviour issues, the functional number of students is under 25 in an intermediate class regardless of what the “experts” say.”*
- *“We should be very proud of our city in Chilliwack. What an excellent job they have done in this category.”*
- *“Would love to see recreational areas expanded in our region- campgrounds, nordic and alpine ski trails, biking trails, ATV areas, boat launches, etc. Too many people congesting the Highway going to Whistler and the Okanagan on weekends when there's so much to do in our own backyard!”*
- *“I agree: we need to encourage people to recreate locally, avoid travel to decrease carbon emissions. Climate change is an emergency!”*
- *“In the Chilliwack River Valley Area mountain trails with trailheads that can be accessed by regular 2WD vehicles are massively overused with issues such as insufficient parking, trail overuse/ erosion and crowding. Improving forestry roads in the area (grading/ removing waterbars) to improve access to mountain trails in the Chilliwack River Valley would decrease pressure on overused trails like Elk Mountain and Pierce Lake by allowing hikers with non-4WD vehicles to access trailheads. 4WD vehicles are highly carbon-polluting and need to be phased out in our current Climate emergency.”*



- *“With the biodiversity crisis hand in hand with the climate crisis, FVRD needs to map out current rare species that exist within the area and ensure that adequate habitat remains for these species. With increased density comes the need for increased park and green space, especially natural parks/trails that benefit mental health, moderate temperatures and improve air quality. FVRD needs to address the biodiversity crisis through the further use of native plants in landscapes, in parks, housing developments, in commercial and industrial areas instead of creating dead zones of exotic plant life. Green spaces need to be large enough to accommodate both human trails and wildlife. The current inadequate policy of 5m buffer zones on rivers and creeks need to be expanded to protect critical habitat, especially as housing moves into hillsides where endangered species abound.*



When recreational activities are introduced into natural areas, whether paddling, hiking, biking, ATV use, we need to ensure it is not impacting wildlife or natural areas e.g. overuse of narrow sloughs in bird breeding season leading to loss of breeding habitat. FVRD will need to ensure there is funding for monitoring and enforcement so that natural parks remain a benefit to the public and wildlife species as growth in our region increases.”



Community Building

- *“I live in a rural community and belong to the farmers institute where I am a volunteer. I love the unique nature of Ryder Lake with a community hall and park. We have young families moving here because they see an active community hub at the hall. I love this. This is what families need. We do hikes, sports days, dew worm races, petting zoos, crafts, tie dye, hopefully soon choir and drama it’s a Christmas concert ending or parade. Cities could encourage and support community buildings and activities. Our city does neighbourhood party grants. Great idea.”*
- *“Great to see what’s being done to revitalize downtown Abbotsford. Hopefully Chilliwack will follow suit and promote affordable infill multifamily housing options downtown, get more young families there and revitalize the downtown core.”*

- *"I am a father of five children most of whom have married in the last 4 years and are looking for places to settle with their growing families. I am hoping that those people that own 2.5 acre pieces of land or larger would not be overly obstructive in allowing the Regional District to formulate a plan for the development of smaller parcels such a 1 or 1.5 acre lots. Schools and community services cannot be maintained or grow if young families are priced out of the local housing market. If people lived forever, then continuing to own large lots and preclude smaller lots is logical, but, this not being the case with anyone however, to block well organized development plans intended for the greater good of the next generations, seems selfish and short sighted."*

Ecosystem Health

- *"We need to figure out a better plan for illegal dumping and littering. Chilliwack Lake Road, Jones Lake and Gill Road have significant problems with garbage dumping. Drywall is expensive to dispose of so people dump it illegally. We need to stop this practise."*
- *"Something needs to be done about the flow of the Hope River."*
- *"I am all for lowering pollution. But we need to balance this with the needs of rural areas. In our 40 acre forest we have tons of blow down. Branches and trees come down in big winds. We need to deal with the debris that becomes very dry and susceptible to forest fires. Hence we have to continue to burn this underbrush during cool times. We work super hard to pile up branches and get rid of them before they become a forest fire problem. There isn't a better affordable solution yet and people need to understand this about forest lands where people live and even where they don't. First fire prevention has to be a part of lessening pollution."*
- *"In my experience as an environmental consultant a lot of environmental harm is done by landowners who are unaware of watercourses on their properties and of the value of riparian habitats. This becomes a problem when they go to clear land or develop and end up destroying protected riparian and aquatic habitat. Not only is this a problem for sensitive ecosystems it is also a problem for the landowners who expose themselves to enforcement action from the Conservation service or DFO when they unintentionally impact watercourses. One way to help prevent environmental degradation would be to improve watercourse mapping on the FVRD webmap so watercourses can be identified early in the development process. Also a permit system for land clearing activities would help to identify watercourses/wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas before they have been destroyed."*
- *"Why is there no discussion here about the impacts of 1, 2 or 4 degrees of climate warming on our local environment? You can't really separate Ecosystem Health and Climate Change into different sections. Our ecosystems will see very significant impacts from climate change over the coming decades. Look at the changes we have seen just in the last 10 years. In the next 50 years we can expect devastating forest fires to become an annual event, there's a likelihood of significant sea level rise, severe droughts in summer and repeated heat-dome type events causing tree and fish death as well as increased intensity storms in winter. Just look at how many stressed and dying*



trees there are in your local area this summer. Are we planting drought and fire resistant trees when landscaping new developments or when redeveloping parks? Are we building forest-fire prevention/ mitigation strategies into park and trail development plans? How will the rivers, fish & trails in our area be affected by mudslides and dead trees following heat waves and forest fires? Will these changes lead to increased flooding risks? What other risks are there to our ecosystems health from climate change?"

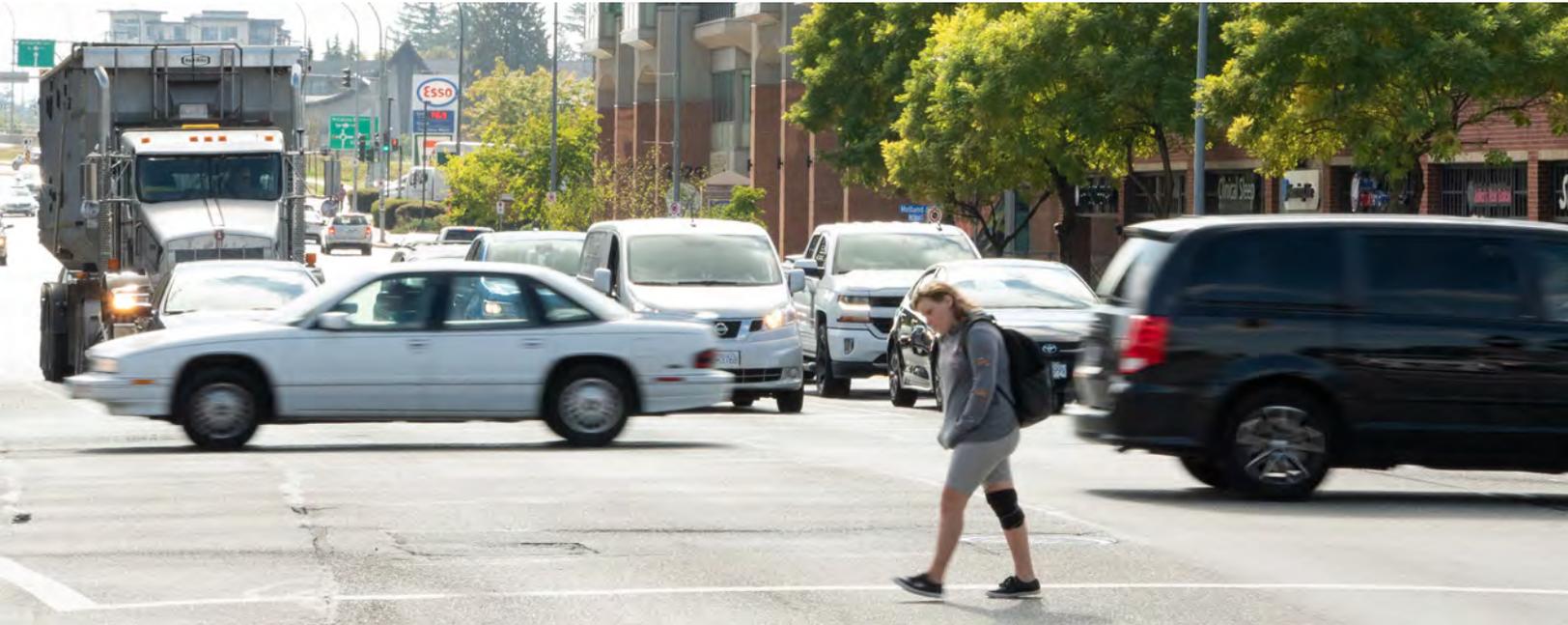
Transportation and Mobility

- *"I feel Abbotsford should have better bus services- more runs (half an hour), especially on the weekend (not good service), also on the #66 (need more runs-not good). I also think they should clean the buses more often. They should enforce the laws they put up on the signs (they don't- I see people all the time breaking them (even bus drivers). The transit supervisors sit there and see it and do nothing about it – it's meaningless."*
- *"The Agassiz/Rosedale Bridge is VERY dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. There needs to be a safe way for cyclists and pedestrians to cross the river. It was a poor decision not to widen the bridge. It must be re-evaluated. That bridge is long outdated. If it needs seismic upgrades then now is the time to fix it properly. Also, with the increased volume of traffic heading towards Harrison, it's irresponsible to promote tourism without having a better plan for traffic. The bridge is too narrow, there is too much traffic though Agassiz, the railway crossing is problematic, and people are travelling too fast. The intersection by the Agassiz SuperValu is very dangerous. There needs to be a plan to divert traffic through Agassiz in a functional way."*
- *"We don't have bus transportation in the mountains where we live. I try not to drive two days a week but we do use fossil fuels a lot and I wish that could change. I do drive a small car which I think helps and if I ever get another car it would be a hybrid. But in order to do the work around a farm we must have a heavy duty pick up truck. It hauls water and bales and pipes on the farm. I don't know how to solve this problem. In other areas I have lived I rode my bike a lot but living on a mountain with a very narrow curvy road it isn't safe to ride a bike. If it was I would buy an electric bike and leave the car at home much more."*
- *"I think it is not wise to build in the valley without proper highway infrastructure to accommodate. On an average rush hour the highway is bumper to bumper all the way to Prest Road. The loss of time is probably hurting the lower mainland GDP it is so bad. One accident and you might as well camp out next to the highway. I imagine a light rail public option along with (at minimum) another lane each way on the highway would make a big difference."*
- *"Yes, I couldn't agree more. A lot of my classmates take the bus and have been an hour late to class due to the driver not showing up. There is a low reliability when it comes to the bus services here. I've noticed an increasing amount of people using this service, yet it is still just as bad as it was years ago. I've spoken with some bus drivers and found that they aren't treated as well and pay isn't very equal/fair among cities which makes some bus drivers choose to drive in other cities." "Establish a respect for bus drivers and provide more attention in the quality and management of the bus system. This will improve people's impressions on our bus systems when people can say they take*



the bus without being embarrassed having to resort to such an inefficient mode of transportation that is our bus services."

- *"I commute all the way into downtown Vancouver and I know many people who do - driving is insane and takes 4 hours a day. I do not want light rail transit - we have enough crime as it is. I would use a bus system that had one stop in Abbotsford, Langley, and Vancouver. Everything after Langley has lots of transit options."*



- *"I find walking and cycling as a mode of transportation to be difficult due mainly to temperature, terrain, and weather. Traveling long distances in cold temperatures or in rain is highly unappealing when I can drive there in a shorter time, with far less hassle. Also, if places where cycling felt safer, I would be more likely to at least try to cycle on days and evenings, but the distance between many locations makes cycling quite difficult where I live. I also have friends who have made similar complaints in regards to timing. It also can feel unsafe in certain areas to wait for the bus as well."*

Infrastructure & Services

- *"We really need access to water in our lands. We really want city water to come up our mountain. It is a basic need for any community. Right now our whole mountain is driving down the hill in large pick up trucks to fill up at the water station Chilliwack has kindly provided for us at the bottom of the hill. We would love to have a water pipe running up Ryder Lake. That would be a dream come true."*
- *"To support biodiversity in the region, it is critical that any new flood protection infrastructure consider fish passage as a requirement. Fish friendly flood protection infrastructure must be implemented across the region to protect and restore salmon access to important habitats."*

- *"It would be nice to live in a society that doesn't need policing, but so far that doesn't seem to be the case. Is there a plan for adequate policing? Current staffing levels seem insufficient. Proper training in use of force, empathy and conflict resolution are important as well as making sure there is back up so officers feel safe. There also needs to be support for mental health, drug addiction and poverty. However, it's just not realistic to think we don't need police."*
- *"Promontory would be extremely difficult to evacuate and has a significant wildfire risk."*
- *"We need an increase in police staffing because the numbers in Chilliwack are nowhere near sufficient. A bigger hospital as well so not everyone is redirected to Abbotsford."*
- *"Regarding waste management in Chilliwack. We need to be able use large lockable recycling containers. People go through them and leave a mess everywhere. Chilliwack is infested with rats and they are attracted to the smell of pizza boxes and milk containers. The garbage employees throw the smaller containers wherever they please. Actually replace Enterra. They are awful."*
- *"Traffic on Vedder Road even with improvements is still unsatisfactory and more condos still being built. The Vedder Road crossing area is becoming congested all the time. Flood prevention along the river is also important."*

Energy & Climate Change

- *"We need to get rid of the dead branches and trees that fall in our forest in order to prevent forest fires. Hence we need to burn small piles each spring and fall. We work hard in our land with our young people to do this. We have to allow burning in rural areas to continue in order to help in forest fire prevention."*
- *"My biggest concerns regarding climate change in the region are that there does not seem to be leadership for reducing CO2 emissions. It seems like there is no action behalf of municipalities or the province when it comes to action on climate change, e.g. BC's 2 biggest exports are still COAL and LUMBER! How are we to reduce carbon emissions when this is still our practice?"*



Tell Us Your Story

RGS engagement participants also had the option to submit a story. Most people who submitted stories wrote about why they moved to or live in the region, what they like best about living in the region, and changes they've seen over the years. Some wrote about what they hoped would change in the future. Others shared their experiences or vision on a particular topic. Participants had the option to provide a title for their story, and the titles precede each of the stories listed below. Personal information has been redacted for protection of privacy.

- **I want to park my car...**

"...forever if possible. There's nothing that makes a holiday more fun or a community more vibrant than happy crowds of people on the street. Pedestrian malls and walkable business and entertainment districts are where it's at. And trips to the city (pick one, any one, in the lower mainland) are no fun if you have to drive and park and then drive home again. I'm up in Hope and admittedly pretty car dependent but I do take regional transit when I can and I have travelled all the way to YYC on one occasion. It took forever but it was doable and for that I thank the FVRD. Let's really lobby hard and plan for more transit infrastructure. Those trains in Mission are cool but they're of minor value in terms of an overall system because of the limited schedule they operate under. I honestly think that rapid transit and local transit options, integrated with biking routes and racks, is the key to a happier healthier, more affordable and greener Fraser Valley culture. I want to live in THAT future."

- **Freeway Congestion is Horrible!**

"I moved to Chilliwack 5 years ago and love the area very much. The pace is slower, people are friendly and there are lots of shops & services and outdoor spaces. I have a vehicle so do not take transit and find that getting around the City is not much of a problem. But I have to commute from Chilliwack to Coquitlam & back quite often and I find the freeway almost always backed up. Going west it is usually from Hwy 11 in Abbotsford and onwards, especially the 264th area and coming east it is usually backed up between 216th in Langley and Abbotsford Highway 11 and even as far as the No. 3 Road Exit during the summertime. A HOV lane in both directions that goes from 216th to Hwy 11 would certainly help somewhat. It would be better if there was a HOV lane that went all the way to Chilliwack. We also need a sign board to give advance notice when an accident has occurred so we have time to take an alternate route if available - instead of getting stuck sitting on the Freeway with no way to get off."

- **Designate Stave estuary including Silvermere Island as parkland**

"I have lived in Mission for over 20 years and each year I am blown away by the spawn of wild salmon at the lower Stave river estuary. In addition to the salmon, the wetlands of Silvermere Lake support endangered species including Western painted turtles and hundreds of bald eagles, some of whom nest on Silvermere Island. If the region is going to increase its population, we need to protect biodiversity hot spots such as the lower Stave River including Silvermere Lake and Silvermere Island. The entire area needs to be designated as conservation area/parkland."

- **Moving eastwards and eastwards for lifestyle and sense of community.**

"I was born and raised in New Westminster, in a time where New Westminster was a bedroom community of Vancouver and SkyTrain was not even in the most far-reaching futurist's thoughts. It was a busy community but had a sense of identity with families attending festivals and events and knowing their neighborhoods. The regions were built on the concept of families and jobs being reasonably close by. Workers seldom had multiple-hour daily commutes. Greenspace was plentiful, even if it was not a park, it was vacant or undeveloped areas that held natural buffers to the hectic pace of daily life. Development was allowed to grow virtually unchecked until the ALR was brought in to conserve farmland and halt the rubberstamping of almost any development proposed. Through all this the concept developed of densification. A wonderful idea that if implemented well, should in theory free up room for community spaces. However, the densification in the case of New Westminster was not well thought out, in return for developer's fees, the city grew vertically, without any amenities and with no thought as to the after-effects.

People were packed in like lemmings and with that, cars, visitors, and more and more people. Naturally, they build in space for residents' cars in the buildings but imagine hundreds of units and the potential for all the added crowds when friends drove over to visit. Each visitor looking for a parking spot, finding none as the developers and city either did not care or didn't consider it. Spillover went into single-family neighborhoods or wherever a spot to park could be found. Then SkyTrain came in, and the commuters were looking for park and ride facilities, where there were few in any. They would park anywhere they could near a bus stop and hop on a bus to get to the station. Residents were greeted by lines of cars on their streets, sometimes creeping over into driveways. Eventually, urban sprawl resulted in New Westminster becoming the parking lot of the Lower Mainland. I moved my family to Maple Ridge to get away. Life was going well until I saw Maple Ridge start copying the master plan so sadly dropped on New Westminster.

I then came to Mission. Here, a sense of community still persists. I can enjoy going out and visiting the local shops without having to listen to a traffic report to plan my route. I can see valleys and mountains without having to circle around high rises and driving to a viewpoint in some select park. I hope that the people here don't follow Maple Ridge and New Westminster in their OCP. We still have a chance to build smartly, creatively, and with an eye to keeping nature close to our hearts."

- **Ryder Lake**

"We live in the beautiful mountainous farming community of Ryder Lake. We love the peace and quiet and the beautiful forests and animals. We farm goats that we use for milk and meat and we have a herd of Angus cows. Our LGD protects all our animals which enables us to live happily with wild creatures. Our son is building a home to live here with us and help us farm as we age. We also make lots of small hay bales for sale and to winter our own herds. It is a wonderful life that we hope to pass on to our children. We are attempting to help our son get into the housing market which is crazy in Chilliwack hence we are sharing this land."

- **Admit that Chilliwack is no longer a small town**

"There needs to be more than two ways to Promontory, more major roads out of the city, extend the parallel roads from Abbotsford all the way to Chilliwack so there are more routes off of Hwy1 when there is the inevitable crash. Add more police officers and clean the streets so that people can feel safe. And for the love of all that is holy please add a Costco."

- **Less traffic**

"We moved from Langley out to Mission because we were looking for property. We found 5 acres eight years ago at a price we could afford, and a house we could rely on as an investment 30 years down the road. Part of our retirement plan. While that was one factor, we were also looking for less traffic. Langley's traffic problem even in the late 90s was horrendous and while there are some improvements it is still bad. While my commute has gotten better (I now work and live in Mission) my partner's is worse, it was 35 minutes and is now 50 minutes each way to work. More industry will need to come to Mission/Abbotsford in order to improve his commute and employment opportunities.

We chose to move to Mission for affordability, traffic, privacy. The schools in Mission have a bad reputation I'm hoping that the high school will be okay as my oldest starts soon, the elementary schools and middle schools have been great. I hope a new high school is built in the near future and good planning will result in a new high school in the Silverdale development before Mission Secondary is busting at the seams. At the time we had to remain in the Fraser Valley due to family obligations. But Mission was attractive because it has better air quality than Chilliwack, lower housing costs than Abbotsford and Langley. We knew it was a growing community and it would not have all the services that we would want but it was a sacrifice we were willing to make. I would like more playgrounds, established walking and hiking trails, more community programs and safer multi-use roadways. I love the mountains and the forests of Mission!

Whatever development plans for Silverdale there should be large swathes of greenways and forest left in tact that is managed by our Indigenous community partnerships. For both economic and environmental sustainability. Silverdale needs a long term plan that has both high density, and low density that reflects the needs of the environment and the community. For the low density lower property taxes for those who maintain forests and wooded areas. Rather than cleared land. We need to plan for city development long term traffic/busses/trams/ trains or other transit methods. Multiple community hubs that make walking distance an option for daily shoppers. Currently 98% of the residents of mission need to rely on a vehicle/taxi or bus to do their shopping."

- **Grew up here, raising family here**

"I remember when the Chilliwack mall was built, and the Sheffield plaza was a corn field. This town has changed so much since those days you wouldn't recognize it now. I used to think, when I was a kid, that Chilliwack was a hole! But then I travelled the world a bit and realized we are truly spoiled to live here. My kids are attending my old high school, and my old school friends are their teachers! Chilliwack is a big town now, but we still have small town ties that keep our communities together. I know we can't keep this place to ourselves, and thanks to the marvels of social media our little

"hole" has been discovered. It seems there are so many people flocking to live here, how on earth can we have bidding wars on houses in Chilliwack???

Anyway the main concern I have for the future is public safety. People don't realize that if you live on the south side of the freeway and your house is on fire, only 2 firefighters can show up. That's a fact. We rely way too heavily on our auxiliaries, it's not fair to them, and it's not safe for us. Promontory needs its own full time fire hall, and we need a full truck in Sardis, Yarrow, not to mention a full time crew in Rosedale. I know I know, fire fighters are expensive. And nobody wants to pay more property tax right? But think about all these new homes being built, all these new dwellings, each one is paying property tax. So believe me the money is there. I'd be willing to shave off some of the parks and Rec budget too if it meant I had a full truck show up to my property fire. Just saying."

- **Single mother creates a beautiful home for her family**

"I had worked very hard at two jobs and saved some money as a single mom. We lived at the time in Vancouver but where could we afford to buy? Chilliwack. I found a heritage home on a lot large enough to plant fruit trees, have a garden, build a tree fort. It was a dream come true. My kids could walk to school, whatever their age, walk to a fishing hole, walk to the library, walk to a cow field. It was heaven on earth."

- **Retiree Heaven**

"After living in Port Coquitlam for over 30 years, my husband and I decided to move into a single level home. We were retired and were tired of up and down stairs, inside and out. During many travels through the Fraser Valley and the Okanagan, we decided Chilliwack was someplace we would like to live in. The qualifications were: lots of single level homes, NOT ANYMORE. Close to the freeway for travel to the interior and the U.S. Near an airport and Costco - in Abbotsford. A decent number of grocery stores, drug stores, clothing stores, etc. And last but not least, weather. The weather is great here. The downside is that every time we need something it seems we have to go to Abbotsford to get it. The TRAFFIC has become ridiculous. We need more roads in and out of this place. We would love to see a passenger train connect us to other areas. NOT SKYTRAIN. Businesses have declined, more homeless people have come or been dumped here, the hospital is too small with the growing number of people not to mention a lack of doctors in all classifications. There is a lack of space to expand due to ALR restrictions, and rightly so. We need to keep all our farm lands, but let them diversify so farmers can stay. Let them do events, have B & B's, or restaurants and wineries on sight. Let's build up, not out. We already have lovely parks, lakes, and a river."

- **Moving out of the City**

"We have moved out of the City 17yrs ago, to be able to afford a home. We have loved Mission ever since: the outdoors, the community, the schools. Moving on to a new stage in life, where children are growing up and wanting to be more independent. FVRD could use better transit access, as it is not easy to travel out to the Lower Mainland, and it seems car travel is still necessary. Better bus/train connectivity other than just super early hours during the week would be helpful to many."

- **Looking for quiet country**

"We settled in the eastern Fraser Valley in 1989, as we were looking for an acreage to raise kids and have a garden in a quiet country community. After my husband passed away I raised my daughter as a single parent and continued planting many, many flowers and creating a botanical garden with around 150 rhododendrons and azaleas. I grow most of our food and have a few chickens. The yard and garden definitely became a retreat for all kinds of wildlife as latest developments have robbed them from their habitats.

Over time I have seen a lot of changes as more forests and meadows got turned into subdivisions. The road along the back side of our property became so noisy that sitting on our patio for quiet time is not possible anymore. I have also noticed a huge spike in crime, break-ins into my shed, garage, and stealing. Another problem is the amount of garbage dumped along the road and into our property since some fast food chains and a liquor store opened not far from us.

We chose this place once to be rural and now I feel this has all changed for the worse. I am still holding on to our oasis, but I don't know for how long I can. Farmland needs to stay put and growth and development must be stopped. The infrastructure (highway) can not take that much anymore. Everything is getting congested. We must protect the farmland for food."

- **Farmland**

"Bought farmland to live more sustainable in the Hatzic valley. So no subdivisions could be built around us. Started farm business and still on going. Lack of good schools in this area made us choose to send our child to a private school in Abbotsford. Would love any public transit to run on Hwy 7 so our child had more job opportunities."

- **Country life**

"I moved to Chilliwack from Coquitlam in the early 80's. The idea of a quiet country life is what drew me here. I've worked in healthcare my whole career. I've seen Chilliwack change from a beautiful country town to an extension of Vancouver. It is no longer the gem it once was. Safety has become a prime concern and crime has spiked. The farmland is disappearing, replaced by large mansions and non ALR land use. What will we do when we have to import all of our food because we paved over our crops. I miss the quiet life that drew me here.

- **20 years later...**

"I grew up in North Delta in the Lower Mainland. It was a great place to grow up. 19 years ago I moved to Hope with my wife and 1 year old son for an employment promotion opportunity. At first we thought we would stay for a couple of years and then move back to a larger community in the Lower Mainland since that is what we were used to. Now, my son is in his 3rd year of university at UFV Abbotsford but still lives in Hope and my daughter is in grade 12. I thought North Delta was a great place to live but Hope is the best! We are surrounded by nature and people that make Hope a community in the truest sense of the word. We wouldn't change a thing. This is a great place to live, work and play."

- **Where are the ranchers in Abbotsford?**

"We currently are in our early 60's and live in a very large 3 story home on a very large city lot. It had served us well while our children were young. We have been looking for a rancher or single family home - not in a strata - for at least 5 years. Chilliwack is full of the right type of homes, but our grown children live here and our home is Abbotsford. Stratatas have many appropriate homes, but the roads are so narrow that I question the safety of an ambulance or fire truck navigating its way to the front door. And the rules are based on the whims of the strata council (no bird feeders, can't paint your front door, etc.). Why can't council allow slightly narrower roads (not to the extremes of stratatas) and have more ranchers built. There is a whole generation of people that would snap those up in a heartbeat."

- **30 year Valley girl**

"I moved from the Tri-cities to Chilliwack in 1991, and moved to Abbotsford and Mission. Living in the Fraser valley to me means less crowds, more nature. However, at the current rate of growth - this is already rapidly disappearing. Growth is putting more pressure on our back country industries like forestry, is taking away ALR (how did Molsons get to build that monstrosity on farm land), mega homes not paying their fair share of property value using farm status loop holes, and favorite natural spacing are just overrun, while everyone grabs Instagram shots. I feel like I will soon have to move north up country to get back to the quiet community life."

- **Long term Agassiz resident**

"I have lived in Agassiz for close to 50 years and love it. My husband and I have raised 3 sons here and we hope to stay long past our retirements. We love the scenery, the hiking, the people, the community spirit, the Rec. Centre and more. This is home."

- **Long time resident of Popkum**

"Long Time resident 70+ years. I was raised on our homestead, (3rd generation), and raised my own 2 sons here, making it 4 generations. I love the area and growth has been a welcome change. The mountains and area are beautiful and natural, still untouched. My sons love it and plan to carry on with the place. Seen a lot of changes over the years. Our family had a small sawmill my folks ran for years. We did selective logging and had beef cattle over the years. It's great to live and work here with my sons, making it a 4 generation homestead. We love the nature and untouched beauty of the mountains and area. Each day has its own beauty, even the rainy ones, wouldn't live anywhere else. It's our home."

- **No choice but to buy a house**

“My daughter and I arrived in Chilliwack in 1989 as a result of my having secured a teaching position at Fraser Valley College. With a bit of help from the bank of mom and some further help from a mortgage loan I purchased a home. The house was very affordable. My daughter and I settled into Sardis and began to make friends through work and school. Fast forward four years; my husband-to-be and I began dating. We moved in together about two years later. My husband's health issues meant we had to give up our home on Rockwell Drive and move into Agassiz where I still reside. Friends made here have helped me through some difficult times. Have enjoyed the arts scene and the Rec Centre very much. Love the hiking trails in the area.”



Ask a Question

Participants had the option to ask questions of staff. Below are the questions asked, and the answers provided by staff. Personal information has been redacted for protection of privacy.

- **Question:** *As a farmer in Dewdney on Nicomen Island I would like to ask if there is a plan for upgrading the Nicomen Island Dyke system from the current sub standard level they are at? We have been told many times that we live behind the weakest dykes in the FVRD and have been close to flood evacuation several times over the last 10 years and yet nothing ever seems to be done. There are a lot of people and animals on the island today and finding a place to go for livestock in particular is very difficult (I had nowhere to take my animals the last time). Also worth noting is that Hwy 7 goes directly through the island and it would make sense to protect that major transportation route. Thank you!*

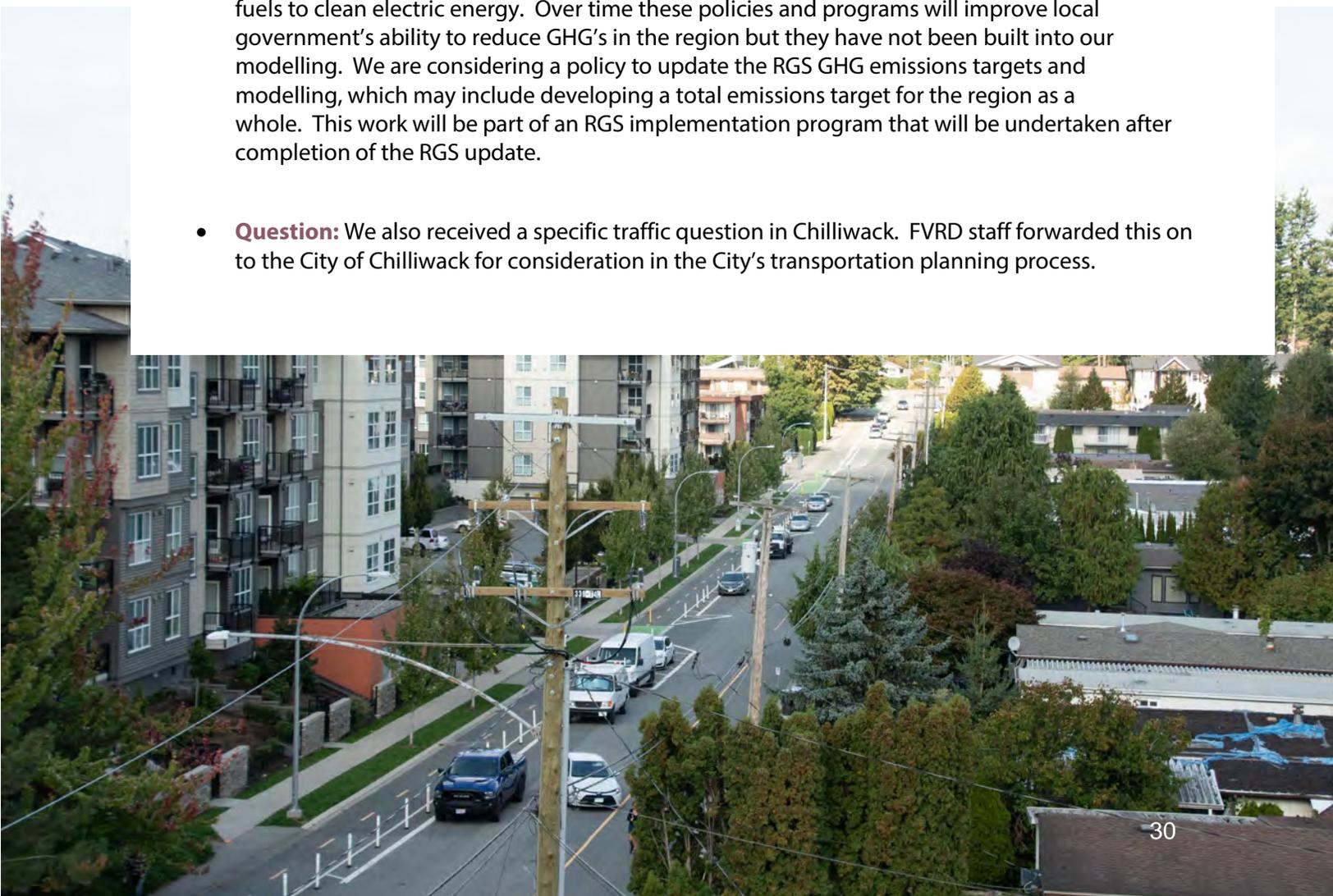
Answer: Thank you for your question. The diking and drainage system on Nicomen Island is owned and operated by the Nicomen Island Improvement District (NIID). The FVRD cannot speak on behalf of NIID and what their plans may be, however, it is apparent that funding from

senior levels of *government* is required to raise and widen the dikes to meet the provincial standard. The FVRD did receive \$10.5M from the Province to administer on behalf of NIID a series of upgrades to their infrastructure. These works are currently being planned or are under design and will be built in the coming years.

- **Question:** *Why does the draft RGS, in relation to climate change in section 8, only set a per capita target for GHG reduction, and not a target for GHG for the region as a whole? While a 50% per capita reduction by 2050, in compared to 2007, is certainly praiseworthy, will the anticipated population increase for the area result effectively result in no total regional reduction in GHG? And is that the intention of the FVRD? Regardless of the intention of the FVRD, I think this section of the RGS, for the sake of clarity, should also include total regional GHG projections that allow for expected population growth.*

Answer: Many of the goals and policies in the RGS are tied to climate change mitigation and GHG reduction, including but not limited to creating compact communities and encouraging the use of alternative modes of transportation. Per capita GHG emissions helps provide context when calculating total GHG emissions and tracking change over time. Since the targets were originally developed several years ago there have been significant policy changes at the provincial and federal levels that address both transportation and building sources of GHGs. The province is aggressively moving to reduce carbon pollution with initiatives that include, among other things, the electrification of BC Transit's fleets, the introduction of the Energy Step Code and a recently announced electrification plan which will promote switching from fossil fuels to clean electric energy. Over time these policies and programs will improve local government's ability to reduce GHG's in the region but they have not been built into our modelling. We are considering a policy to update the RGS GHG emissions targets and modelling, which may include developing a total emissions target for the region as a whole. This work will be part of an RGS implementation program that will be undertaken after completion of the RGS update.

- **Question:** We also received a specific traffic question in Chilliwack. FVRD staff forwarded this on to the City of Chilliwack for consideration in the City's transportation planning process.

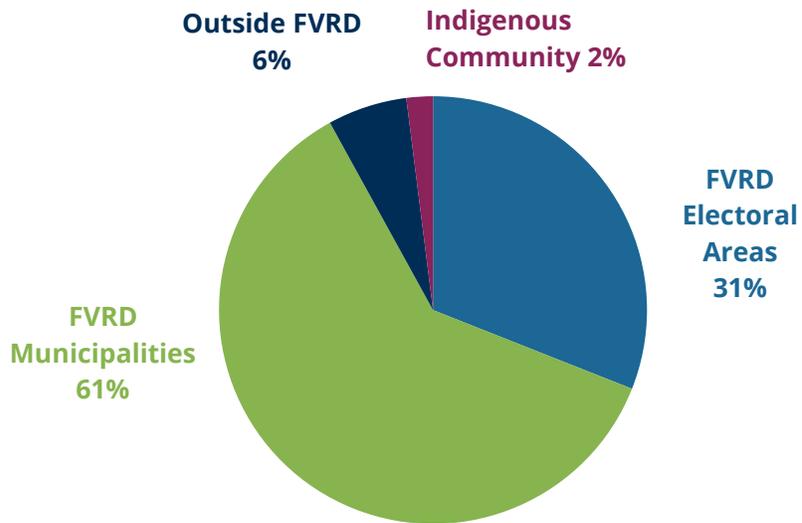


RGS Survey Results

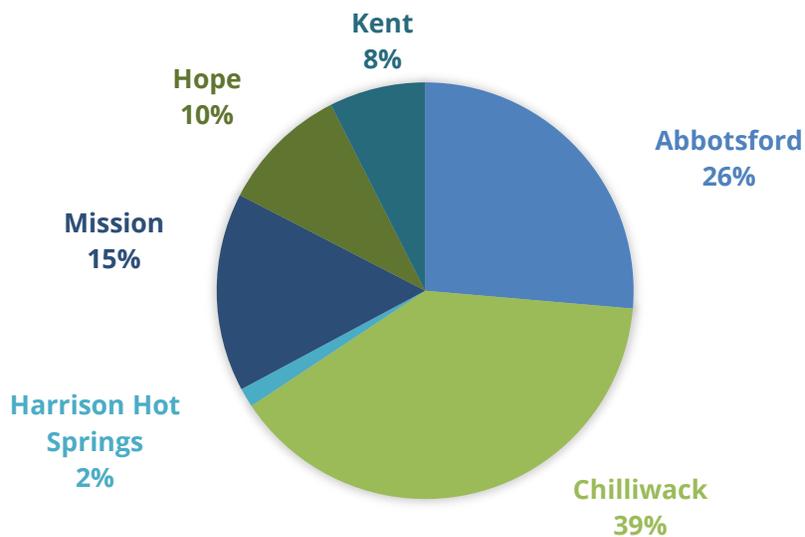
Survey Demographics

WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE

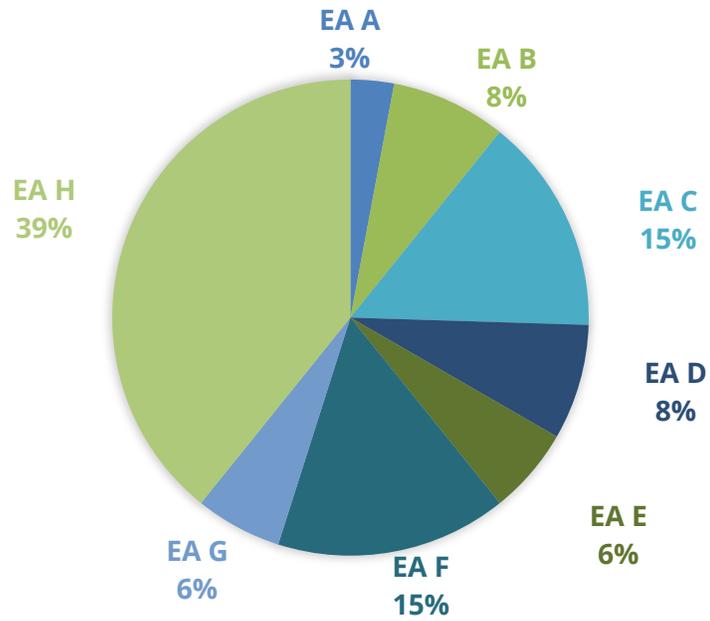
Of the 327 respondents, 95% lived in the FVRD, the other 5% of lived outside the region. Of those who lived in the FVRD:



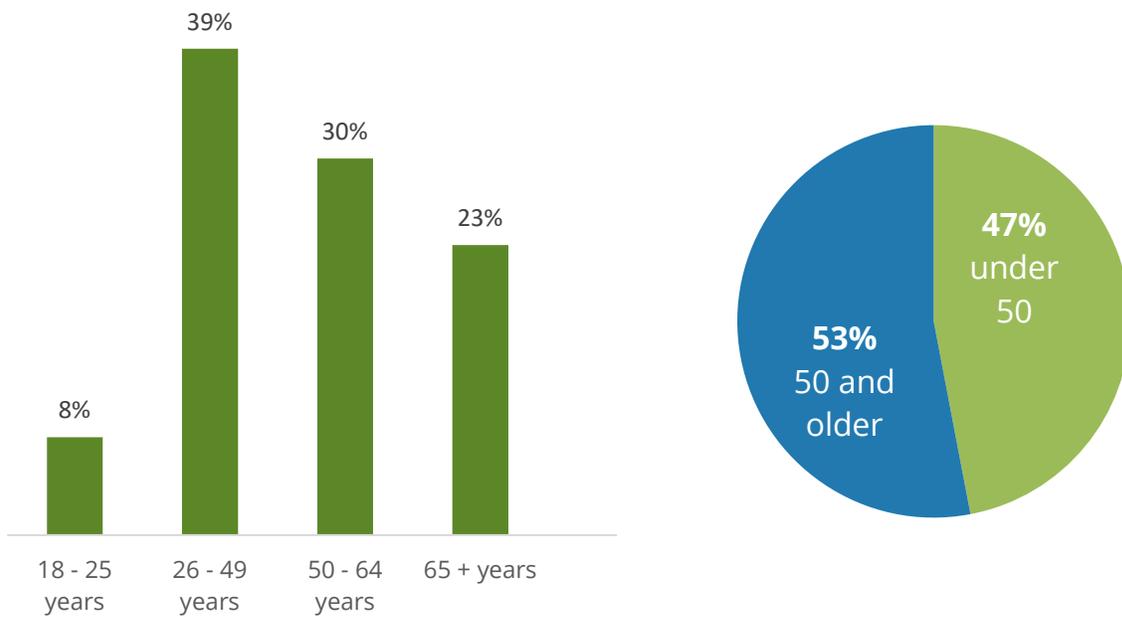
- 61% of respondents where from FVRD Municipalities.



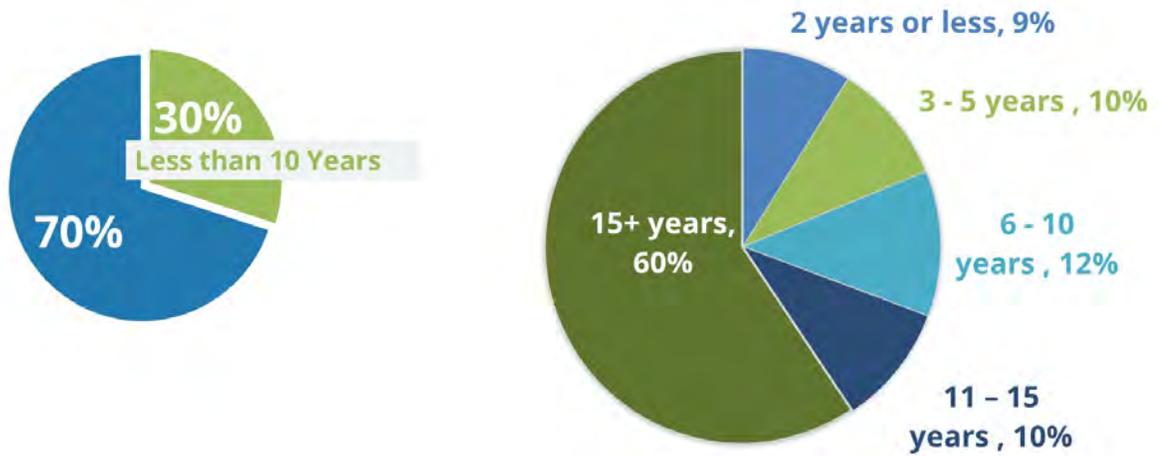
- 31% of respondents where from FVRD Electoral Areas



AGE OF RESPONDENTS



LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN THE REGION

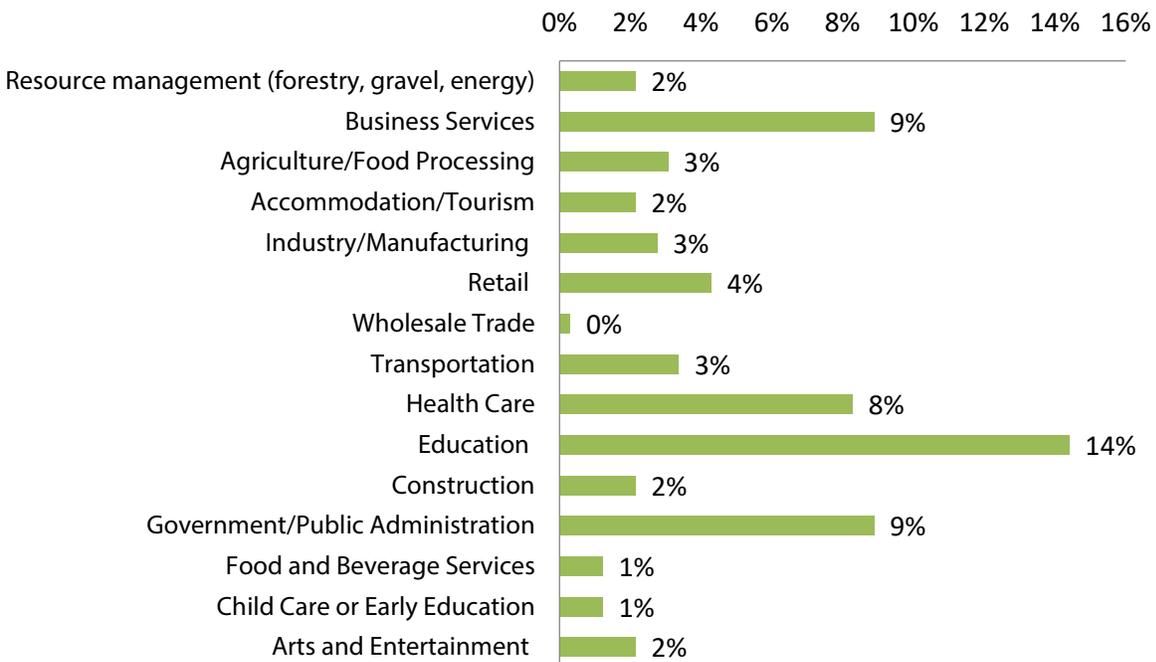


Survey Findings

Q2: What best describes the industry or sector that you work in or own a business?

INDUSTRY OR SECTORS	RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
Resource management (forestry, gravel, energy)	7	2%
Business Services	29	9%
Agriculture/Food Processing	10	3%
Accommodation/Tourism	7	2%
Industry/Manufacturing	9	3%
Retail	14	4%
Wholesale Trade	1	0%
Transportation	11	3%
Health Care	27	8%
Education	47	14%
Construction	7	2%
Government/Public Administration	29	9%
Food and Beverage Services	4	1%
Child Care or Early Education	4	1%
Arts and Entertainment	7	2%
Unsure or Not Applicable	113	35%
Total Respondents	326	100%

RESPONDENTS TYPE OF WORK



Q3: What best describes your situation? Select multiple responses if applicable (up to 3).

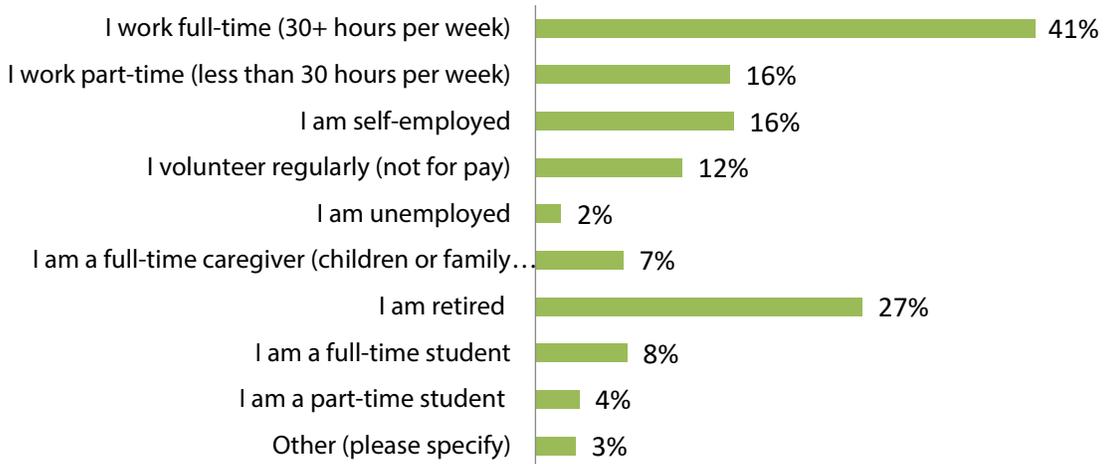
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
I work full-time (30+ hours per week)	136	41%
I work part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	53	16%
I am self-employed	54	16%
I volunteer regularly (not for pay)	40	12%
I am unemployed	7	2%
I am a full-time caregiver (children/family member)	24	7%
I am retired	89	27%
I am a full-time student	25	8%
I am a part-time student	12	4%
Other (please specify)*	11	3%
Total Responses	451	100%
Total Respondents	328	100%

*Responses to Other

- I am retired but also working less than 10 hours per week
- Work full time plus and part of Chief & Council for local First Nations
- looking for work and living accommodations
- Only receiving part time hours because of passport restrictions. Will now have to seek more work.

- Disabled unemployed
- I work in the summer full-time
- I'm an athlete
- On long-term disability
- retired from B&B business
- Logging road building company
- I'm currently on work safe
- FVRD School Trustee

RESPONDENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

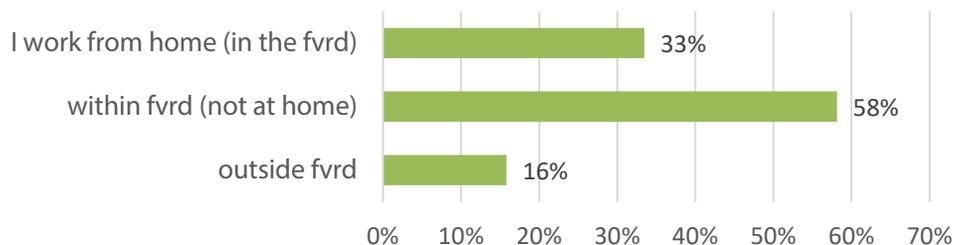


Q4: Which of the following best describes your regular place of employment? You may select more than one response if necessary (i.e. you work from home and outside the home).

If your place of work has temporarily changed due to the pandemic, please respond based on what is typical or likely to be true once things have 'returned to normal'.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
I work from home.	79	22%
I work outside the home, in the FVRD.	136	38%
I work outside the FVRD.	46	13%
Not applicable. I do not currently perform paid work.	97	27%
Total Responses (All Respondents)	358	100%

PLACE OF WORK (FVRD RESIDENTS ONLY)



Q5: Do you agree with the following statements related to work and the economy in the FVRD?

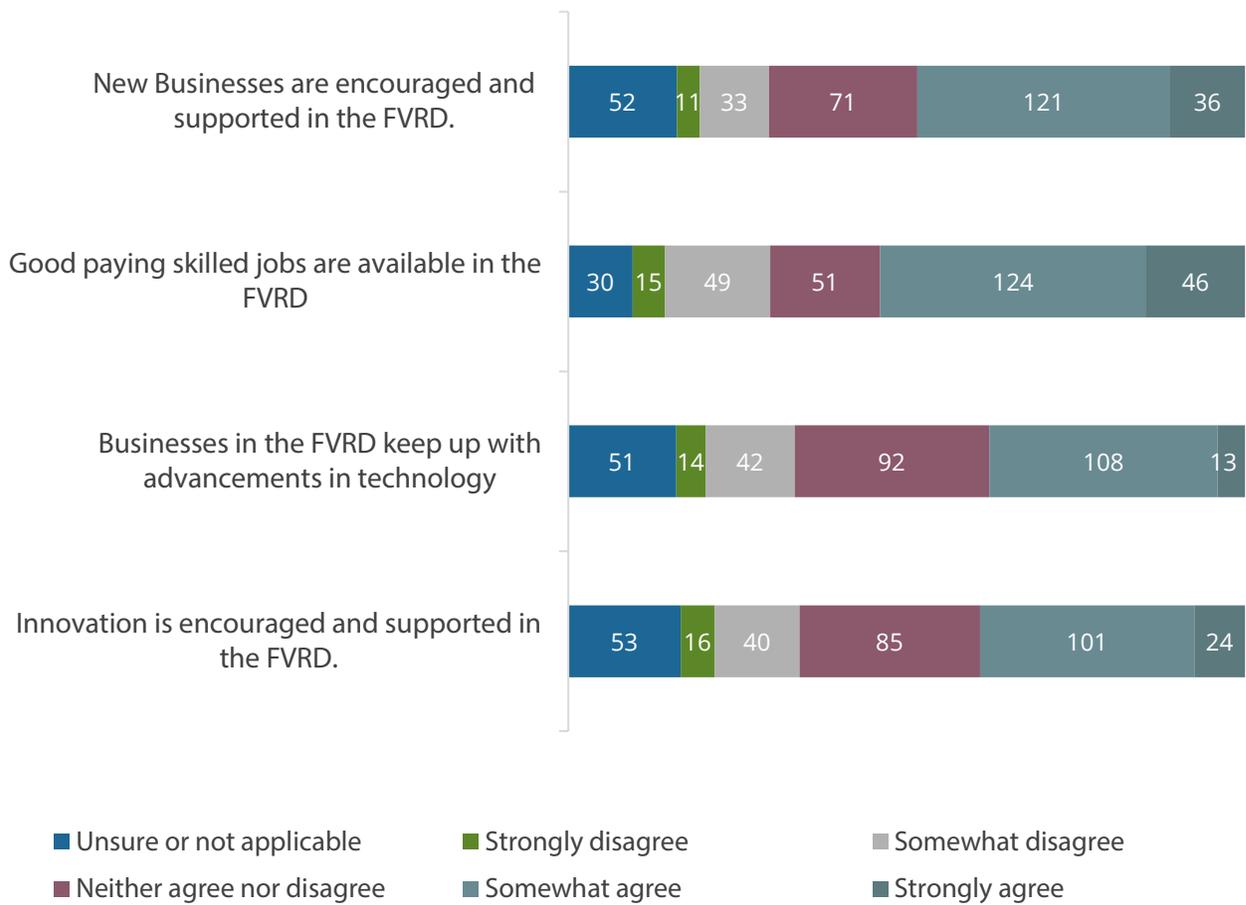
GOOD PAYING SKILLED JOBS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FVRD.		
Strongly agree	46	14%
Somewhat agree	124	38%
Neither agree nor disagree	51	16%
Somewhat disagree	49	15%
Strongly disagree	15	5%
Unsure or not applicable	39	12%
Total Respondents	324	100%

NEW BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED IN THE FVRD.		
Strongly agree	36	11%
Somewhat agree	121	37%
Neither agree nor disagree	71	22%
Somewhat disagree	33	10%
Strongly disagree	11	3%
Unsure or not applicable	52	16%
Total Respondents	324	100%

INNOVATION IS ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED IN THE FVRD.		
Strongly agree	24	8%
Somewhat agree	101	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	85	27%
Somewhat disagree	40	13%
Strongly disagree	16	5%
Unsure or not applicable	53	17%
Total Respondents	319	100%

BUSINESSES IN THE FVRD KEEP UP WITH ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY.		
Strongly agree	13	4%
Somewhat agree	108	34%
Neither agree nor disagree	92	29%
Somewhat disagree	42	13%
Strongly disagree	14	4%
Unsure or not applicable	51	16%
Total Respondents	320	100%

WORK AND THE ECONOMY IN THE FVRD



Q6. Do you agree with the following statements related to employment in your field of work, industry, or business?

IT IS EASY TO FIND WORK IN MY FIELD, INDUSTRY, OR PROFESSION.		
Strongly agree	46	21%
Somewhat agree	88	41%
Neither agree nor disagree	38	18%
Somewhat disagree	41	19%
Strongly disagree	33	15%
Unsure or not applicable	71	33%
Total Respondents	317	100%

IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND TRAINED, QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED STAFF TO WORK IN MY FIELD, PROFESSION, OR INDUSTRY.

Strongly agree	64	21%
Somewhat agree	92	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	36	12%
Somewhat disagree	28	9%
Strongly disagree	13	4%
Unsure or not applicable	77	25%
Total Respondents	310	100%

THERE IS ADEQUATE EDUCATION AND/OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO MY FIELD OF WORK, PROFESSION OR INDUSTRY.

Strongly agree	52	16%
Somewhat agree	96	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	51	16%
Somewhat disagree	25	8%
Strongly disagree	25	8%
Unsure or not applicable	67	21%
Total Respondents	316	100%

MY FIELD OF WORK, PROFESSION OR INDUSTRY PROVIDES ADEQUATE JOB SECURITY.

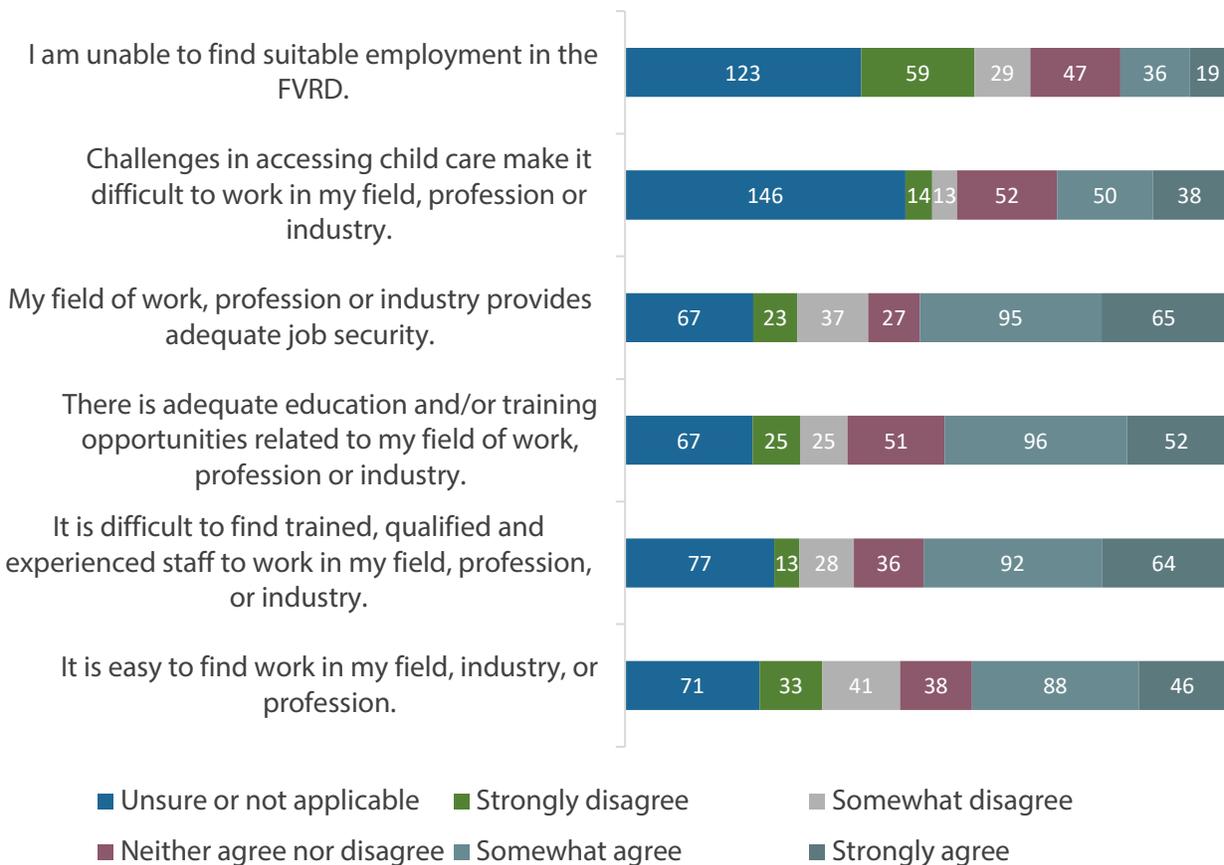
Strongly agree	65	21%
Somewhat agree	95	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	27	9%
Somewhat disagree	37	12%
Strongly disagree	23	7%
Unsure or not applicable	67	21%
Total Respondents	314	100%

CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING CHILD CARE MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO WORK IN MY FIELD, PROFESSION OR INDUSTRY.

Strongly agree	38	12%
Somewhat agree	50	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	52	17%
Somewhat disagree	13	4%
Strongly disagree	14	4%
Unsure or not applicable	146	47%
Total Respondents	313	100%

I AM UNABLE TO FIND SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT IN THE FVRD.		
Strongly agree	19	6%
Somewhat agree	36	12%
Neither agree nor disagree	47	15%
Somewhat disagree	29	9%
Strongly disagree	59	19%
Unsure or not applicable	123	39%
Total Respondents	313	100%

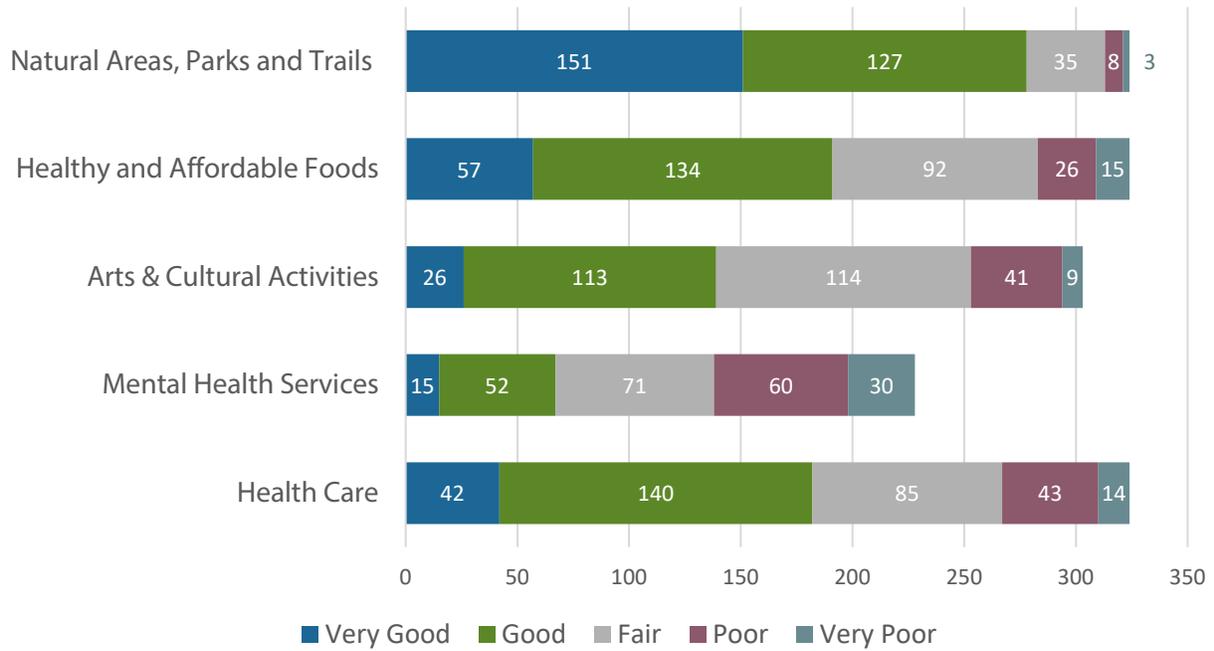
WORK AND THE ECONOMY IN THE FVRD



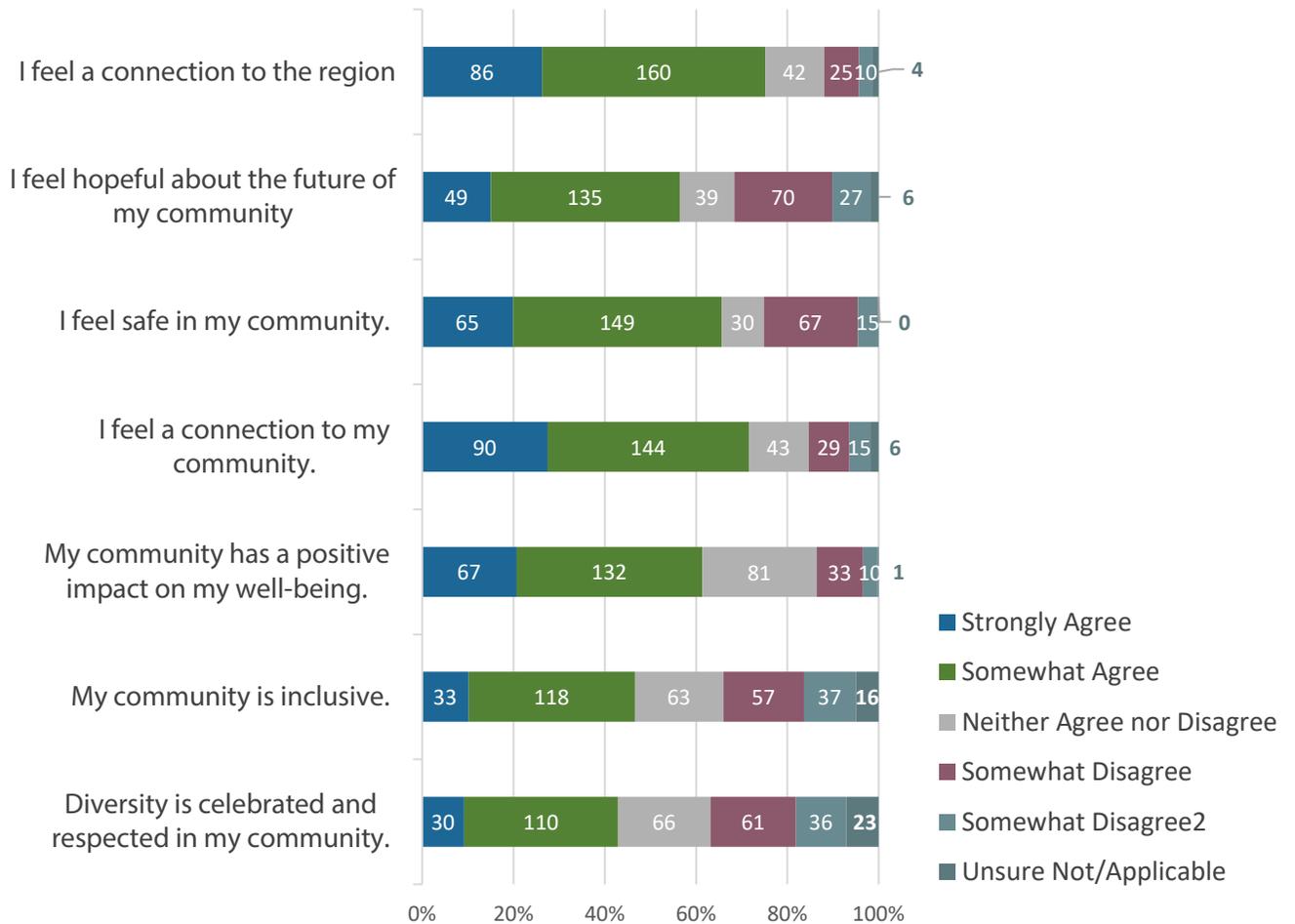
Q7. How might your field of work, profession or industry adapt or respond to changes over the next 30 years (technology aging population, climate change etc.)?

- See Appendix A: Long Form Survey Answers.

Q8. Rate your ability to access the following as they relate to living well.

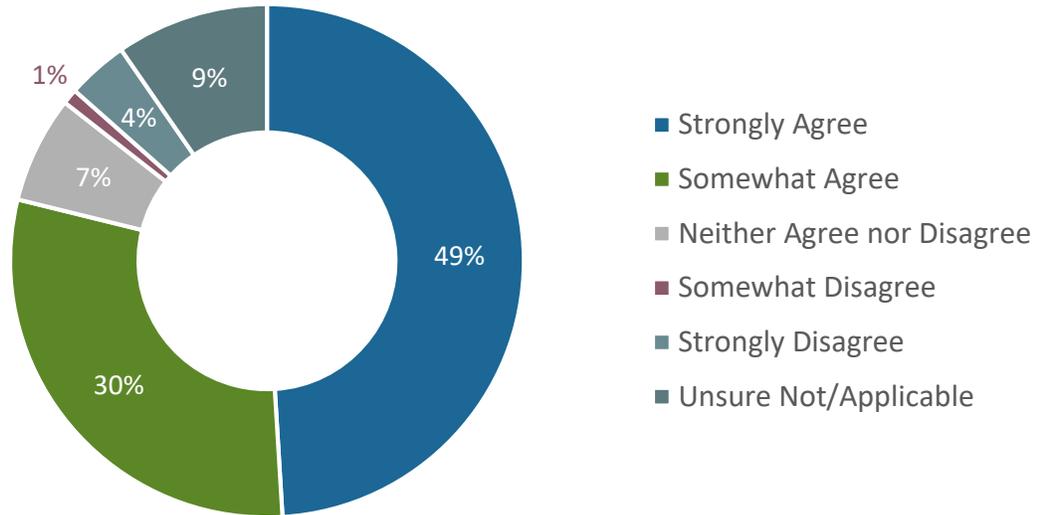


Q9. Quality of Life: Do you agree with the following statements?

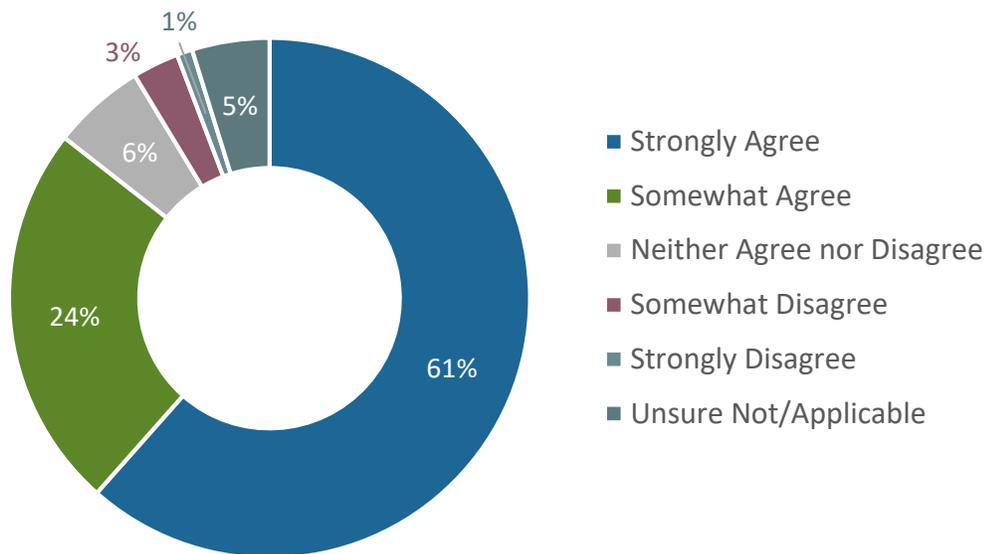


Q10. Quality of Life: Population Growth. Do you agree with the following statements?

IN RECENT YEARS POPULATION GROWTH IN THE LOWER MAINLAND HAS IMPACTED RURAL ELECTORAL AREAS



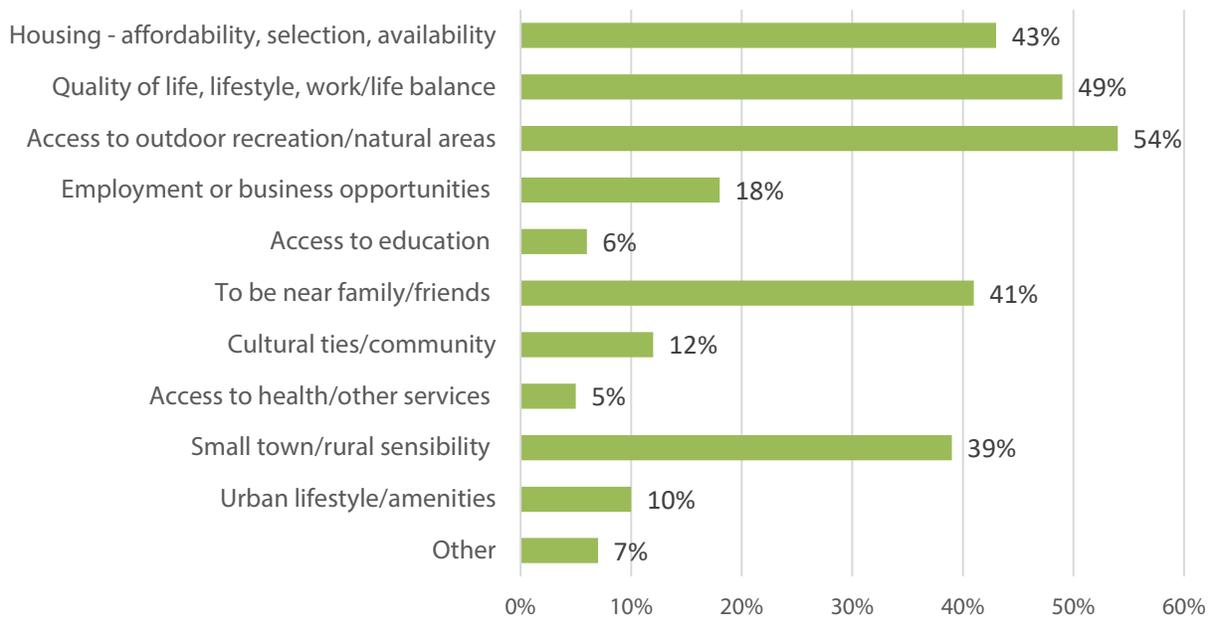
IN RECENT YEARS POPULATION GROWTH IN THE LOWER MAINLAND HAS IMPACTED RECREATION, PARKS OR OUTDOOR SPACES



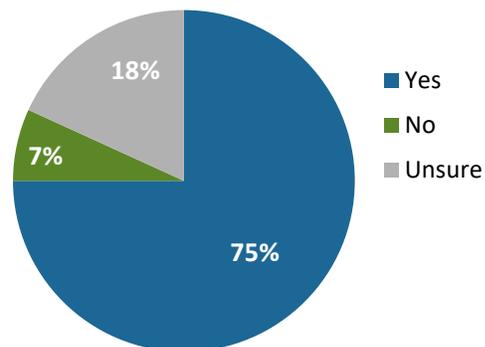
Q11. Why do you live in the FVRD? Select all that apply

WHY RESPONDENTS SAID THEY LIVE IN THE FVRD		
Housing - affordability, selection, availability	133	43%
Quality of life, lifestyle, work/life balance	152	49%
Access to outdoor recreation/natural areas	167	54%
Employment or business opportunities	55	18%
Access to education	18	6%
To be near family/friends	129	41%
Cultural ties/community	37	12%
Access to health/other services	16	5%
Small town/rural sensibility	120	39%
Urban lifestyle/amenities	32	10%
I do not live in the region	14	5%
Other (please specify)	21	7%
Total Respondents	311	

WHY RESPONDENTS SAID THEY LIVE IN THE FVRD



Q12. Do you intend to remain living in the FVRD for the foreseeable future?



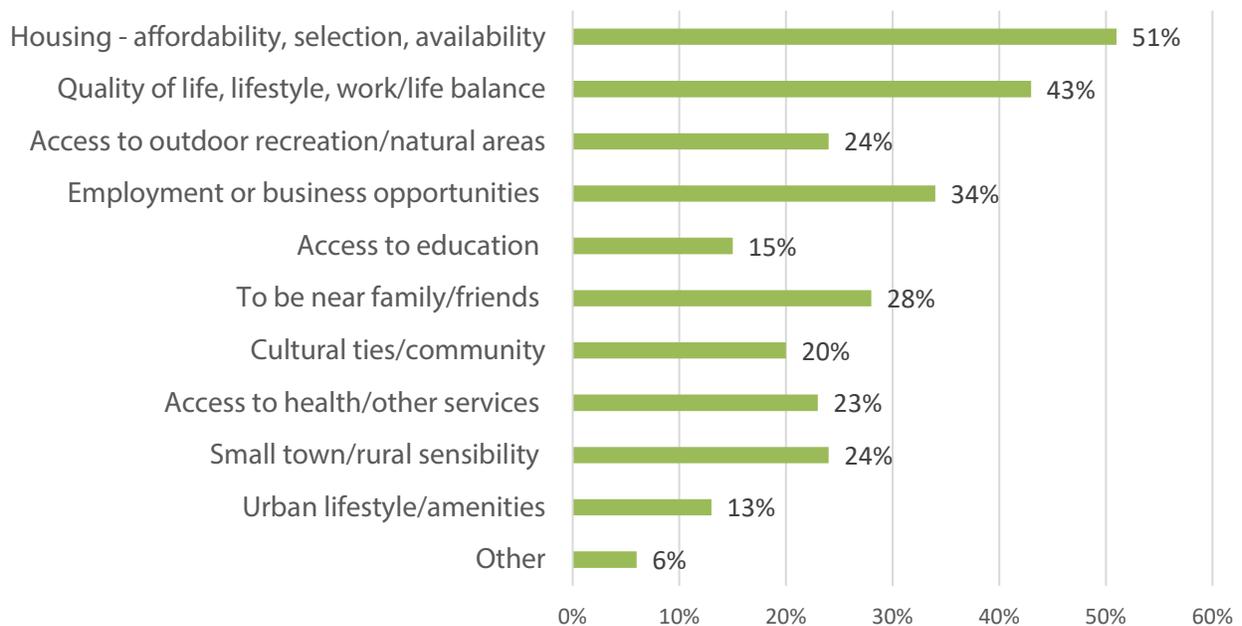
Q13. What might cause you or your family to move outside of the FVRD? Select all that apply.

Only respondents who answered 'No' or 'Unsure' to question 12 were provided this question.

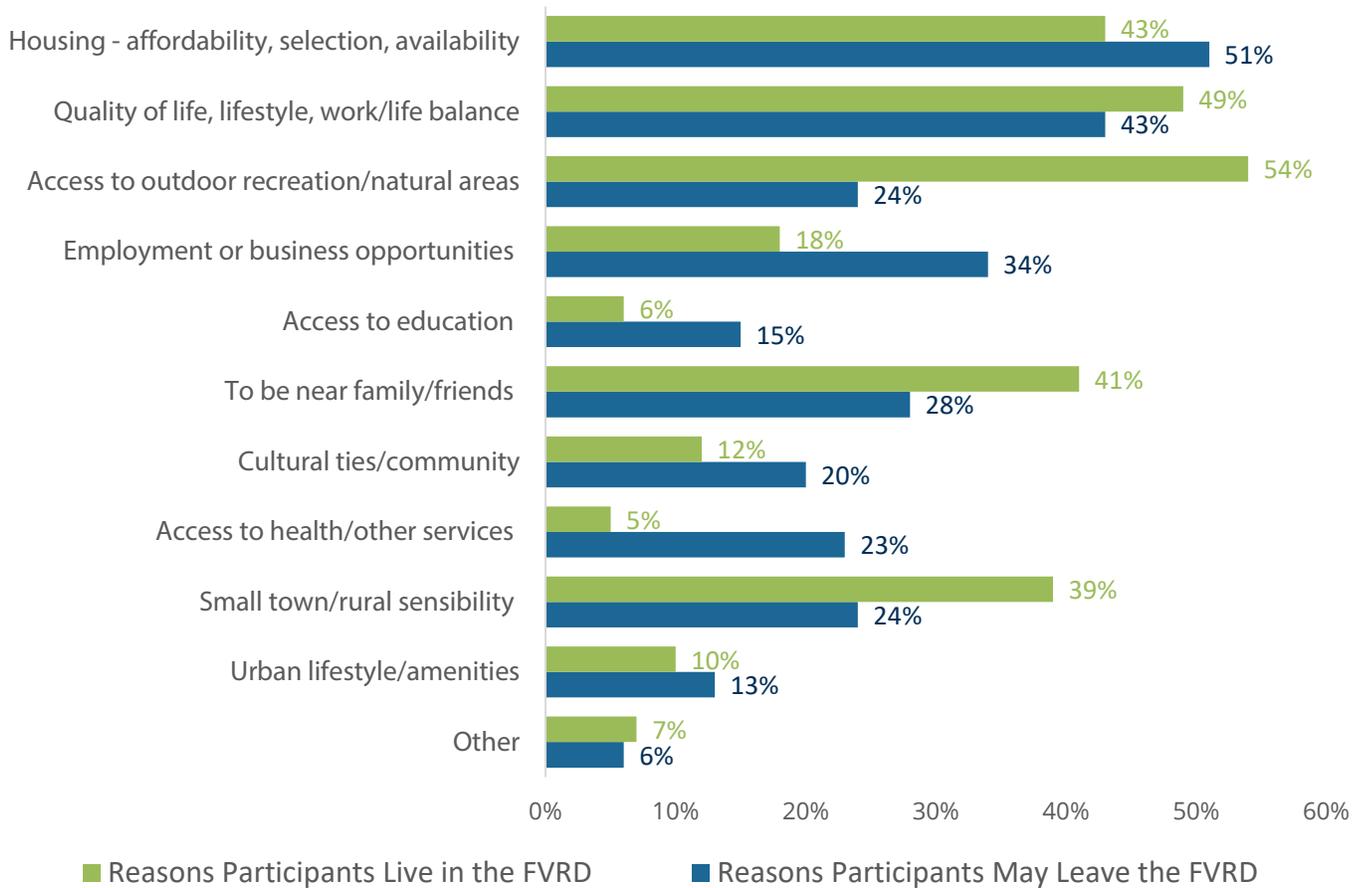
WHY RESPONDENTS SAID THEY MIGHT LEAVE THE FVRD		
Housing affordability, selection, availability	40	51%
Quality of life, lifestyle, work/life balance	34	43%
Access to outdoor recreation/natural areas	19	24%
Employment or business opportunities	27	34%
Access to Education	12	15%
To be near family/friends	22	28%
Cultural ties/community	16	20%
Access to health/other services	18	23%
Small town/rural sensibility	19	24%
Urban lifestyle/amenities	13	16%
I do not live in the region	13	16%
Other (please specify)	5	6%
Total Respondents (Living in the FVRD)	79	100%
Total Respondents	92	

Percentage of responses based on the 79 respondents living in the FVRD.

WHY RESPONDENTS SAID THEY MIGHT LEAVE THE FVRD



COMPARISON OF WHY RESPONDENTS SAID THEY LIVED IN THE FVRD TO WHY RESPONDENTS SAID THEY MIGHT LEAVE

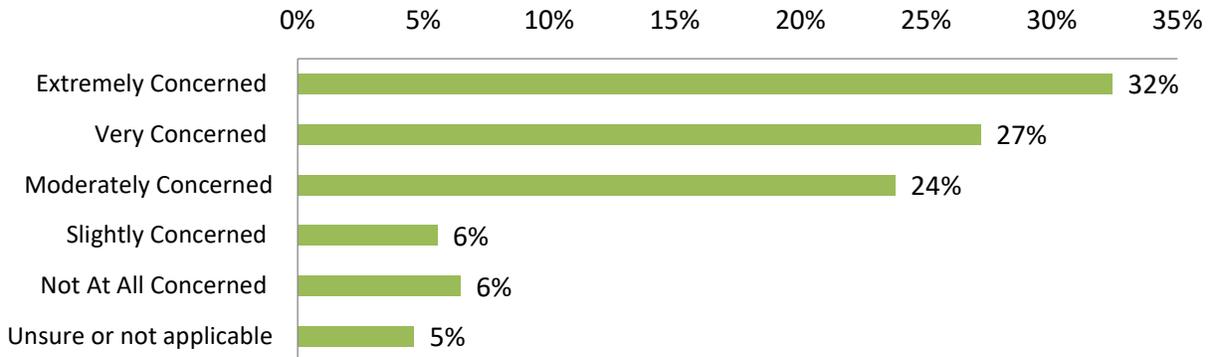


TOP 5 REASONS RESPONDENTS SAID THEY LIVED IN THE FVRD.			TOP 5 REASONS RESPONDENTS SAID THEY MIGHT LEAVE THE FVRD.		
1	Access to outdoor recreation/natural areas	54%	1	Housing affordability and selection	51%
2	Quality of life, lifestyle, work/life balance	49%	2	Quality of life, lifestyle, work/life balance	43%
3	Housing - affordability, selection, availability	43%	3	Employment or business opportunities	34%
4	To be near family/friends	41%	4	To be near family/friends	28%
5	Small town/rural sensibility	29%	5	Small town/rural sensibility	24%

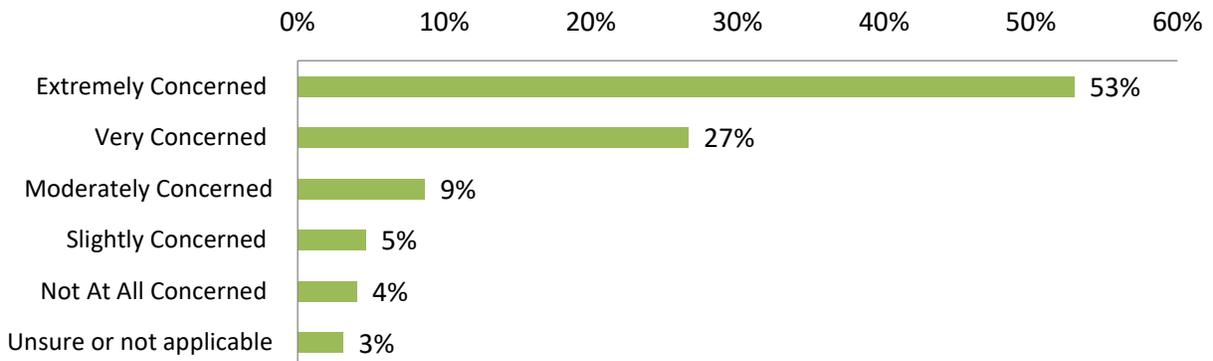
- Four of five top reasons are the same for both lists.

Q14. Rate your concerns about housing in the FRVD.

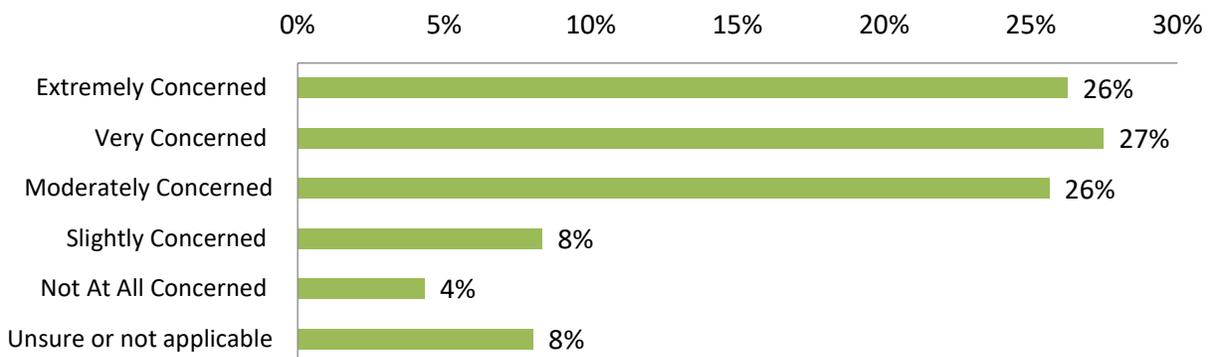
CONCERN FOR SUITABLE HOUSING OPTIONS



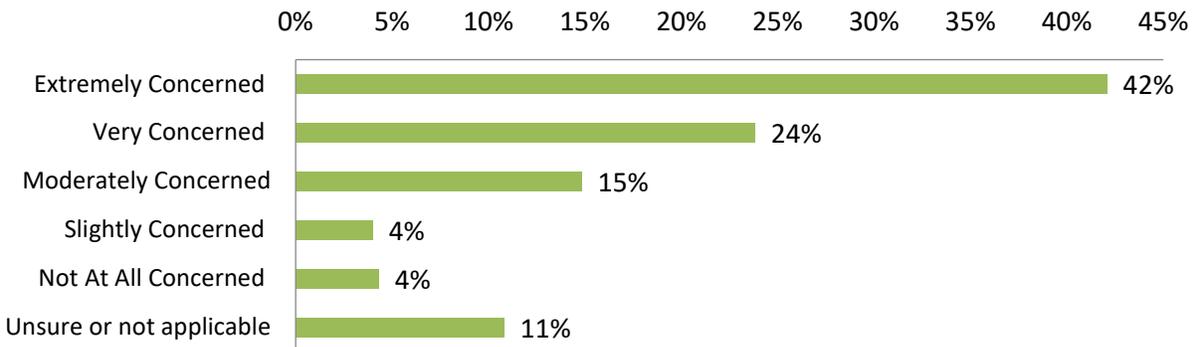
COST OF HOME OWNERSHIP



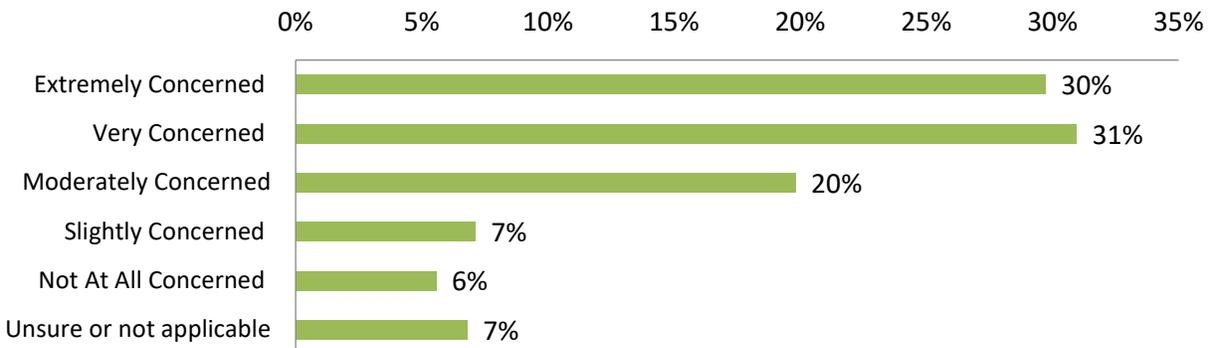
HOUSING FOR SENIORS



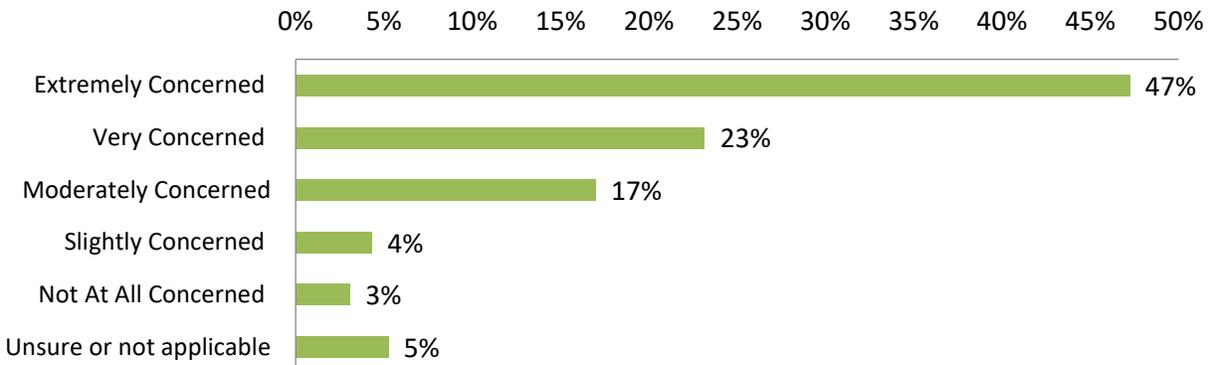
COST OF RENTAL HOUSING



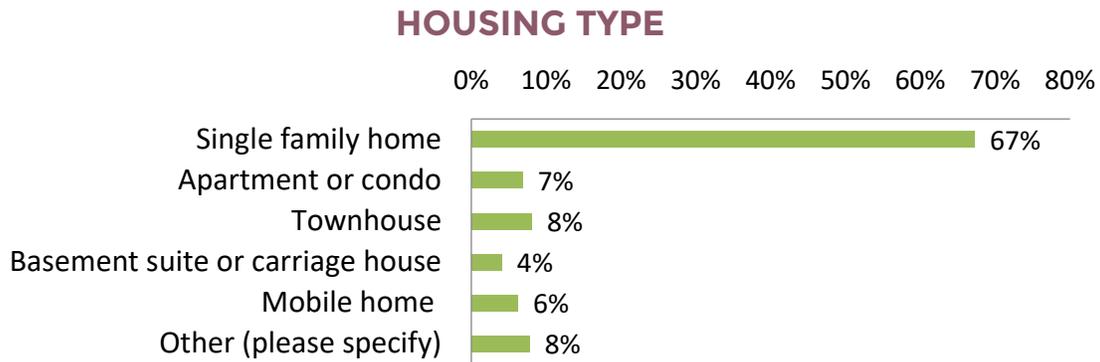
HOUSING FOR FAMILIES



HOMELESSNESS



Q15. What best describes your home?



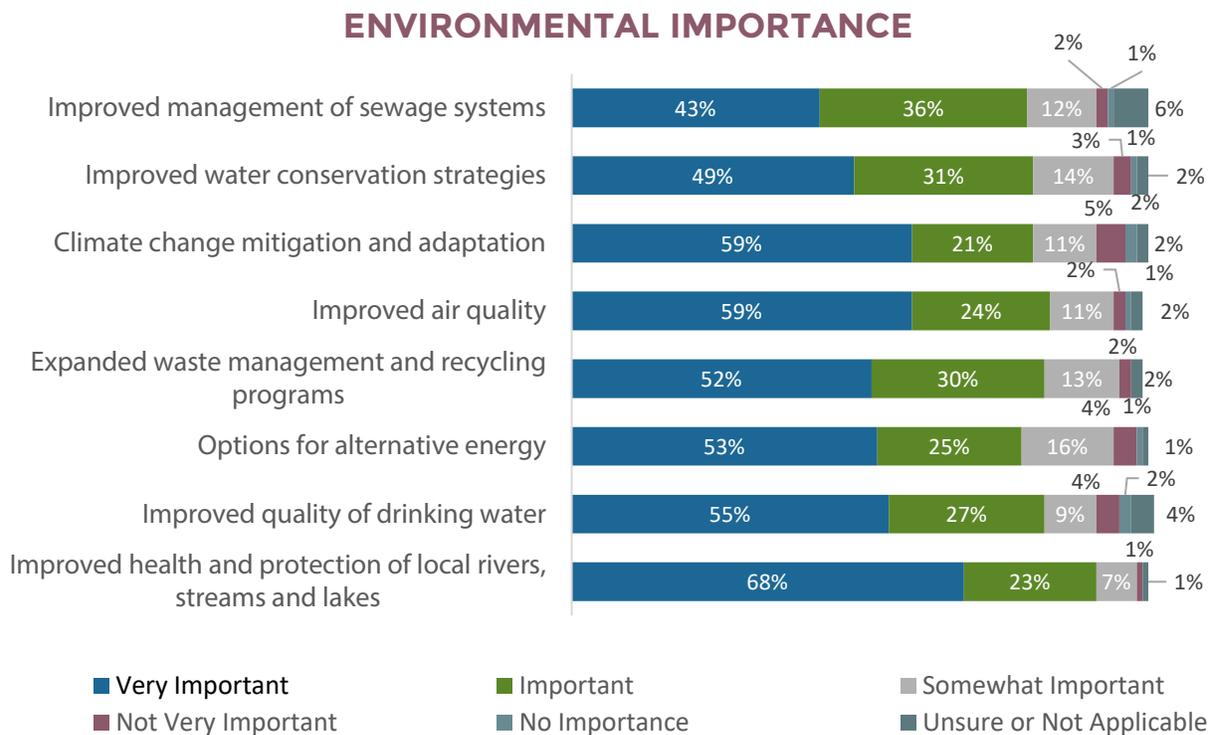
Other responses included

- Living with family
- Cottage
- Fifth wheel
- Duplex or Triplex
- Motel unit
- Multigenerational Home
- Rural or acreage

Q16. Have you or your family been personally impacted by housing conditions (costs, availability, choices etc.) ? If yes, tell us how you or your family has been impacted.

- See Appendix A: Long Form Survey Answers.

Q17. How important are the following priority areas for environmental protection and sustainability?



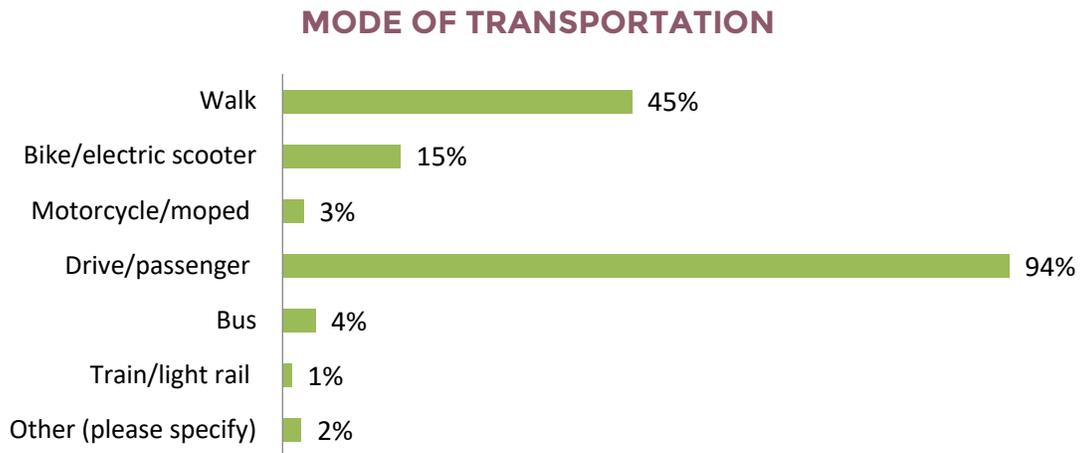
Q18. Are there other environmental issues and/or climate change issues not identified in this list that are of importance to you?

- See Appendix A: Long Form Survey Answers.

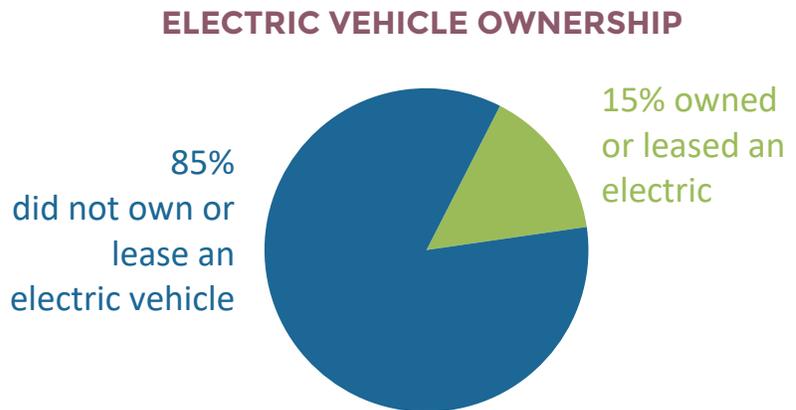
Q19. Do your concerns about the environment and/or climate change impact your outlook on the future? If so, how?

- See Appendix A: Long Form Survey Answers.

Q20: How do you usually get around on a daily basis? Check all that apply.

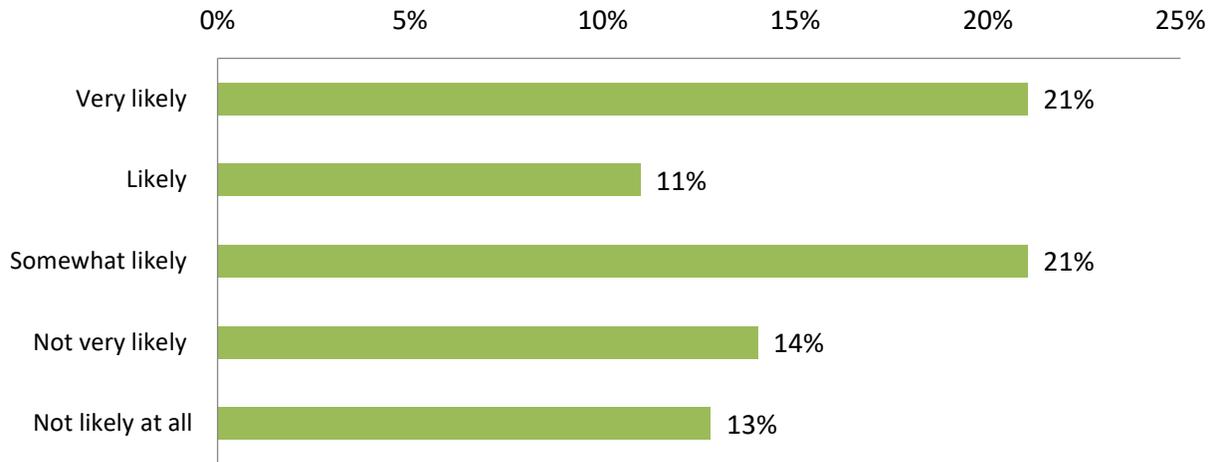


Q21. Do you currently own or lease an electric vehicle?



Q22. How likely are you to own or lease an electric vehicle in the next 5 or 10 years?

Only respondents who answered no to question 21 were asked this question.



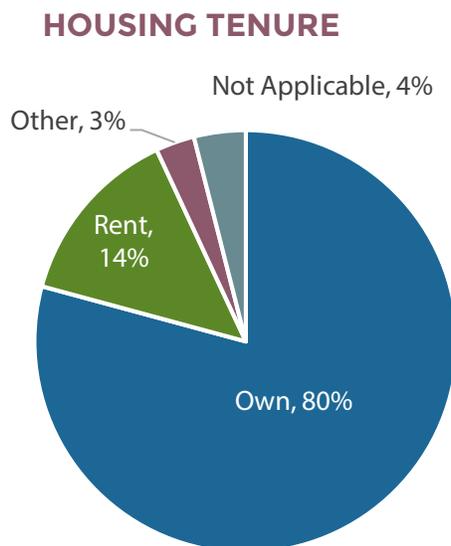
Q23. What improvement(s) to transportation systems in the FVRD should be prioritized?

- See Appendix A: Long Form Survey Answers.

Q24: How old are you? (Choose any one option)

- See survey respondent demographics

Q25. Do you own or rent your home?



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Appendices

Appendix A: Long Form Survey Response Questions

Q7. How might your field of work, profession or industry adapt or respond to changes over the next 30 years (technology aging population, climate change etc.)?

The following tables provide a sample of comments, which are representative of the topics, themes and ideas included in the 173 essay style responses to question eighteen.

EMPLOYMENT

Many responses related to anticipated changes and challenges related to the respondent’s own employment situation or industry workforce, including increased worker demand or staffing shortages, the need for employers to focus on recruitment and retention, the need to improve working wages and conditions, an increased prevalence and demand for remote work, and the impacts of an aging workforce. Health care workers were particularly concerned about staffing shortages and difficult working conditions, which are only expected to worsen as the population continues to get older, putting additional demand on health care systems.

INDUSTRY

Respondents were most likely to anticipate increased or steady demand in association with their work, profession, or industry. The continual integration and advancement of technology was often cited in relation to ongoing and anticipated industry changes, with many noting aspects of their work ‘moving online’ and an increased adoption of automation. Industry changes were sometimes associated with changes in required skillsets, training opportunities, and new positions requiring a specialized skillset. Employee education or training was often noted in relation to advancements in technology, and often took place online. Both, the aging population and climate change were frequently noted as being the major cause of increases in demand or industry challenges.

The following tables include a sample of comments representative of the topics, themes and ideas included in the 173 essay style responses, sorted into the themes identified above.

WORKFORCE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 comments were about increased demand for staff and worker shortages • 17 comments were about working conditions and wages • 17 comments were about remote work • 13 comments were about the aging workforce • 10 comments were about employee recruitment and retention 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Employers need to pay fair and competitive wages.”</i> • <i>“Wages need to improve to handle cost of living increases.”</i> • <i>“More work from home opportunities.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I am a nurse. There will always be jobs in my field. I think there will always shortages in health care.”</i> • <i>“Bridging programs for International graduates will be a great help.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Need younger people willing to work in the trades.”</i> • <i>“Work from home to save on commuting.”</i> • <i>“I work in long-term care field and it’s shocking the</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Employers will need to treat staff better and offer retention bonuses.” • “There will always be demand for customer service employees, unless automation replaces some aspects (RE: self checkouts replacing cashiers).” • “High risk of burn out in the education field due to an increasing number of students.” • “New incentives needed.” • “Local government jobs need to modernize by providing flexible work arrangements.” • “Increase wages for early childhood educators.” • “COVID has already brought about these changes, indirectly, as the community at large is learning where and when they can work from home, helping to keep our roads clear of unnecessary commuters.” • “Lack of trained workers.” • “I suppose retirement will be more difficult if inflation becomes high again.” • “Increased staffing” • “Mission currently only has low paying jobs these do not cover rent and food needs of families. People working here will never be able to afford to buy a family home. Very tempted to cut losses now and move somewhere that I know my children will one day be able to own a home.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I anticipate that working from home will become common place, rather than as a result of the pandemic. So ideally, less time commuting in the future.” • “Better pay to attract workers.” • “The biggest challenge is recruiting people to the career. Most youth do not know that you can become a geoscientist in the forest sector.” • “Increased wages.” • “Employees will be needed even more, but housing costs and lack of public transportation will make it hard to recruit and retain.” • “There is a crisis in healthcare due to the amount of people leaving the sector.” • “I work in technology and best paying jobs require you to work out of Vancouver.” • “More remote work options.” • “As the population ages, there is an increased demand for staff in care facilities, including assisted living but not enough people willing to do the job anymore.” • “Trying to compete for good staff.” • “The aging population will surpass the supply of qualified workers in my field of employment.” • “In 30 years my professional will be almost exclusively done as remote work.” 	<p>shortages of positions (not a staff shortage).”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Mobile workforce is needed, COVID accelerated this and working from home is possible and should be encouraged.” • “This community is made up of mostly seniors as there are no employment opportunities for youth living here.” • “Healthcare workers need a lot more support from the government, as well as a huge influx of new staff, and there needs to be a way to prevent people from being overworked.” • “If the government would actually stand by us; support us, guarantee good wages; benefits for all, we would stand a better chance of people staying longer in healthcare in general.” • “I am a retired Nurse RN/Psychiatric. I could get a job in a minute if I wanted to.” • “Move to 100% remote work” • “We own a heavy duty mechanic/government inspection facility. Finding trained /qualified employees can be a challenge.” • Remote work, increased competition.” • “We need truck drivers and the current market has the baby boomers retiring and the next generations are not interested in driving truck.”
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“BC Ambulance needs more improved staffing and workload. Improved hospital capabilities would reduce the number of patients leaving regional district for services not available here. CT scanner in Mission, PET-CT Abbotsford etc.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Formerly in the agricultural field but as I aged the options were depleted I work retail to make ends meet.”</i> • <i>“At the current moment, there is a boom for teachers as a large generation leaves the workforce.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I believe it may become increasingly difficult to find social workers with the appropriate degree and personal characteristics as the population ages.”</i>
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INDUSTRY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 comments were about increased use of technology • 21 comments were about increased demand or growth for a profession or industry. • 17 comments were about the need to continuously adapt • 13 comments were about climate change • 9 comments were about online training, education and the development of skills • 7 comments were about specialized training or positions 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Increased heat and drought will make it more expensive to grow successfully and strain employees (outdoor nursery workers) and water resources. Access to water supply in future years for horticulture may be difficult in some rural areas.”</i> • <i>“For training and certifications, access to more online options for people that can’t travel to schools.”</i> • <i>“There will be more and better online learning for post secondary students.”</i> • <i>“Increased technology will make my job easier.”</i> • <i>“I worked in education. Obviously school, training institutions and higher education must keep up and provide relevant citizenship and technical skill.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Use of automation, reduction in staffing of retail locations and pivot to online ordering and delivery.”</i> • <i>“We will probably need a dedicated GIS person within 5 years to continue.”</i> • <i>“Be more worker focussed, value the work being done and appreciate that it takes time and employer support/ collaboration to accomplish change successfully.”</i> • <i>“By offering the training needed to new technology.”</i> • <i>“More online courses.”</i> • <i>“The profession itself (agriculture research) is about responding to changes.”</i> • <i>“We are adding more robots because we can’t find people.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Technology (online appointments) instead of face-to-face (work from home) would cut down on pollution, traffic, and the frustrations of travelling to work.”</i> • <i>“Farming - Need a food hub to sell produce or livestock meat from small scale producers in 1 local location.”</i> • <i>“When BCTF can make concessions for wages/perks for Technology teachers, our world may grow and develop at the pace of technology.”</i> • <i>“Working from home is better for the environment and transportation infrastructure.”</i> • <i>“My field of work tends to be on the leading edge of change, and adaptation to change”</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I work in social services and we have begun delivering virtual training to social workers and some services to clients during the pandemic. I anticipate some of these changes will continue into the future."</i> • <i>"Technology and cultural shifts (both demographic and societal) – I am in media, which is a quickly changing environment. Old 'traditional' audiences are dying off, technologies and platforms change every 6 months. Whatever is happening in 30 years will be unrecognizable to what is here now."</i> • <i>"Retail is moving towards online shopping that may result in job losses."</i> • <i>"Healthcare will need to adapt, keep up with increased demand, and improve accessibility."</i> • <i>"Education should be adapting and evolving as new knowledge is generated and better ways of learning are introduced. Education holds a high importance in how to address technology, climate change, dealing with an aging population etc."</i> • <i>"Greater use of online applications."</i> • <i>"My job will become less physical with changes in technology."</i> • <i>"Advancement in technology along with more and continued training for technicians and engineers."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"More virtual counselling, more mental health support needed due to trauma of climate change events"</i> • <i>"Self driving semi."</i> • <i>"I work in graphic design, and the industry grows, shrinks and fails in connection with technology, populations, climate, industry etc. I specialize in graphic design for small businesses, and there needs to be a thriving community of entrepreneurs and innovation for my industry to function."</i> • <i>"We typically have in person visits to show product throughout BC, but with COVID have adapted to more online."</i> • <i>"Likely more automation in computer analysis, design, and reporting."</i> • <i>"Our industry is going to have to change to more automation and offsite works completed, as staffing issues are only becoming more challenging moving forward, and I don't see that changing for the better in the future."</i> • <i>"We will have to adapt with new technology and figure how to work against competitors."</i> • <i>"I am not aware of any long-term care facilities being built – which is needed to keep up with our expanding ageing population. It will end badly."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I feel the pandemic actually revealed how my profession and industry needed to adapt to using technology and respect climate change. (Online services, a new focus on outdoor self propelled activity, online academic research, online community programs)."</i> • <i>"Improved video consultation in healthcare."</i> • <i>"I work in the landscaping industry. Concerning climate change - we are already seeing trees that are dying in the summer due to lack of water and hot temperatures. Our plants and flowers are also stressed. We need to conserve water by collecting rain water for use in the summer. We plant more plants that attract butterflies, bees and humming birds, etc. It is important to continue doing this."</i> • <i>"We will make more use of technology. We are already moving towards online charting and away from paper use. The aging population may put some extra strain on the health care field in the future but technological advancements should help increase efficiency in health care and thereby balance the effects of the aging population."</i> • <i>"Ongoing major technology improvements to improve efficiency and to better utilize the reduced staffing levels due to the difficulty in finding qualified staff."</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Brick and mortar stores have to remain fluid in approach and constantly change or they will fail.”</i> • <i>“Assisted living facilities could go a lot greener, looking into alternate sources of power, especially in cases of power outages, instead of being on the grid, or even, in the case of where I work, relying on diesel generators when the power goes out.”</i> • <i>“New technology is emerging all the time.”</i> • <i>“Higher use of media and internet.”</i> • <i>“I work in archives. New technologies concerning communication can be extremely difficult to preserve. Cultural shifts and expectations (such as everything will be available online) will be a challenge and are unfeasible.”</i> • <i>“AI makes for less in person transactions.”</i> • <i>“Banking will evolve and become more digital.”</i> • <i>“Industry demand will expand as our population of the elderly increases.”</i> • <i>“I work (mostly volunteer) for an environmental non-profit. Interest in environmental work is growing and I was happy to see new offerings from UFV in that area. I expect that it will grow significantly in coming years as climate impacts are</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I think the pandemic will shape health + safety measures in the future. We might see fewer people going out to eat in-person and more online/delivery orders - management will need to adapt to this.”</i> • <i>“Adapting from a colonial institution to an institution that serves the needs of the whole community and ensuring we are responding to TRC recommendations appropriately with meaningful changes.”</i> • <i>“More online teaching for grades 6-12.”</i> • <i>“There has to be more opportunities for consolidation of freight to keep the shear numbers off the road, something like a large cross-dock facility in Chilliwack. Something has to give as we simply cannot build roadways and bridges as fast as the traffic is increasing.”</i> • <i>“Labourer - The more people there are the more houses that are needed.”</i> • <i>“My work will likely expand with greater opportunities and a need for more staff.”</i> • <i>“As an environmental studies student, I believe the need for environmental advocates and lawyers will increase significantly over the next 30 years as we try to adapt to and overcome the challenges we face due to climate change, and changes in technology.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Child care will always will be needed as well as the training to provide quality child care.”</i> • <i>“As for technology, most large scale trucking companies have systems that provide help in productivity but not all have or can afford to get the technology into the trucks to get connected so things such as idle time can be monitored and controlled more with the drivers.”</i> • <i>“Technology will take a huge part in how content is created/delivered in schools.”</i> • <i>“Increased work-from-home arrangements to address office over-crowding.”</i> • <i>“Increased remote learning opportunities to access specialized training not available here.”</i> • <i>“I work(ed) in technology (software development and support) - there were many people who I worked with (in Richmond and Burnaby) who lived in Chilliwack. There is not much work available in my field south of the river - but if there was - there are many good people available. I wish high-tech industry could be attracted to Abbotsford or Chilliwack. I could still be working.”</i> • <i>“Rapid change is the new normal.”</i> • <i>“My industry will become more on-line and less people will be needed.”</i>
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<p><i>increasingly felt in peoples' day-to-day lives."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Climate change will certainly affect opportunities for my children in their future."</i> • <i>"My industry will grow with climate change and awareness."</i> • <i>"Demand for mental health supports will continue or increase due to things happening in world."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Due to climate change, forest fires and other reasons the cost of paper is rising which is causing our prices to continue to rise, along with the construction industry. I hope that BC will be able to use the resources we have available around us to help keep our costs down. More processing plants in BC, for lumber and paper (we have the room for it) would be great!"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Technology demands better high speed internet."</i> • <i>"NIMBY and anti-logging sentiments will destroy my career, destroy proper sustainable forest management -and would be counter intuitive to addressing climate change."</i> • <i>"My work will become more necessary and prevalent."</i>
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Q16: Have you or your family been personally impacted by housing conditions (costs, availability, choices etc.)? If yes, tell us how you or your family has been impacted.

The following summary is based on 176 written responses with comments relating to one or more topics, ideas or themes.

IMPACTS

70% of all respondents indicated that they or their families had been impacted by current housing conditions. Respondents described a variety of ways that current housing conditions have an impact on them and their loved ones. Some respondents described being housing insecure, homeless, or feeling trapped in their current living situation. Some respondents said that housing difficulties had caused them to leave their community, move away from loved ones and their place of work. Alternatively, others respondents reported moving in with family members because they could not obtain suitable housing. Seniors, young adults, larger families, those living alone, and those with disabilities or limited mobility appeared to have the most difficult time with housing. Many respondents shared a great deal of concern for loved ones who were experiencing housing challenges. Some were indirectly impacted by the housing market challenges, as they were required to provide housing or financial support to family or loved ones. Some respondents described subsequent mental health challenges, reduced quality of life, and additional stresses caused by housing challenges. Housing challenges caused some respondents to re-think major life decisions, such as when they would retire, get married or if they will have children. A few respondents expressed concern about the impact of increased development and population on rural areas.

COST

The high costs associated with housing, or a lack of affordable housing options was noted by almost all respondents and was used to describe renting, owning, as well as maintaining a home. Other housing challenges, such as supply, suitability and quality, were often described in connection or because of the lack of affordable housing. Those who did not report being impacted by housing conditions, were most often individuals who owned their home. However, many who owned their home still felt the cost burdens of high mortgage payments, increasing property taxes or utilities, and maintenance costs.

UNMET NEEDS

The second most significant challenge noted by respondents was the scarcity of suitable housing for rent or purchase, which results in a variety of unmet needs expressed by respondents. Families noted living in homes too small for their growing families, while seniors and those with disabilities expressed being unable to find homes, which met their accessibility, needs. Most unmet needs were connected to cost or affordability, as housing options were limited to one's budget. Some respondents described quality issues specifically related to renting a home, which included health and safety issues such as the prevalence and difficulties of dealing with bedbugs.

The following tables represent the topics, themes and ideas included in the 176 essay style responses, sorted into the themes identified above.

IMPACTS

- 124 comments indicated the respondent or the respondent's family has been impacted by current housing conditions (cost, availability, choice).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"My physical and mental health suffer from overwork to keep up, and from hopelessness about the future."</i> • <i>"We have managed to purchase but we cannot afford our costs of living on one income so we are uncertain about having children."</i> • <i>"Families living farther apart due to cost of housing."</i> • <i>"We have prepared for rising costs by downsizing."</i> • <i>"I was initially going to buy a home but I could not afford one so now I am renting."</i> • <i>"Yes - our property values increasing, especially in recent years, has given us more security in our retirement years."</i> • <i>"Needed to significantly downsize due to cost of rentals."</i> • <i>"My boyfriend and I are not able to get married due to cost of living, housing, renting."</i> • <i>"Lack of natural light to the home is impacting our emotional wellbeing."</i> • <i>"Impacted by other local owners wanting to do subdivisions in Area F: that is NOT to be allowed in this rural area , we do not want any city housing nor sewer city lines or more water line developments other than the Hatzic Prairie FVRD Water deliveries already in place nor houses to be on Geotechnical endangered mountain/hill zones..."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Reduced enjoyment of life due to negative impacts to lifestyle."</i> • <i>"One of my sons will be unable to secure affordable housing for himself. He continues to reside with me."</i> • <i>"Concerns about adult children and grandchildren."</i> • <i>"Adult children with good careers are living at home because they cannot enter the ownership market."</i> • <i>"Families and seniors forced to live in an RV or trailer."</i> • <i>"We moved from the Fraser Valley to find more affordable housing."</i> • <i>"We had to go with a private "B" grade mortgage. Between the higher housing prices and the more expensive mortgage, we probably will need to work 5-10 years longer to be able to retire."</i> • <i>"My three grown children have good jobs and saved down payments but still cannot afford home ownership due to the current market conditions. Sales go fast and over asking price."</i> • <i>"Young adult grandchildren cannot find a safe place to live that they can afford and so are living in a place that is just not healthy"</i> • <i>"Living in my parent's basement suite"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"We moved to Alberta for about 4 years because housing costs were too high to be able to afford anything that was safe and comfortable."</i> • <i>"With rental and property prices continuing to skyrocket, I am essentially trapped in my current rental."</i> • <i>"Very sad to see so many people who are homeless in our community."</i> • <i>"Family members looking to leave region due to cost of living outstripping wages."</i> • <i>"Having to chose between retirement savings and helping adult children buy a home."</i> • <i>"Richer people can afford to buy the houses as holding properties so they can split into 2 lots in the future, meanwhile rent them to people who are not invested in the neighbourhood and don't look after the houses."</i> • <i>"Very difficult to find suitable housing at an affordable rent."</i> • <i>"Entire streets now have no trees, lawns are replaced with concrete or astro-turf, many, many driveways have been expanded, trees mutilated or removed, all greenery removed, sometimes replaced with rocks."</i> • <i>"The affordability and quality of available rental housing in the area is an issue."</i> • <i>"I have had to move in with family to afford to live."</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Litter, traffic and noise has increased significantly as people take on more renters in their homes"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"There is a bed bug infestation that threatens our affordable housing. If it spreads and we have to move, there are no other affordable alternatives - yet we both work."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"The affordability and quality of available rental housing in the area is an issue."</i>
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COSTS

- 117 comments were related to the cost of housing (rent, own, maintain)
- 26 comments were specifically related to cost of renting
- 54 comments were specifically related to the cost of home ownership

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Rising house prices has caused us to drastically change our future plans."</i> • <i>"We have had to move in with the in-laws to save costs."</i> • <i>"Additional costs, such as strata fees, property taxes, maintenance and repairs make owning a home difficult."</i> • <i>"Housing is too expensive."</i> • <i>"My son and his daughter have moved in with me as they now do not qualify to buy their own home, their family split up and now with just one income they cannot afford or qualify because of housing price increase and new qualifying rules. Very little faith in our country at this point."</i> • <i>"As a landlord my costs, taxes, and insurance have gone up far faster then rent. We can no longer provide lower cost rent we need much higher rent."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Home ownership grows further out of reach every year."</i> • <i>"Homeowners feel lucky or grateful, as entering the market now would be very difficult or impossible."</i> • <i>"Rent costs have skyrocketed and affordable housing is impossible to come by."</i> • <i>"My brother was only able to afford a home in the Fraser Valley because my parents helped him and his wife. They are both professionals with education and decent-paying jobs."</i> • <i>"Potential home buyers find it very difficult to compete with investors."</i> • <i>"I will never be able to afford a house."</i> • <i>"Approximately 50% of my income goes to rent right now, and I'm concerned rent will continue to increase at a rate that outpaces my wage increases."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Only place I could afford to buy a home was in Hope."</i> • <i>"Home ownership means long commutes to work."</i> • <i>"Too much development in the rural areas causing city/rural conflict, traffic congestion, etc."</i> • <i>"Increasing costs of home ownership is difficult for seniors on a fixed-income."</i> • <i>"I had to seriously overpay for my home because the market is out of control."</i> • <i>"The ridiculous rate of increase in house values is pushing property taxes through the roof."</i> • <i>"I know many people who are being priced out of the area or are unable to find a rental."</i> • <i>"Watching my staff and friends try to afford their RENT let alone being able to purchase their own home is alarmingly disheartening."</i> • <i>"No affordable homes with yards or outdoor spaces."</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I worry about affordability for my children." "Increased development might lose our small town feel." • "My family is of the privileged that can afford housing." • "Had to move outside of my community to afford housing." • "My family, continues to grow but we cannot afford to move to a bigger home." • "I have family members who are single with well-paying, stable jobs who do not qualify for mortgages." • "My mother and sister live with me because they cannot afford their own place." • "My children will not be able to own a home of any kind." • "The rural lifestyle should be valued and preserved" • "Transients using the bush. Theft and casing of property can make us feel unsafe at times." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We sold our house because developers offered us more for it than we thought it was worth. With that, we bought an acreage overlooking the lake in Powell River and have plans to build there." • "We own our home but the cost is very high." • "Our son hoped to move from Ontario back to BC, but even though a job opportunity is available and he would have an increase in salary he and his family cannot afford to live here." • "The government should regulate the housing market." • "Many people that live in this area have their little piece of heaven but don't want to share it with anyone else." • "How are we supposed to save money to purchase our own place one day when so much of our paycheque goes to rent and the cost of home ownership continues to climb well beyond the rate of inflation?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We have accepted the reality that we will be renters for a really long time. We are unable to purchase a home due to the cost to buy." • "Property taxes are too high." • "EXTREMELY HIGH cost of buying home for first time buyers and bank unwilling to give loans. EXTREMELY HIGH price to rent ANYTHING with so many rules (no pets etc) also next TO NOTHING to rent and; if u do, u pay \$\$\$\$\$!!" • "We can't afford to move to a larger town" • "Costs for seniors to live on their own is too high." • "Our friends are moving away because they can't afford to live here." • "Rising housing costs make it extremely challenging to find affordable housing, particularly single family housing, for middle class and lower income families."
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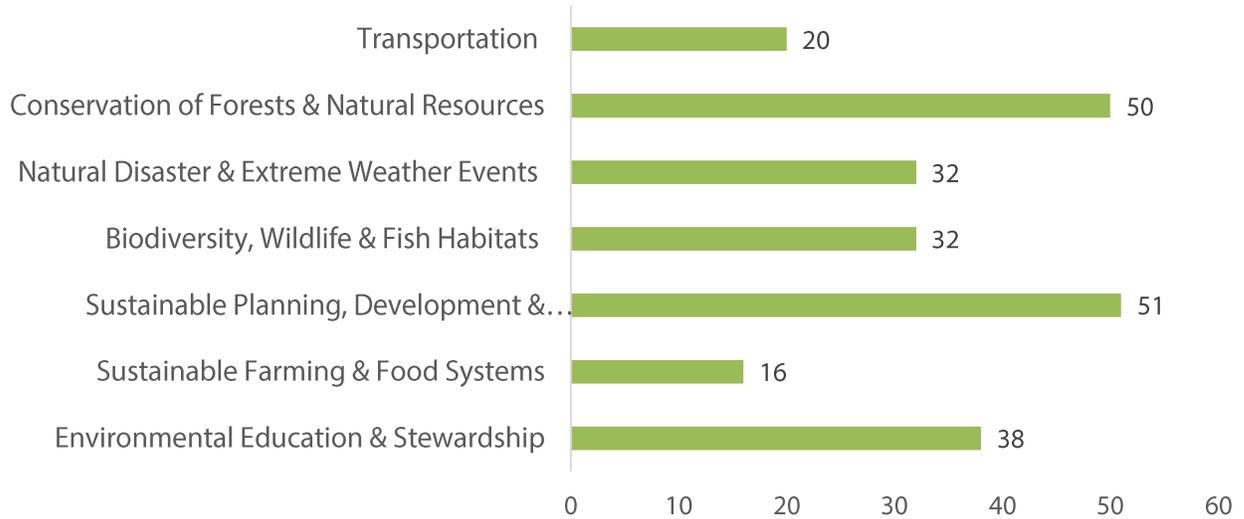
UNMET NEEDS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I would like to downsize to 50+ or seniors townhouse or condos, but there are none." • "Would be nice to see more variety in housing to help bridge the gap between condo living and large single family homes." • "It is now very difficult to find a smaller house." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "My mother in law is unable to find a condo in her price range." • "The FVRD doesn't allow carriage homes on our property because it is only 3/4 acre. This needs to change." • "Was promised good housing when we moved to this country. Quality is very poor." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Very difficult to find housing or rentals that accepts children and pets unless able to afford a detached house which most single parent families and new families cannot." • "All public housing focuses on homeless, seniors and families but not those on disability."

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"There are just not enough homes in the Fraser Valley, specifically Abbotsford. There is plenty of land that can be rezoned to for more housing."</i> • <i>"Family members live in a space that is too small due to unaffordability of a suitable space."</i> • <i>"We have lived in some extremely unsuitable suites in the past, simply because there was nothing more suitable available."</i> • <i>"I cannot find a single family home without stairs that is not a strata."</i> • <i>"I can't find a decent place to live, with or without a roommate."</i> • <i>"We need more appropriately sized, affordable housing (apartments, micro-apartments, tiny homes, small homes (800-1000sqf)."</i> • <i>"FVRD should allow carriage, laneway houses and secondary suites to increase housing available, while concurrently ensuring services are upgraded to ensure the environment is protected."</i> • <i>"It is hard to find places that will accept pets, even when you own the place. Pet restrictions should not be allowed when you own your own home."</i> • <i>"Finding a strata that allows dogs is hard."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Not enough rentals."</i> • <i>"We need a variety of housing, including housing for seniors who might wish to live in the area or stay living in their home owned or rented. Tiny home communities are also worth considering."</i> • <i>"My partner has two kids and rents. The owners sold her previous place and she had to find a new rental unit. Her options were extremely limited. While she was fortunate to find a place, it is not in a very safe neighborhood. The unit is not very well maintained and yet her rent is still very expensive."</i> • <i>"We live on acreage and would have to go through a two year long very expensive process to get lawful approval for a basement suite or carriage home. It's no wonder there is a housing crisis!"</i> • <i>"Affordable housing means that it is falling apart and unsafe."</i> • <i>"Lack of family-sized housing."</i> • <i>"I would like to add a one bedroom coach house in near future for alternative housing for aging at home and multi generational housing."</i> • <i>"My mobility has gotten worse, but I cannot move from my home which has many stairs because of affordability."</i> • <i>"I cannot find anywhere to rent in the District of Kent."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"We need more homes and we need them now."</i> • <i>"SO many single family homes and townhomes are being built while seniors, those living with disability, students, single parents and those living on minimum wage jobs are struggling."</i> • <i>"Trying to get a Geotech costly and house is non conforming and no support from FVRD on how to navigate the system big business would have an easier time"</i> • <i>"My son cannot find accessible accommodation, so he lives in an apartment with no wheelchair ramps. We can't help them buy a suitable place because there are no affordable, accessible properties in Chilliwack"</i> • <i>"Our daughter with disability cannot find public housing in our community or afford the price of rentals. She has had to live in a car when she could not find a living space and lives in fear of rental rates rising and being out on the street."</i> • <i>"Very difficult to find safe suitable accommodation for a family of four. Currently renting month to month not very healthy for a family very distressing."</i> • <i>"Low supply is causing housing prices to rise and become unaffordable."</i>
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Q18. Are there other environmental issues and/or climate change issues not identified in this list that are of importance to you?

The following graph is based on 148 written responses with comments relating to one or more topics, ideas or themes.

MENTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES NOT INCLUDED IN QUESTION 17



The following tables contain a sample of comments related to climate change or environmental issues not included in question 17.

CONSERVATION OF FORESTS & NATURAL RESOURCES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 comments related to the conservation and management of forests • 16 comments related to the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"We have some of the most beautiful land, mountains, lakes, rivers in the world but we have no plan to protect them for future generations."</i> • <i>"It would nice to see a shift from natural resource extraction to environmental conservation."</i> • <i>"Improved protection of our natural areas (from pollution, natural resource extraction, etc.)"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Gravel extraction and quarries needs to be better regulated, mining regulations at the provincial level are very outdated and do not take environmental or indigenous interests into account. Local zoning bylaws might be able to prevent some unwanted local environmental destruction."</i> • <i>"Forestry and mining the trails (like Sumas Mountain)."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"There is too much logging in our area. Chilliwack Lake road is a world-class recreation destination, and it is heavily logged. It should be protected and managed properly."</i> • <i>"Forest management to help reduce or manage the impacts of forest fires should be a priority, especially considering all the backcountry activity in this area."</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Trans mountain pipeline will destroy environment and threaten us with potential spills. It is going backwards at a time when we need to work towards a sustainable, green future.”</i> • <i>“Stop logging and aggregate mining in residential areas and recycle existing gravel and logs.</i> • <i>“How can forested areas and trees be supported and preserved to prevent wild fires, preserve our local flora and fauna (including beneficial bugs and birds) and allow them to help manage heat and break the wind in urban areas?”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Forestry, so many trees are being logged which affects air quality, drainage, animal life, etc. This is not only on crown land but private property. “</i> • <i>“Forest management to help reduce or manage the impacts of forest fires should be a priority, especially considering all the backcountry activity in this area.”</i> • <i>“Improved protection of our natural areas (from pollution, natural resource extraction, etc)”</i> • <i>“Restrict logging on local properties and on MOF CLEARCUTS TO ONLY BE “SELECTIVE” IE ENDANGERED BATS...”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Better regulation on quarry, gravel as harmful blasting dust / rock dust destroy our air quality. This rock dust lands on our trees and house. Makes lungs cough worse from this dust problem.”</i> • <i>Quarries also impact our quality of life, the blasts shaking our houses, scaring livestock, dust, air quality.”</i> • <i>“Conservation and planting of more trees. Too many trees being cut down in Abbotsford.”</i> • <i>“Protecting Old Growth Forests (where we have them in this region).”</i> • <i>“Preservation of natural resources and forests.”</i>
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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & STEWARDSHIP

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 comments mentioned environmental education and stewardship • 15 comments related to sustainable tourism and recreation use • 9 comments related to illegal dumping or littering • 2 comments related to Indigenous environmental perspective or management 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“The more people out this way means more potential garbage in our streams affecting our fish and even swimming children.”</i> • <i>“Protect lakes, Cultus Lake in particular from fuel pollution. too many boats on the water! “</i> • <i>“Improved quality of land management...raising awareness of negative human impacts on the land (farms, forests, parks).”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Unfortunately, I do not think that the City/Region has many options to alter the poor environmental stewardship of the population. “</i> • <i>“Mass homeless camps and the destruction of the environment, left behind garbage and human waste that comes with them all along salmon spawning areas on the Chilliwack River.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Would like to teach people to respect for the land, water, and animals - I think camping helps with this - especially for young people. This would in turn helps prevent forest fires, helps promote cleaning up after one's self. Bring back Smokey the Bear. :-)”</i> • <i>“Indigenous environmental perspectives.”</i> • <i>“Motorized access to backcountry needs to be restricted/regulated.”</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Burning of plastic and electronic devices along river to extract cooper and the poor air quality that it produces." "Pollution and the increase of littering."</i> • <i>"With rapid population growth natural spaces are increasingly heavily used. That use needs to be managed to protect habitat for fish and wildlife. Not just 4x4s and off-road vehicles but foot traffic and dogs."</i> • <i>"Education and buy-in from residents/visitors."</i> • <i>"Garbage being illegally dumped in the trail network of the Chilliwack River Valley, especially during the busy summer months. Perhaps handing out hefty fines will do the trick."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"The best thing about Chilliwack is access to hikes in the Chilliwack River Valley and the Elk-Thurston- -Gloria loop. I have been avoiding the more popular hikes the past two summers as they are overused and sadly, people leave a lot of garbage behind."</i> • <i>"Education for natural area/park users (ie littering, damaging areas, dogs off-leash, etc)."</i> • <i>"The influx of wild animals into the area since all the building of new subdivisions needs to be addressed by educating people how to get along with animals that were here first."</i> • <i>"Large number of homeless living out of there vehicles in the bush and leaving garbage everywhere."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Why does people's pleasure craft take priority over the health of the people and our natural resources?"</i> • <i>"Education!! Marketing! Accountability!"</i> • <i>"Managing detrimental land uses in backcountry areas by unsuitable forms of recreation and Industry."</i> • <i>"We have at least 4 species at risk on our property. We are worried that with all the properties selling and people from large cities moving in that they do not know how to protect trees, habitat, and wildlife or understand their importance."</i> • <i>"The environment will get cleaned up when society accepts a lower consumer society. BIG Gov't will never encourage low consumerism."</i>
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SUSTAINABLE FARMING & FOOD SYSTEMS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 comments related to the protection of farmland, sustainable farming practices, the need to reduce the environmental impacts of farming, and food security 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Sustainable agricultural practices and need to shift to plant-based food systems, as livestock husbandry is a leading factor in climate change and habitat and biodiversity loss."</i> • <i>"Improvement in farming practices - more organics! Ban harmful chemicals that poison our food and environment."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Overuse of ALR for greenhouses; this prime farmland should be used for traditional farming and food production. Greenhouses can be placed anywhere and should not take away from designated agricultural land."</i> • <i>"Factory farming and fur farms are very bad for the environment and need to end."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Requiring solar panels and greener building practices is paramount to a healthy city. Mandatory electric vehicle charging stations in homes and apartments, green roofs, more reliable public transportation options and dealing with farm waste are all concerns for our family."</i> • <i>"Protection of waterways from farm effluent runoff."</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Invasive plant management better farm practices regarding water and fertilizers and pesticides.”</i> • <i>“Food sustainability and access. Local food systems.”</i> • <i>“Food Production: How will it be effected by increase heat, increase urbanization, a change is rain patterns. Increase urbanization will also cause increased heat in the city how will people cope.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I believe that the Fraser Valley should be industry leaders in agri-tech research and development to ensure our region is able to adapt to climate change and ensure food security. Current global supply chain practices are unsustainable, and our response to that should be proactive, not reactive.”</i> • <i>“Protection of farmland for food security and sustainability.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Prevent the extraction and diversion of ground water from ALR areas where existing users have no other source of water.”</i> • <i>“The effects of Fraser Valley Farming is a concern to possible effects of nitrogen and phosphorus from farming fertilization air pollution on Cultus Lake and its watershed as well as possibly on the Cultus Lake Sockeye and unique Cultus Pygmy Skulpin.”</i>
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SUSTAINABLE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & BUILDING PRACTICES

- 21 comments related to sustainable development practices
- 4 comments related sustainable building practices
- 12 comments were about the protecting or adding green space
- 14 comments related to urban or residential tree management

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Improving building codes to build better and more energy-efficient homes built with the ability to accommodate renewable power sources (ie. wind, solar).”</i> • <i>“We need to preserve our forests by developing up and putting limits on business permits that propose developments take away forests or green/farm land.”</i> • <i>“The conservation of park/natural areas while the city expands its city limits.”</i> • <i>“Save the trees. City Council have allowed developers to cut down mature trees all over the city.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“The list does not address development rules that allow inadequate 5m buffer zones on watercourses for housing/commercial/industrial even when endangered species are involved.”</i> • <i>“Heat mitigation, green roofs, increased canopy over streets, use of lighter road materials.”</i> • <i>“Cutting down forests around the towns instead of building houses/apartments in town.”</i> • <i>“Shade structures in parks and playgrounds. Enforce planting plenty of trees in all new developments to increase shade and lower temperatures.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Requiring solar panels and greener building practices is paramount to a healthy city. Mandatory electric vehicle charging stations in homes and apartments and green roofs.”</i> • <i>“Impacts of high density housing, crowded streets, poor strategies for planning sub community amenities such as green space, outdoor courts, bike lanes, play fields and grounds and safe access of play areas for kids.”</i> • <i>“The developers have been sanctioned by city planners to create stressful crowded living conditions in recent years.”</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"We should develop upwards (add to buildings) not outwards. We need to be more contentious of our wild friends, they have a right to live free of distress and starvation too."</i> • <i>"More neighborhood parks."</i> • <i>"We need to protect green spaces and how they are managed even if those green spaces are on private land. I have long believed we need a tree cutting and tree management strategy in neighbourhoods and the region. I also believe we need green covenants established and managed on public and private lands"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Development is extremely upsetting to us. There are too many housing or gravel pits or other developments that cause urban sprawl to go out which pushes wildlife out of there ecosystems."</i> • <i>"Green spaces / diversity of natural areas and tree cover."</i> • <i>"More street trees are needed in Agassiz. Large asphalt areas e.g. parking lots need redevelopment to include trees, greenspace, and leisure space in addition to their intended use."</i> • <i>"What are the region's SPECIFIC plans to meet the Paris Agreement targets for 2030 and 2050?"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Things like rooftop gardens/greenery should become mandatory at the municipal level for future planning, as well as maintaining adequate greenery."</i> • <i>"Maintaining parks, natural areas (trees, wilderness, etc) within the FVRD, especially as urban areas turn to more and more densification. "</i> • <i>"Preservation of green space a concern."</i> • <i>"Seeing more trees planted in our communities.... provision for places where people of all ages can easily enjoy the outdoors regardless of where their home is located."</i>
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BIODIVERSITY, WILDLIFE & FISH HABITATS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 comments were about the protection of biodiversity, wildlife, and fish habitats 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Wildlife and habitat conservation beyond just rivers, streams and lakes."</i> • <i>"Impact of development on nature, wildlife natural habitat."</i> • <i>"This list does not address biodiversity crisis and identification of important natural areas and corridors for wildlife that should be protected from housing and recreational impacts."</i> • <i>"Depleted and damaged fish habitat."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"All of our environmental resources are habitat for fish, wildlife, and insects. We are destroying habitat at incredible rates. I bet there will be no salmon in the lower Fraser Valley in my lifetime and I'm already old."</i> • <i>"The destruction of salmon and sturgeon spawning areas in the rivers."</i> • <i>"Salmon protection, Indigenous environmental perspectives." "The impacts on our fish."</i> • <i>"Invasive species, Habitat loss"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Wildlife and ecosystems conservation including forests."</i> • <i>"Protection of wildlife and habitat."</i> • <i>"We need to be more contentious of our wild friends, they have a right to live free of distress and starvation too. Everything in nature has a purpose and when we keep pushing away and causing death to species, it will affect other parts of the ecosystem. It will not be as healthy."</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Inadequate 5m buffer zones on watercourses for housing, commercial and industrial land, even when endangered species are involved."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Endangered species on private property need legal preservation as well as endangered frogs crossing on our local roads."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Wildlife management. I think predators (cougars and coyotes) belong in their environment, not in human neighborhoods."</i>
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NATURAL DISASTER & EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

- 32 comments related to natural disasters or extreme weather events, such as wildfires, droughts, flooding, heat islands, and heat domes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"The city has to plan preventive measures for the wildfires for the coming years rather than destroying our beautiful trees and ecosystem."</i> • <i>"Where does the region stand with preparedness on natural disasters?"</i> • <i>"Heat waves."</i> • <i>"Change in flood management and forest fire management since this will need to be addressed with a changing climate."</i> • <i>"We need more fire smarting like they do in the Yukon."</i> • <i>"Dust. Smoke from wildfires."</i> • <i>"It is related climate change, but forest fire mitigation and resourcing. It affects the air quality in the Fraser Valley."</i> • <i>"Potential coastal water level increase and flooding concerns."</i> • <i>"Improved flood protection."</i> • <i>"The forest fires that are moving closer to the FVRD are very concerning."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"We can expect increasing frequency of landslides, debris flows and the like with more abrupt temperature swings and more intense precipitation events. Infrastructure and response to these events will need to be improved to match."</i> • <i>"Forest fire preparation."</i> • <i>"Drought: Is there a plan to capture large quantities of water to manage cycles of drought?"</i> • <i>"Natural disaster response strategy."</i> • <i>"Yes, if there is a forest fire, we will be trapped where we live in Lindell Beach. There is no secondary road or way to escape if there is a fire at the lake. We would have to be air lifted or drive right through the fire and risk getting hurt to escape the fire."</i> • <i>"During wildfires facilities need to be made available for the evacuees."</i> • <i>"Danger from wild fires and flooding."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I think the Covid pandemic had demonstrated that building sense of community and trust in institutions is needed to improve resiliency for whatever stresses impact the region."</i> • <i>"Wind: Is our power system and our urban structures being built to withstand increased wind speeds?"</i> • <i>"Tree removal in Abbotsford is resulting in heat islands."</i> • <i>"I was very concerned during the extreme heat in the summer about the vulnerable populations, elderly especially. I think more could have been done to spread awareness to citizens to keep elders safe, instead of so many dying from overheating."</i> • <i>"Wind: Is our power system and our urban structures being built to withstand increased wind speeds?"</i> • <i>"Flash Flooding: How are the urban landscapes being built to manage large quantities of rain at one time?"</i>
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IMPROVEMENTS TO TRANSPORTATION

- 20 comments related to greener mode of transit and personal automotive vehicles

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Vehicle traffic pollution increases, as does driving time given outdated road infrastructure."</i> • <i>"Making our area more bike-friendly should be a priority as well. We live in an area where most people could bike year-round, just like in Victoria and Vancouver. It would reduce the stress on the roads during peak hours, promote health and promote a healthy-minded culture."</i> • <i>"Better transit options to make vehicle travel less attractive."</i> • <i>"While BC is pushing people to start buying electric vehicles, those remain high in price. So many people have to stick with gas-powered vehicles."</i> • <i>"Improved access to rapid transit. Affordable alternatives to gas-powered vehicles."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"An effective and affordable public transportation system is key to addressing environmental issues and climate change. The Eastern end of the FVRD is sadly lacking in both."</i> • <i>"Making electric cars more affordable."</i> • <i>"We need more options for transit within the region and for people commuting to outside the region."</i> • <i>"Improved public transit: Bring back the electric rail system from Chilliwack to Vancouver. Extend the West coast rail to Agassiz, more funding to existing bus service."</i> • <i>"We need more EV charging stations and better public transportation."</i> • <i>"Too many traffic jams result in a lot of unnecessary pollution."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Green transportation!!!!!"</i> • <i>"Public transportation is near nil and MUST be improved."</i> • <i>"I see the future of vehicles going to electric/hybrid, but feel that with the total congestion that Hwy #1 is and the continual stop and go traffic, that can't possibly help the environment."</i> • <i>"Better and cleaner transit."</i> • <i>"Transportation within the Fraser valley. Often we go from hope to chilliwack to get groceries because it's cheaper. But that doesn't help emissions."</i> • <i>"FVRD has a high reliance on commuting. We need to bring something like the old BC electric rail line into action to facilitate environmentally friendly transit."</i> • <i>"We need to get people out of the cars, but need viable options."</i>
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The following tables provide a sample of comments, which are representative of the topics, themes and ideas included in the 173 essay style responses to question eighteen.

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE CONCERNS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 comments related to natural disasters • 30 comments related to extreme weather and temperatures • 26 comments related to wildfires • 12 comments related to concerns about air quality • 8 comments related to concerns about quality of drinking water • 8 comments related to flooding • 7 comments related to emergency preparedness • 4 comments related to drought 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Yes, we are in an existential crisis and if we do not lower our carbon footprint NOW the severe climate events will continue to accelerate."</i> • <i>"Concerns for evacuees as we have an increasing number of fires over the years. They need help and support to get back on their feet; perhaps relocate permanently."</i> • <i>"Very, the recent fire season and extreme hot temperatures shows what we can expect for the future."</i> • <i>"I worry about extremely hot summer weather and lack of electricity in winters due to bigger storms."</i> • <i>"I worry about the future of weather. The heat dome was an unpleasant wake up call."</i> • <i>"Yes, it is hard to be positive about the future when our forests are burning down."</i> • <i>"We will eventually be in danger of frequent fires in the FVRD."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Yes. You would have to be stupid to not see how floods and fires are a result of climate change. We need to protect our planet NOW, we don't have a choice."</i> • <i>"All we can do is prepare for what plausible outcomes may arise (flooding, extreme weather, etc) so that the impact can be minimized where practicable."</i> • <i>"It's getting hotter each year and the air quality is getting worse. Thinking if it continues to move farther inland."</i> • <i>"Our quality of life will continue to erode to the point that we won't be able to be outside much if at all."</i> • <i>"I evacuated from Fort McMurray's wildfire in 2016. I suffer from PTSD and never want to relive anything like that again in my life. Yet, Lytton burnt to the ground in June. Educate!"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Yes. I believe we will continue to have harsher winters and warmer summers with drastic swings in climate, resulting in more forest fires and drought. The FVRD should plan and save for disastrous events such as these."</i> • <i>"Yes, I'm more concerned about living in a weather-proof house, away from fire and flood hazards, and insulated against extreme heat or cold."</i> • <i>"Unstable weather, be it storms or heat domes, will require adaptation. I am optimistic that we will come up with solutions if we choose to recognize the problems."</i> • <i>"Climate Change is a major issue 2021 was a very hot dry summer. Smoke from wildfires travelled to our area from Shuswap and Alberta."</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Yes. We had two scares with fires this year. If the fire seasons continue to get worse, we will have move because we do not want to be trapped in our home."</i> • <i>"Yes. I'm concerned that we aren't at all prepared for droughts, floods, heat, smoke, etc."</i> • <i>"We live on the south side of Chilliwack Mountain and are worried about drought and forest fires in the future."</i> • <i>"Yes. Our entire society is built around what we expect from our climate (transportation, flood management, outdoor recreation, fire management, safe housing). A changing climate means will have an impact on our entire society."</i> • <i>"There is too much carbon in the atmosphere already, tipping points are being passed. We need to acknowledge this and take action to mitigate suffering."</i> • <i>"There will be no future if we do not act now to transition to a sustainable economy."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Due to geographical constraints, Chilliwack is going to remain on the lower side of air quality while Metro Van will be less impacted during those warm summers. I am questioning living here because of this."</i> • <i>"The Fraser River and Coquihalla River levels continue to rise threatening the community. A plan is needed to deal with the situation."</i> • <i>"My outlook on the future feels somewhat pessimistic, as each year brings more extreme temperatures, uncontrollable wildfires, and agricultural difficulties which affect food supply."</i> • <i>"A repeat of the heat dome and the subsequent terrible fire season make us very nervous. I think both of these will occur again and probably get worse."</i> • <i>"Air pollution in the summer just keeps getting worse."</i> • <i>"I'm afraid of running out of water despite our efforts to conserve. I'm worried about forest fires in our area."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Yes, forest fires. We don't have fire hydrants in our area."</i> • <i>"We are looking for information on how to protect our home and trees around our home from fire."</i> • <i>"No amount of change to improve Chilliwack air quality will matter if smog from Vancouver keeps coming."</i> • <i>"Yes, increased risk of flooding and wildfires impact our outdoors and recreation opportunities, environment, and flora and fauna."</i> • <i>"What about the climate emergency and the droughts and heat waves? What is the evacuation plan for Cultus Lake when the forest catches fire? It's just a matter of time-how will we get out?"</i> • <i>"Yes, I'm concerned for the rising cost of utilities, and the safety of our home and health of our family from changing weather (ie. air quality, floods and forest fires)."</i> • <i>"The wild fires are a huge concern."</i>
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CONCERN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 23 comments related to concerns about future generations or young people

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Our children's children suffer at the loss of natural environments."</i> • <i>"I am losing hope that my children will have a clean and healthy world to grow up in."</i> • <i>"Not concerned for me but my grandchildren's future is of a great concern."</i> • <i>"Very much so. I worry about the world the younger generations will live in. I do not know how we will adapt to constant high summer temperatures."</i> • <i>"Our lack of motivation, urgency, innovation, and ACTION NOW will be devastating for future generations. We are destroying our health and natural environment for our children and their children-why?"</i> • <i>"Yes. I believe in my children's lifetime, our world will be inhabitable for humans."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"My concern is for future generations."</i> • <i>"Yes, it makes me fearful for the mental health of our youth when no one is addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis and it is business as usual"</i> • <i>"I'm concerned for my children and grandchildren having homes, green spaces, clean air, water etc."</i> • <i>"We need to save this world for our future generation by preserving lots of natural resources as our older generations did."</i> • <i>"I worry for the future environmental issues for my five children and seven grandchildren."</i> • <i>"My children think we will all be dead from climate change before we see 2050 so that's disheartening."</i> • <i>"Climate change will affect the ability for our children to enjoy the seasons."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I fear that climate change will negatively affect the life of my grandchildren."</i> • <i>"Absolutely - I am extremely concerned re the impact of climate change on future generations including the lives of my adult children."</i> • <i>"Yes. I am increasingly concerned of what the environment of the FVRD (and BC Canada, the planet) will be like in coming generations, the ability to adapt, even survive. Certainly, those future generations will face challenges beyond what we experience today."</i> • <i>"Yes. I am especially concerned for the future of my four children."</i> • <i>"How will my future family even get to live in this world?"</i> • <i>"It's concerning all around for future generations, they deserve clean air/water without increasing their debt load."</i>
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CONCERNS ABOUT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- 14 comments to related the impacts to biodiversity, wildlife and fish habitats
- 8 comments related to impacts to rivers, streams and lakes

- *"I am not at all optimistic. The list of impacts from climate and environmental degradation is long and getting worse."*
- *"The environment is at the top of the food chain for me."*
- *"There are several endangered animal species and with the logging and increasing the quarries it causes loss of habitat for these animals."*
- *"The Vedder River has a tremendous amount of pressure on it."*
- *"I am very concerned about the future of this world as it impacts life. There will be huge changes to the way people and other animals and plants live and I hope it doesn't become a desperate fight for resources won by the strongest, best armed, or most strategic people. I worry that there will not be a communal approach to resource sharing."*

- *"Yes. The state of the environment and how it looks to be progressing is very distressing to us. We often have a heavy heart thinking about how animals and the environment all over, everywhere are being disrespected and/or no/very little care is made to help preserve these things. All the garbage along country roads, the ocean, lakes, etc. and climbing temperatures are causing irrefutable damage. We feel extremely alarmed and heartbroken."*
- *"The FVRD is shaped by our access to the outdoors. With the onset of climate change, the continual population growth and destruction of local forests, the outdoor experience that the FVRD offers to residents and tourists will be no more - unless we have positive change."*
- *"Very concerned. Our over-heated summers are causing the death of trees and wildlife."*

- *"Yes. Changes to the Fraser River and Nicomen Slough impacts as a result of bank hardening, sediment build up caused by forestry, and impact to salmon spawning habitats."*
- *"Yes. I am afraid of running out of water despite our efforts to conserve. I am worried about forest fires in our area. I'm worried about fish, rivers and streams."*
- *"I am worried about our rivers and oceans and the impact on salmon fishing."*
- *"Oh yes, I was traumatized by the heat dome earlier this summer, watched birds dying, all vegetation and animals suffering and struggling and experienced heat stroke myself. I believe that all decisions from now on have to be seen and decided upon with climate change/global warming issues in mind."*

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND ACTION

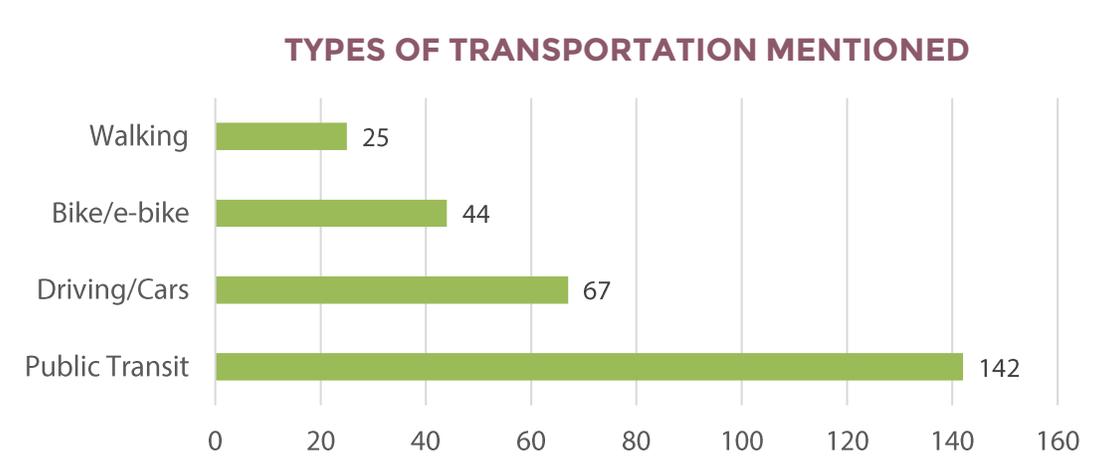
- 14 comments related to the need for increased government action

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I will be looking to move (or emigrate) to a region that is leading on climate change and sustainability, as well as inclusive and progressive governance."</i> • <i>"Greater care by individuals and business operations is needed. BC gov't needs more safety air/climate change regulations on factories, CBD growers, quarries, gravel pits especially on the harmful rock dust to area homes locally, etc."</i> • <i>"Of course! I am very concerned about continuing impact on the environment of our current lifestyles. I am concerned that we will soon be at the point of no return, and we need to act immediately to stop/reverse the destruction of the earth."</i> • <i>"It is the number one issue of our times. I am not hopeful that we, as a society, will act with the urgency that is needed. What is needed is urgent action by everyone."</i> • <i>"I feel hopeless when I think about how little is being done in my community to combat the climate crisis."</i> • <i>"Climate change - we may not be able to control, but pollution we definitely can."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Absolutely. We are are damaging this planet at a record pace. If we don't act decisively, a 30 year plan for growth will be pointless."</i> • <i>"I would hope we will move to a society of "0" waste as we build a circular economy, use our human waste in productive ways and learn not to have excess. A culture change is required but how will that happen if not through dialogue and leadership in all levels of government and society. "</i> • <i>"The worst is yet to come and not nearly enough people are taking steps to reduce their impact."</i> • <i>"If it is too much trouble to recycle, younger people will just throw strafoam, jars and batteries in the trash."</i> • <i>"I am not too hopeful about the future. Strategies to decrease green house gases are not being implemented quickly enough."</i> • <i>"Yes, but it is about finding a balance. Switching to green energy too rapidly will increase cost-of-living and cost good-paying jobs and tax benefits, and without a global approach, what we do at the local, provincial, federal level won't make a dent."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I do not believe that governments are doing enough to try and prevent catastrophic climate change. At this point, it is too late. There is too much carbon in the atmosphere already, tipping points are being passed. We need to acknowledge this and take action to mitigate suffering."</i> • <i>"Both elected officials and public employees must take a leadership role- communicate what is at stake and make a plan to address it...pollution, waste management, recycling , overpopulation etc."</i> • <i>"My outlook is a little bleak if we take immediate, sustained, and detailed action. By "we" I mean each individual in our region needs to take action. How can the district help? By constructing, tweaking, and overseeing bylaws to support those individual actions."</i> • <i>"We are facing an environmental and climate emergency and need to prioritize environmental preservation and climate action above all else. All other policies need to come under this lens."</i> • <i>"Political parties should be held responsible."</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“More selective tree removal to allow strong healthy trees to thrive. The people in Cultus Lake are going to get wiped out by forest fires or unhealthy forest fungus because they use the trees as a catalyst to stop people from coming here.”</i> • <i>“Strategies to decrease green house gases are not being implemented quickly enough. Environmental changes are coming faster than expected. Without broad public education and discussion on the needs of the present to make a better future there will be social unrest. If government can support people in making those changes, now then government will save money later.”</i> • <i>“Having municipal curbside pickup and recycling would be a huge benefit to the District Of Kent. I believe, it would encourage people to do a lot more to recycle, including compost.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“These concerns have impacted our outlook for over 20 years. Being concerned about the environment and keeping up to date in the state of the environment, and observing the changes in that period of time, with the expanding population - I wonder when the FVRD will change building codes etc. to encourage smaller and more environmental new housing?”</i> • <i>Environmental changes are coming faster than expected. Without broad public education and discussion on the needs of the present to make a better future there will be social unrest. If government can support people in making those changes now, they will save money later.”</i> • <i>“Yes, we are in an existential crisis and if we do not lower our carbon footprint NOW the severe climate events will continue and accelerate.”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I feel that BC is on track to prepare for climate change "in general," but Chilliwack is at the mercy of the rest of the province to do the right thing. We will do our part, but to be successful the rest of the province has to as well. In other words, no amount of change to improve Chilliwack air quality will matter if smog from Vancouver keeps coming.</i> • <i>“Although my concerns at this time are more to do with the economy, especially housing; It is a concern to me that people are still treating parts of natural spaces like their own personal dumping ground and that there are still a lot of people who aren't recycling. With all the places available for recycling, there is no excuse not to.”</i>
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Q23: What improvement(s) to transportation systems in the FVRD should be prioritized?

The following summary is based on 239 written responses, with comments relating to one or more topics, ideas or themes.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Many comments related to current bus systems were in connection to notable gaps in scheduling, frequency, and routes for both local, regional, and inter-regional travel. Some respondents reported living in 'public transit deserts,' where public transit was simply not an option. This was especially a concern for seniors, students, and those who could not afford to travel by car. Criticisms of current bus systems were based on personal experience as well as perception. Many respondents demonstrated a strong support for establishing rapid transit in the region, especially for the purpose of travel into Metro Vancouver, as well as to connect communities within the region. Some respondents felt rapid transit was the only way to get commuters out of their cars, as it provided not only an alternative to driving, but a superior travel experience. Many considered rapid transit to be the most environmentally sustainable mode of transportation.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Many respondents felt that the expansion of Highway 1 needed to be prioritized, while others felt that expanding the highway only encouraged people to continue driving cars. Comments related to public transit, as well as driving a personal vehicle were often linked to the desire to reduce commuter traffic on highway 1. Several comments related to concerns about the inadequacy of transportation infrastructure in the event of an emergency or natural disaster, including Highway 7 and routes to Cultus Lake and Columbia Valley. It should be noted that these concerns were expressed before the highly destructive Atmospheric River events of November 13 to December 2, 2021. These events confirmed these concerns and exposed the vulnerability of the region's transportation infrastructure to climate change-driven events.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

There was considerable support for electric vehicles, as well as a desire to increase the number of charging stations available for public use, and the need to build new homes with electric vehicles in mind.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Active modes of transportation, such as walking and cycling were frequently cited as preferred forms of local travel, both for commuting and leisure, with a desire for improved safety, accessibility and connectivity. Concerns about safety were more often in reference to active modes of transportation than other modes. In fact, safety often prevented respondents from cycling to work or in specific areas due to the risks of cycling alongside vehicle traffic.

RURAL NEEDS

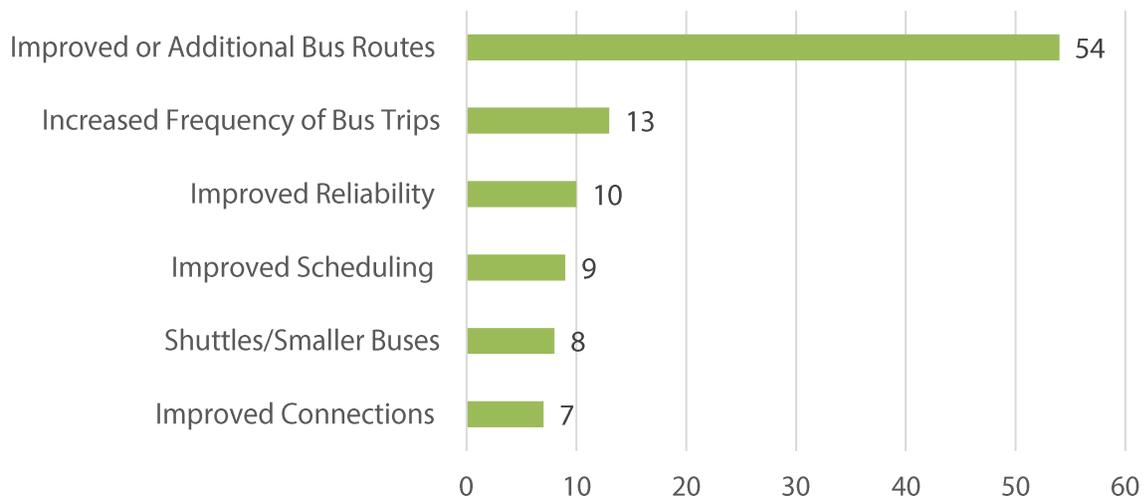
A lack of public transportation was the most notable theme in reference to rural areas, which inhibited access to amenities and health services, contributed to isolation, created a reliance on driving, and contributed to other hardships, mostly seniors, students and those with lower incomes.

The following tables represent the topics, themes and ideas included in the 239 essay style responses, sorted into the themes identified above.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73 comments about public transit were specifically to buses 67 comments about public transit were in support of some form of rapid transit 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Improve or add additional bus routes."</i> <i>"Infrequent runs/trips make for long wait times."</i> <i>"The current bus system is unreliable."</i> <i>"Public transit needs to do a better job at connecting communities."</i> <i>"There is no public transit in my area."</i> <i>"No public transit options, equals a reliance on expensive taxi services"</i> <i>"Expand the West Coast Express schedule and route."</i> <i>"Hire more bus drivers."</i> <i>"Buses should be electric, or hydrogen powered."</i> <i>"Transit routes that are frequent enough that using</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Transportation infrastructure needs to keep up to development</i> <i>"Current infrastructure supports travel by car and fails pedestrians."</i> <i>"Rapid transit is needed for Vancouver to Abbotsford, Chilliwack or Hope."</i> <i>"Need for high-speed modes of public transit."</i> <i>Need to get people from Metro Vancouver to FVRD more quickly</i> <i>"Improved public transit connections."</i> <i>"Bus drivers need to be more professional and provide more reliable service."</i> <i>"More buses going to Vancouver."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Buses are too large for the current demand."</i> <i>"Unreliable service impacts university students."</i> <i>"Maybe smaller buses/vans that can be booked like an uber, therefor being more responsive to public need."</i> <i>"Enhanced transit is needed for people with mobility issues."</i> <i>"There is no transportation in my community, unless you own a car."</i> <i>"No public transit is a real problem, especially for those who don't drive."</i> <i>"A comprehensive understanding of what potential transit users need/want" is needed to get people out of cars."</i>

<p><i>transit doesn't take so much longer than driving."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Utilize existing rail tracks to provide passenger rail."</i> • <i>"Improved collaboration in public sector needed."</i> • <i>"Bus driver retention requires improved bus drive wages."</i> • <i>"The bus 'feels' unsafe."</i> • <i>"Direct routes needed to Vancouver."</i> • <i>"High quality, comfortable train systems (like the West Coast Express)."</i> • <i>"Safe and accessible transit for children."</i> • <i>"Improved access to skytrain."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Make bus service more convenient."</i> • <i>"Safe, accessible public transportation should be available to all."</i> • <i>"I have had negative experiences taking the bus."</i> • <i>"Smaller buses in rural areas or (for less popular routes) more fuel efficient."</i> • <i>"Increase taxes to pay for high-speed public transit."</i> • <i>"Bus system is unreliable; rail to the city would be very welcome."</i> • <i>"Reduce the cost of taking public transit."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Make public transit accessible 24/hours a day."</i> • <i>"I worry that if self driving cars are not available and there is no transit I will have to move!"</i> • <i>"Shuttle service in tourist areas to reduce traffic and parking issues."</i> • <i>"I could work on the train rather than wasting 2 hours a day in my car."</i> • <i>"Bussing needed in First Nation's communities."</i> • <i>"Taking the bus alone is not feasible for those who are very ill or elderly."</i>
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COMMENTS ABOUT BUSES

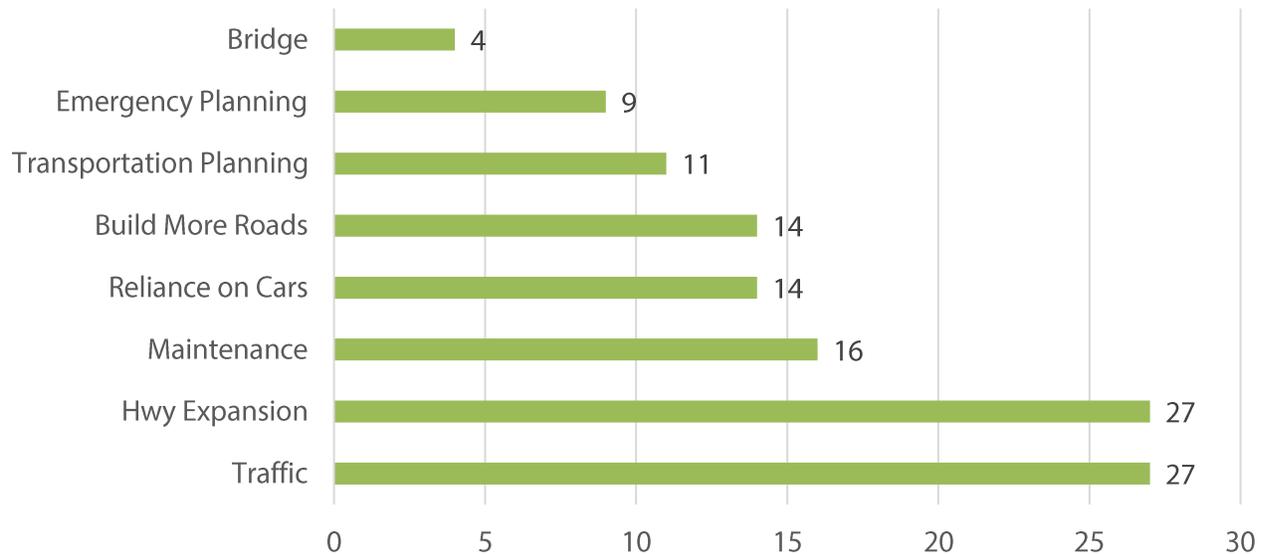


ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

- 67 comments were about the experience of driving or owning a personal automobile

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"More lanes on Hwy 1."</i> • <i>"Transportation infrastructure needs to keep up to development."</i> • <i>"Stop highway expansion and car dependency."</i> • <i>"Adopt a Vision Zero Strategy."</i> • <i>"Priority transit lanes needed on the highway."</i> • <i>"Need dedicated roads for transport trucks."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"More alternative routes."</i> • <i>"Whether a train or bus is considered, it needs to be affordable and faster or at least as fast as driving, otherwise we will not get people out of their cars."</i> • <i>"Build roads to support development and population growth."</i> • <i>"Highway 1 expansion essential to regional and provincial economies."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"No new roads are needed"</i> • <i>"Better visibility of highway road lines."</i> • <i>"Highway maintenance needed."</i> • <i>"Forest Service Road maintenance."</i> • <i>"Rush hour is all day now."</i> • <i>"Improve or build roads ahead of increased development."</i>
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COMMENTS ABOUT ROADS AND HIGHWAYS



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- 21 comments were about driving, owning or purchasing an electric vehicle
- 15 comments were about EV charging stations (at home or for public use)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"More needs to be done to reduce the cost of electric vehicles"</i> • <i>"More incentives to purchase electric vehicles."</i> • <i>"In order to change to electric vehicles, our electrical system to houses needs to be upgraded. New homes need to have the correct wiring already installed."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I think new condo/other strata builds should be incentivized to add electric vehicle parking."</i> • <i>"Need legislation which requires new builds (condos and SFD) to be equipped to charge electric vehicles."</i> • <i>"Would like to see charging stations at the BC parks day use lots."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I do not see myself getting an electric vehicle because I live in an apartment with no charging station."</i> • <i>"How are road improvements going to keep up when electric vehicles don't pay the portion of gas tax intended to improve road?"</i> • <i>"More public charging stations in remote areas."</i>
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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- 44 comments about riding cycling, riding a bike or e-bike
- 25 comments about walking, walkability or pedestrians

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Need for regional cycling infrastructure."</i> • <i>"Safety a major concern for cyclists."</i> • <i>"Additional and safe cycling and walking paths."</i> • <i>"Put bikes on quieter roads."</i> • <i>"Priorities need to align with BC Active Transportation Strategy."</i> • <i>"Love the rail trail"</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Separated bike lanes."</i> • <i>"Bike lanes and green public transportation EVERYWHERE!!!"</i> • <i>"Lights on bike lanes."</i> • <i>"Tunnels for bikes under busy roads."</i> • <i>"Better connections between bike trails and bike lanes."</i> • <i>"Improve walkability of urban areas."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Bike or walking lanes on bridges."</i> • <i>"Safer pedestrian crossings at intersections."</i> • <i>"Delineated walking and bike paths for safer active transportation routes."</i> • <i>"Improve access to crosswalk buttons for those in wheelchairs or mobility scooters."</i> • <i>"Improved bike lanes."</i>
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RURAL NEEDS

- 29 comments related transportation needs in rural areas

- *"Lack of public transit and charging stations in rural areas."*
- *"Expand services in rural areas is needed to get teenagers and young adults to schools of choice or to university."*
- *"School buses need to cross boundaries when there is no local transit."*

- *"No options now that greyhound is gone"*
- *"I worry that if self driving cars are not available and there is no transit I will have to move!"*
- *"Ride share and bike share programs in rural areas."*
- *"Need to find creative ways to get people around in rural areas."*

- *"Replace aging bridges."*
- *"Having ride share and bike share programmes even in smaller places, would be helpful, especially for those who can drive but who take the bus because they can't afford their own vehicle but are also limited due to the limited hours the bus service runs out here."*

Appendix B: RGS Fact Sheets



A GROWING REGION

The Fraser Valley Regional District is one of the fastest growing regional districts in British Columbia.

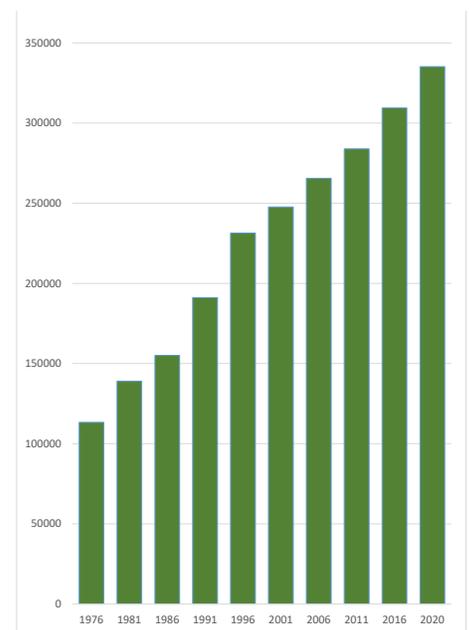


As of 2020, the region is home to over 330,000 residents. By 2050 the population could increase by as much as 56% to around 500,000. Anticipating and accommodating this growth over the next 30 years will offer both opportunities and challenges for the region.

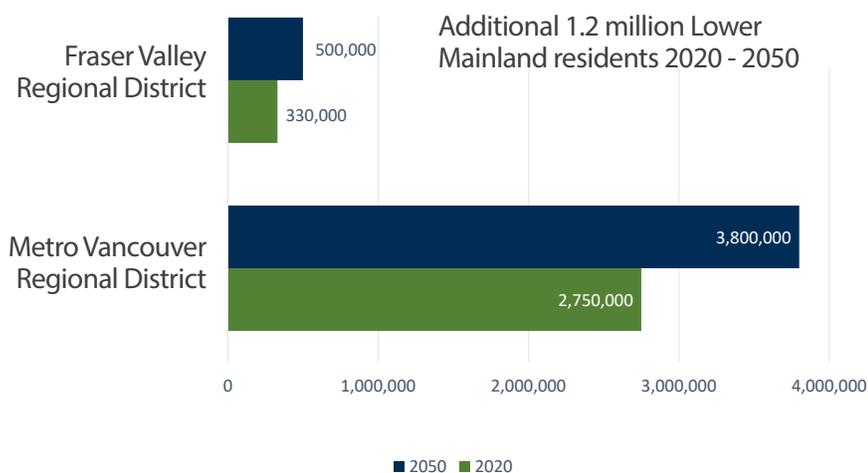
The FVRD makes up about 11% of the Lower Mainland's population and is the third largest regional district in the province by population. Growth has been continuous, with the most rapid period of growth taking place between 1971 and 2001. Since 2001, the region has grown by another 90,000.

Although proximity to Metro Vancouver and its population and employment centres influences growth in the FVRD, our communities remain remarkably independent from the rest of the Lower Mainland. Growth has not simply been a result of adjacency to Metro Vancouver, rather it has been tied to the economic influences of agriculture and other primary sectors that underpin the region's economy.

Population Growth in the FVRD 1976-2020



Lower Mainland Growth 2020 to 2050



Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca



Sts'ailes - FVRD Memorandum of Understanding and Protocol Agreement signing ceremony

COLLABORATION

Goal: To achieve our common goals for the future of the region by encouraging collaboration between jurisdictions, cultures, and neighbours.

This fact sheet summarizes what we heard from you in earlier public consultations. We've included some statistics you may find useful when providing your feedback.

What We Heard

- » Ensure regional cooperation to achieve common goals, encourage increased civic engagement, and take a values-based approach to planning.
- » Ensure the RGS supports the principles of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the policy direction aligns with applicable indigenous land use plans.

Snapshot of Today



Agreements & MOUs

FVRD has agreements with different Indigenous organizations for a range of purposes including:

- » liquid waste management
- » water services
- » planning and building inspection services
- » regional transit
- » fire protection
- » MOU's for establishing and maintaining long-term cooperative relationships

Top 3 Collaboration Organizations



Indigenous governments



Municipalities



Provincial government

Implementing the RGS will require all levels of government, Indigenous governments, health authorities, non-profits, private sector and the public to work together to shape the region.

Collaboration



FVRD's clean economy initiative included collaboration with Sto:lo Community Futures and municipal economic development offices.

Transit

The FVRD has 4 partnership agreements with 4 local Indigenous communities (Cheam, Seabird Island, Yale First Nation and Chawathil First Nation) to provide public transit service.

FVRD collaborates with member municipalities to connect communities.



Key RGS Priorities

- » Build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities and governments.
- » Work together to ensure success.

Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca.



ECONOMIC STRENGTH & RESILIENCY

Goal: To realize the region's economic potential by providing opportunities in employment and education that will grow the economy by building on the region's strengths.

This fact sheet summarizes what we heard from you in earlier public consultations. We've included some statistics you may find useful when providing your feedback.

What We Heard

- » Agriculture is important. We need to ensure food security and keep food costs affordable.
- » Improve Internet connectivity in rural areas to ensure opportunities for remote work and education.
- » Supporting the local economy in all sectors is important for maintaining a strong and resilient economy.
- » Processing raw materials (agricultural and natural resources) in the region helps provide employment.
- » Grow the clean economy to protect the environment.

Snapshot of Today

Top Four Industries Employment



Top 3 Clean Economy Sectors



\$1,035,236M GDP
Sustainable Resource & Ecosystem Management



\$535,678M GDP
Green & High Performance Buildings



\$311,391M GDP
Renewable Energy Supply & Storage

Clean Economy Study - Direct, Indirect, Induced

Economic Value of Agriculture

- » \$1.4B in gross farm receipts
- » \$3.1B in expenditures
- » 18,362 full time jobs



Clean Economy

- » \$2.45B in gross output.
- » \$1.17M GDP (*direct*)
- » 11,100 jobs in 2016

Clean Economy Study

Key RGS Priorities

- » Create opportunities for employment and education
- » Promote growth and development in agriculture
- » Protect employment lands
- » Work to attain the region's full tourism potential

Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca.



LIVING WELL

Goal: To ensure everyone is able to maintain a high quality of life, regardless of age, income, or ability.

This fact sheet summarizes what we heard from you in earlier public consultations. We've included some statistics you may find useful when providing your feedback.

What We Heard

- » Income is the most important component to living well.
- » You value nature and outdoor recreation opportunities. Having access to parks and outdoor is a key component of a high quality of life.
- » Access to arts and culture is important and are valuable elements for maintaining a healthy community and living well.
- » Creating live/work communities through local employment is the best way to ensure healthy living.

Today's Demographic

2016 Census

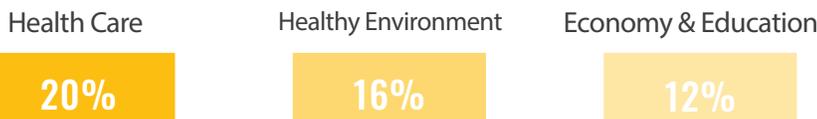
Population by Age

18% Age 65+

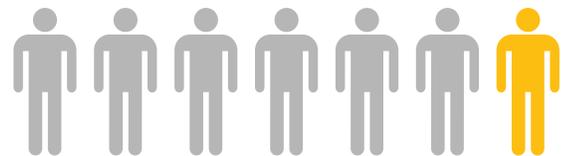
64% Age 15-65

18% Age 0-14

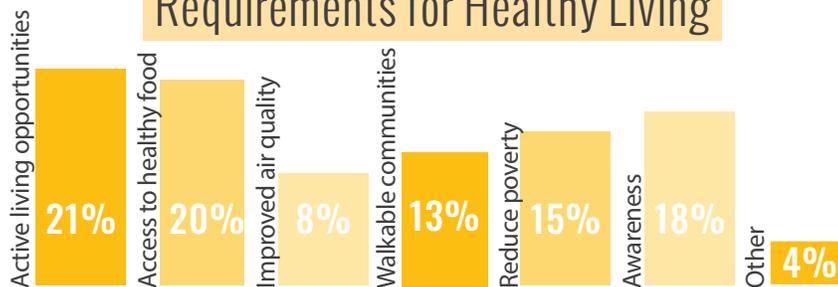
Top 3 Quality of Life Factors



1 in 7 people are 65 or older.
By 2050 it will be 1 in 5



Requirements for Healthy Living



Information collected from phase 1 of engagement and public survey

Avg Age 41



Median Household
Income \$69,289



Key RGS Priorities

- » Promote healthy and inclusive living
- » Support arts and culture initiatives
- » Protect and enhance parks and recreation lands



Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

Goal: To create compact, complete communities that strengthen urban centres, maintain rural character and offer choice and affordability in housing.

This fact sheet summarizes what we heard from you in earlier public consultations. We've included some statistics you may find useful when providing your feedback.

What We Heard

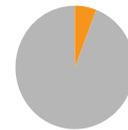
- » Concern about the rising cost of housing and the increase in homelessness.
- » Developing live/work communities that minimize commuting are important for promoting equity, social connections and building a greater sense of community.
- » Walkable neighbourhoods where you can access most of your day-to-day needs foster physical and mental health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Snapshot of Today

Core housing need: more than 30% of income is spent on housing.



12.4% of FVRD households are in core housing need



6% owner households in core housing need



30% rental households in core housing need

Housing Top 3

Housing Types



58% single family



13% apartment



11% townhouse

Housing Concerns

Cost

56%

Being able to stay in your home

14%

Accessibility issues/barriers

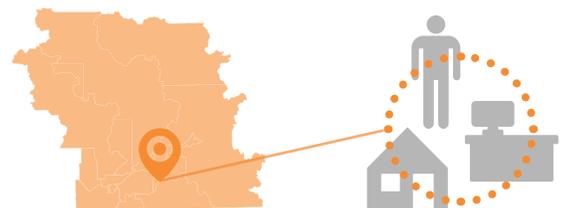
12%

Phase 1 engagement and public survey results



895 people were recorded as homeless in 2020 during the homelessness count

60% FVRD residents work in the community where they live



Key RGS Priorities

- » Concentrate growth in urban centres
- » Maintain the character of rural communities in electoral areas
- » Promote sustainable regionally scaled resort development
- » Ensure housing choice and affordability

Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca.



ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Goal: To protect the air, water and biodiversity on which we depend.

This fact sheet summarizes what we heard from you in earlier public consultations. We've included some statistics you may find useful when providing your feedback.

What We Heard

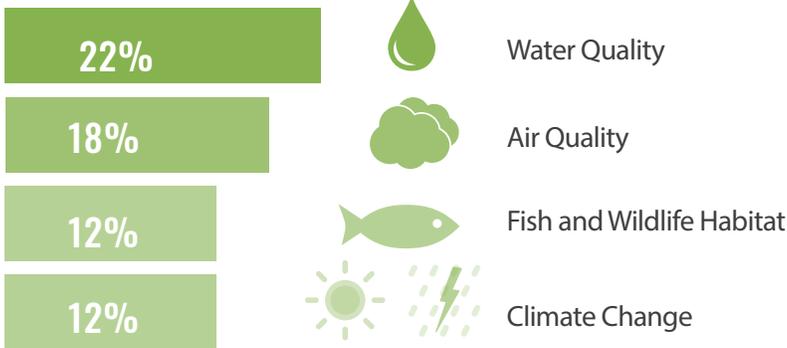
- » Promoting and maintaining a clean and healthy environment is essential to ensuring a high quality of life for today and into the future.
- » Rapid population growth, farming practices, excessive waste, and increased pollution are causes of concern for maintaining a healthy environment.
- » Monitoring pollution and resource recovery through recycling programs will help ecosystem health.
- » Encouraging public responsibility through education is key.

Snapshot of Today

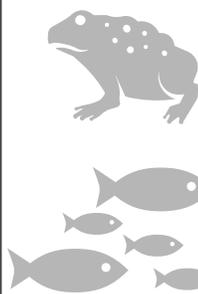
4,755 acres of protected park land



Top 4 Environmental Concerns



Phase 1 engagement and public survey results



FVRD is home to over **100** endangered species

30 different species of fish are in the Fraser River between Mission and Hope

Key RGS Priorities

- » Monitor, study, protect and improve air quality
- » Protect watershed health
- » Protect biodiversity

Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca.



TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Goal: To develop a safe and efficient transportation system for people and goods that promotes transit, walking and cycling, and minimizes the transportation system's impact on air quality.

This fact sheet summarizes what we heard from you in earlier public consultations. We've included some statistics you may find useful when providing your feedback.

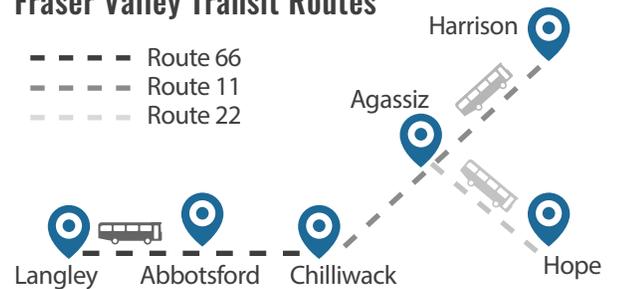
What We Heard

- » Highest priority is to establish a public transit system that enables people to get around within each community and links communities in the region and with neighbouring regions.
- » Infrequent service makes transit use challenging; to attract ridership transit needs to be frequent, reliable and affordable.
- » Rural areas have unique transportation issues. There is a need for public transit in these areas.

Snapshot of Today

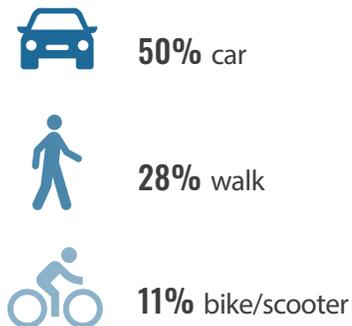
Fraser Valley Transit Routes

- Route 66
- Route 11
- Route 22

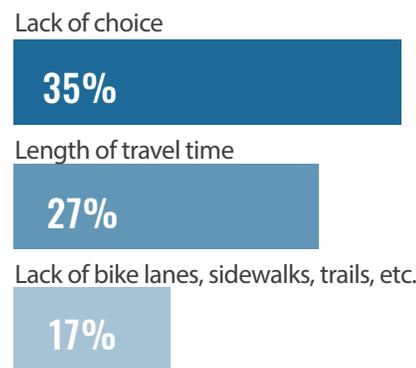


Transportation Top 3

Modes



Barriers

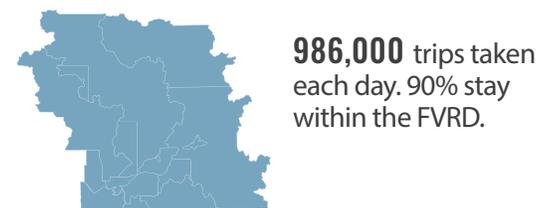


Phase 1 engagement and public survey results

Fraser Valley Express



Trip Diary Data



Key RGS Priorities

- » Create a region-wide network of affordable and convenient transportation options that safely and efficiently facilitates the movement of people and goods.
- » Promote active and alternative forms of transportation that prioritize pedestrians and cyclists.

Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Goal: To provide efficient, sustainable and cost effective services that contribute to compact and sustainable growth.

This fact sheet summarizes what we heard from you in earlier public consultations. We've included some statistics you may find useful when providing your feedback.

What We Heard

- » Illegal dumping and a lack of refuse facilities in electoral areas is a concern.
- » Consider developing a regional composting facility.
- » Provide rural communities with access to the three-stream curbside collection system - recycling, garbage and compost.
- » Concerns about environmental impact from the pipeline expansion.

Snapshot of Today

Solid Waste

The FVRD's Solid Waste Management Plan's goal is to divert 90% of compostable and recyclable waste from landfills by 2025.



Through a partnership with FoodMesh, 1,136,207 kg of edible food was diverted from the waste stream by October, 2020.

Emergency Management

People living in or visiting the FVRD's eight electoral areas can now access up-to-date information needed during an emergency.

Alertable is an emergency notification system that enables the FVRD to send alerts to residents, businesses, and visitors during critical events such as fires or floods as well as for community notices such as water advisories.

2,827 FVRD Alertable subscribers as of July, 2021.



FVRD Food Recovery Network



1,481,850
meals provided



2,158,794 kg
CO₂ emissions saved

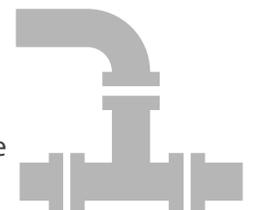


\$5,124,356
Donation Value

FVRD Infrastructure Systems

The FVRD operates 6 sewer systems and 12 water systems throughout its electoral areas.

Flood protection and drainage services are provided to electoral areas C, E, F and H.



Key RGS Priorities

- » Provide safe and efficient access to basic utilities.
- » Ensure responsible management of solid waste.
- » Ensure public safety through emergency management.
- » Minimize the impact of large-scale utility corridors and traverse the region.

Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca.



ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Goal: To increase efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to minimize the region's impact on global climate change, and to mitigate impacts of climate change on our region.

This fact sheet summarizes what we heard from you in earlier public consultations. We've included some statistics you may find useful when providing your feedback.

What We Heard

- » Climate change is a big concern. Monitoring pollution and developing programs to reduce GHG's are important.
- » Minimizing pollution, improving transit, conserving water, considering alternative energies, and enforcing environmental regulations are critical to maintaining a healthy region.



Snapshot of Today



The lower mainland's geography funnels and concentrates pollutants in the region's airshed.

Climate Change Impacts

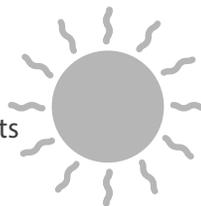
WETTER WINTERS

- » Increased freshet flood risk
- » Increased precipitation & extreme events
- » Erosion and nutrient leaching
- » Crop damage

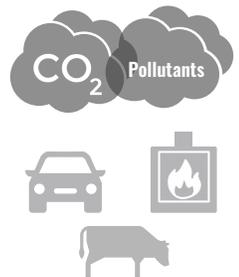


DRIER, WARMER SUMMERS

- » Increased drought risk
- » Greater frequency and intensity of extreme events
- » Disrupts flowering and pollination
- » Increased pest and disease pressures

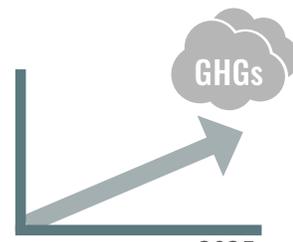


On-road transportation, off-road machinery, residential and commercial heating, indoor and outdoor wood burning and livestock farming are amongst the largest emitters of GHG's and air pollutants.



GHG Emissions

GHG emissions are forecast to slowly increase until at least 2035



FVRD Air Quality Management Plan

2035

Key RGS Priorities

- » Promote energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- » Reduce the region's impact on climate change and develop capacity to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change in the region

Have Your Say



We want to hear from you on the Regional Growth Strategy. Learn more at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca

Appendix C: Project FAQ

Q: What is a Regional Growth Strategy?

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is a strategic plan enabled by the Local Government Act (LGA) that provides an overarching planning framework for coordinating the activities of local governments and the provincial government.

It considers transit, housing, parks, economic development and environmental issues from a regional perspective with the goal of creating healthy, sustainable communities. As a long-range vision with a 20 to 30 year scope, it aims to ensure the region as a whole is working toward a common future. Regional growth strategies support the management of issues that affect more than one jurisdiction and can perform the following functions (among others):

- Promote coordination among municipalities and regional districts on issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries;
- Promote coordination among municipalities, regional districts and Indigenous communities as a means of establishing and maintaining meaningful and collaborative relationships;
- Strengthen links between regional districts and the provincial ministries and agencies whose resources are needed to carry out projects and programs; and,
- Communicate the region's strengths to potential investors while demonstrating that local governments, Indigenous communities and stakeholders are proactively addressing the key issues affecting the region's future.

Q: What does a Regional Growth Strategy NOT do?

The FVRD's RGS is NOT a land use plan. The intent of the RGS is to provide for a common vision for the entire region through the goals set out in the plan. The RGS does not regulate land use within member municipalities. Rather, the municipalities define how they are working towards the goals of the RGS within their "Regional Context Statement" in their Official Community Plans.

Q: Does the FVRD currently have a Regional Growth Strategy?

Yes, the Choices for our Future(External link) RGS, adopted in 2004. The RGS update was undertaken to reassess and adjust the region's long-term vision and objectives in light of new legislation, evolving relationships with indigenous communities and agencies, new growth, and changing demographics.

Q: How is the Regional Growth Strategy implemented?

There are a number of ways the goals, objectives and policies of the RGS are implemented:

- Municipal Context Statements: Each member municipality has to prepare a context statement within its Official Community Plan that highlights how it is working towards the objectives of the RGS. To learn more about each municipality's OCP and/or context statement, visit the City of Abbotsford, the City of Chilliwack, the City of Mission, the District of Hope, the District of Kent and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

- Regional District Land Use Policies in electoral areas: Part 13 of the Local Government Act requires that all bylaws adopted by the regional district and all services undertaken must be consistent with the RGS.
- Implementation Agreements: An implementation agreement is a partnership agreement between a regional district and other levels of government, their agencies or other bodies, which spells out the details of how aspects of a regional growth strategy will be carried out.

Q: Has there been Indigenous engagement?

The RGS puts forward a framework for collaboration and further strengthens relationships in the FVRD. Valuable feedback was received on the first draft and we want to make sure we are moving in the right direction. The FVRD recognizes and respects autonomy and self-governance of local Indigenous organizations as they work to strengthen their communities and realize their visions for the future.

FVRD staff will be reaching out to Indigenous communities and agencies to determine the preferred nature of engagement. The intent is to build upon existing relationships and to build relationships where none are currently in place.

Q: Are First Nations Reserves subject to the RGS or Agricultural Land Reserve Act?

First Nations reserves are not subject to the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) or the Agricultural Land Commission Act.

Q: Does an RGS require provincial approval?

Regional growth strategies do not require provincial approval, but formal acceptance is required from "affected local governments", which consist of member municipalities and adjacent regional districts. Acceptance is by resolution of each local government.

Q: How is the RGS adopted?

Once a final draft is completed and undergone Board, Intergovernmental Advisory Committee and legal review, an amendment bylaw will go forward to the FVRD Board. As required by the Act, before 3rd Reading, the bylaw will be formally referred to member municipalities and adjacent regional districts ("affected local governments") for formal acceptance by resolution. Once accepted, the bylaw can be adopted by the Board.

Q: What is a regional context statement?

Once an RGS or major update is formally adopted, member municipalities must update their official community plans (OCP) within two years with regional context statements (RCS). A regional context statement must specifically identify the relationship between the official community plan and the required content for regional growth strategy and any other regional matters included in the RGS. If a current OCP is not consistent, the RCS can describe how the OCP will be made consistent with the RGS over time. This is to ensure OCPs and the RGS are consistent.

Appendix D: Document Downloads

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENT DOWNLOADS					
Document Name	Document Type	Location in Project			Downloads
		Discussion Forum	Related Documents Panel	Intro Page	
Draft RGS Fraser Valley Future 2050 RGS	FVRD Report	All 9 discussion forums	✓	✓	180
FVRD Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact Analysis 2020	FVRD Report	Living Well	✓		28
Fraser Valley Agriculture Climate Adaptation Strategies 2015	FVRD Report	Energy & Climate Change	✓		16
Freshet Flooding Agriculture Impacts 2017	FVRD Report	Infrastructure & Services	✓		16
Intro to RGS Fact Sheet	RGS Fact Sheet	none	✓		9
FVRD RGS Fact Sheets	RGS Fact Sheet	none	✓		5
Collaboration	RGS Fact Sheet	Collaboration			5
FVRD Electoral Areas Housing Needs Report	FVRD Report	Community Building	✓		4
Transportation and Mobility	RGS Fact Sheet	Transportation & Mobility			4
Economic Strength and Resiliency	RGS Fact Sheet	Economic Strength & Resiliency			4
FVRD Regional Trip Diary 2014	FVRD Report	Transportation & Mobility	✓		4
Living Well	RGS Fact Sheet	Living Well			3
FVRD Solid Waste Management Plan	FVRD Report	Infrastructure & Services	✓		3
UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Other	Collaboration	✓		3
Energy and Climate Change	RGS Fact Sheet	Energy & Climate Change			3
2020 FVRD Homeless Count and Survey Report	FVRD Report	Community Building	✓		2
Community Building	RGS Fact Sheet	Community Building			2

FVRD Air Quality Management Plan (Draft)	FVRD Report	Ecosystem Health	✓		2
Infrastructure and Services	RGS Fact Sheet	Infrastructure & Services			2
Energy and Climate Change	RGS Fact Sheet	Energy & Climate Change			3
FVRD Clean Economy Study	FVRD Report	Economic Strength & Resiliency	✓		2
RGS Monitoring Report	FVRD Report	n/a	✓		2
Fraser Valley Agriculture Climate Adaptation Strategy 2018	FVRD Report	Energy & Climate Change	✓		1
FVRD Rural Broadband Connectivity Study 2020	FVRD Report	Infrastructure & Services	✓		0
FVRD Map	Other	n/a		✓	0
Ecosystem Health	RGS Fact Sheet	Ecosystem Health			0
Total Downloads					300

Links:

[Draft Fraser Valley Future 2050 RGS \(6.95 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[RGS Monitoring Report 2018 \(3.89 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[FVRD RGS Fact Sheets \(7.05 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(150 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[FVRD Clean Economy Study \(2.01 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[FVRD Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact Analysis 2020 \(5.42 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[FVRD Electoral Areas Housing Needs Report \(9.08 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[2020 FVRD Homeless Count and Survey Report \(1.56 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[Draft FVRD Air Quality Management Plan \(33.9 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[FVRD Regional Trip Diary 2014 \(1.99 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[FVRD Solid Waste Management Plan \(2.21 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[FVRD Rural Broadband Connectivity Study 2020 \(25.7 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[Freshet Flooding Agriculture Impacts 2017 \(1.5 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[Fraser Valley Agriculture Climate Adaptation Strategy 2018 update \(5.21 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[Fraser Valley Agriculture Climate Adaptation Strategies 2015 \(2.48 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Appendix E: Tell Us Your Story Analysis

STORY CONTRIBUTIONS & RGS GOALS																							
RGS Goals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total	
Goal 1 Collaboration					✓																	1	
Goal 2 Economic Strength & Resiliency						✓				✓			✓	✓		✓					✓	6	
Goal 3 Living Well	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18
Goal 4 Community Building	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	17
Goal 5 Ecosystem Health			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓										6	
Goal 6 Transportation & Mobility	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓									9	
Goal 7 Infrastructure & Services																						0	
Goal 8 Energy & Climate Change	✓				✓																	2	
Totals	4	3	2	4	6	3	1	2	3	4	3	3	4	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	59

INTRODUCTION

The Fraser Valley is growing fast and we need an updated strategy that works for everyone, **including you!** The FVRD invites you to share your thoughts on regional issues related to transit, housing, recreation, economic development, and the environment. The survey closes on September 30th.

What's the purpose of this survey?

- Your input will be used to evaluate the priorities and policies of the FVRD's Regional Growth Strategy.
- By completing this survey, you will be helping the FVRD further understand the current and future regional challenges through the lens of those most impacted.

How long will this take? 10-15 minutes.

Can I skip questions? Yes. Feel free to skip questions.

What else do I need to know?

- The FVRD's population is expected to grow by 60% in the next 30 years. That's approximately 200,000 more people living in the region from 2016 levels.
- FVRD's Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) **Fraser Valley Future 2050** is a high-level policy plan used to guide long-term growth in the region.
- After several years of in-depth engagement across the region, we are pleased to share the draft RGS update which reflects new legislation, growing relationships with Indigenous communities, and new challenges facing the region.

How are you using my data?

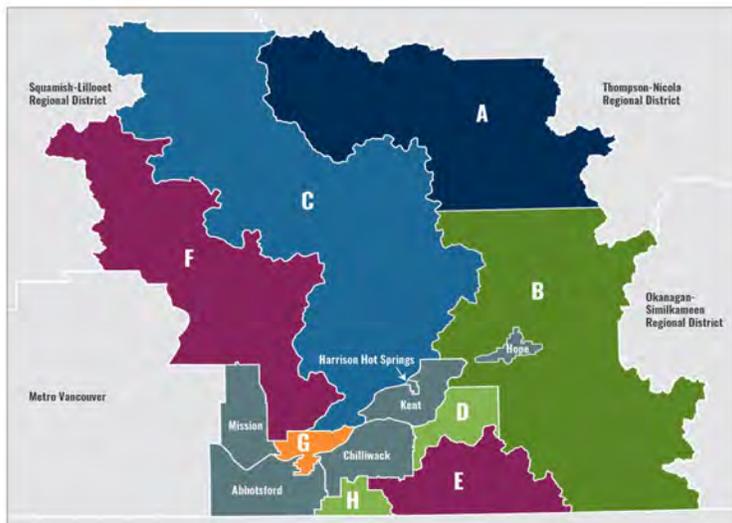
- The personal information on this form is being collected in accordance with Section 27 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSBC 1996 Ch. 165.
- The personal information collected on this form will only be collected, used and disclosed for the purposes of administering matters with respect to the FVRD's public engagement portal to allow residents to view current projects and provide their feedback, opinions and ideas.
- Questions with respect to the collection, use and disclosure of the personal information being collected on this form may be directed to the Fraser Valley Regional District Privacy Officer and Head of Freedom of Information and Privacy at 45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1N6; by telephone at 604-702-5000 or toll free at 1-800-528-0061; or by email at FQI@fvrd.ca.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the survey or the RGS please contact the FVRD at stratplan@fvrd.ca or 604-702-5000.

QUESTIONS

1. Where in the FVRD do you live? The following map includes the municipalities and electoral areas within the Fraser Valley Regional District. (Choose any one option)



- City of Abbotsford
 - City of Chilliwack
 - Harrison Hot Springs
 - City of Mission
 - District of Hope
 - District of Kent
 - Electoral Area A
 - Electoral Area B
 - Electoral Area C
 - Electoral Area D
 - Electoral Area E
 - Electoral Area F
 - Electoral Area G
 - Electoral Area H
 - First Nations Community
-
- I do not live in the region

The following questions relate to RGS Goal 2.0 Economic Strength and Resiliency

2. What best describes the industry or sector that you work in or own a business? (Choose any one option)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resource management (forestry, gravel, energy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture/Food Processing | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation/Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Government/Public Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry/Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Beverage Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care or Early Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale Trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure or Not Applicable |

3. What best describes your situation? Select multiple responses if applicable (up to 3).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I work full-time (30+ hours per week) | <input type="checkbox"/> I volunteer regularly (not for pay) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I work part-time (less than 30 hours per week) | <input type="checkbox"/> I am retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am self-employed | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a full-time student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am unemployed | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a part-time student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a full-time caregiver (children or family member) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
-

4. Which of the following best describes your regular place of employment? You may select more than one response if necessary (i.e. you work from home and outside the home).

If your place of work has temporarily changed due to the pandemic, please respond based on what is typical or likely to be true once things have 'returned to normal'.

- I work from home.
- I work outside the home, in the FVRD.
- I work outside the FVRD.
- Not applicable. I do not currently perform paid work

Shape the Regional Growth Strategy

Have Your Say FVRD

5. Do you agree with the following statements related to work and the economy in the FVRD?

Question Statements	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure or not applicable
Good paying skilled jobs are available in the FVRD.	<input type="radio"/>					
New businesses are encouraged and supported in the FVRD.	<input type="radio"/>					
Innovation is encouraged and supported in the FVRD.	<input type="radio"/>					
Businesses in the FVRD keep up with advancements in technology.	<input type="radio"/>					

6. Do you agree with the following statements related to employment in your field of work, industry, or business?

Question Statements	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure or not applicable
It is easy to find work in my field, industry, or profession.	<input type="radio"/>					
It is difficult to find trained, qualified and experienced staff to work in my field, profession, or industry.	<input type="radio"/>					
My field of work, profession or industry provides adequate job security.	<input type="radio"/>					
There is adequate education and/or training opportunities related to my field of work, profession or industry.	<input type="radio"/>					
Challenges in accessing child care make it difficult to work in my field, profession or industry.	<input type="radio"/>					
I am unable to find suitable employment in the FVRD.	<input type="radio"/>					

7. How might your field of work, profession or industry adapt or respond to changes over the next 30 years (technology, aging population, climate change etc)?

The following questions relate to RGS Goal 3.0 Living Well

8. Rate your ability to access the following as they relate to living well.

Question Statements	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Unsure or not applicable
Health care services	<input type="radio"/>					
Mental health services	<input type="radio"/>					
Arts and cultural activities	<input type="radio"/>					
Natural areas, parks and trails	<input type="radio"/>					
Healthy and affordable foods	<input type="radio"/>					

Shape the Regional Growth Strategy

Have Your Say FVRD

9. Do you agree with the following statements?

Question Statements	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure or not applicable
I feel a connection to my community.	<input type="radio"/>					
I feel a connection to the region.	<input type="radio"/>					
I feel hopeful about the future of my community.	<input type="radio"/>					
I feel safe in my community.	<input type="radio"/>					
My community has a positive impact on my well-being.	<input type="radio"/>					
My community is inclusive.	<input type="radio"/>					
Diversity is celebrated and respected in my community.	<input type="radio"/>					

10. Do you agree with the following statements?

Question Statements	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure or not applicable
In recent years population growth in the Lower Mainland has impacted rural electoral areas.	<input type="radio"/>					
In recent years population growth in the Lower Mainland has impacted recreation, parks or outdoor spaces.	<input type="radio"/>					

The following questions relate to RGS Goals 3.0 Living Well and 4.0 Community Building

11. Why do you live in the FVRD? (Choose all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing - affordability, selection, availability | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural ties/community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of life, lifestyle, work/life balance | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to health/other services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to outdoor recreation/natural areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Small town/rural sensibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment or business opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban lifestyle/amenities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to education | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not live in the region |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To be near family/friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

12. Do you intend to remain living in the FVRD for the foreseeable future? (Choose any one option)

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable. I do not live in the region. |

**Answer question 13 only if you have chosen 'No' or 'Unsure' for question 12, 'Do you intend to remain living in the FVRD for the foreseeable future?'*

13. What might cause you or your family to move outside of the FVRD? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing - affordability, selection, availability | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural ties/community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of life, lifestyle, work/life balance | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to health/other services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to outdoor recreation/natural areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Small town/rural sensibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment or business opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban lifestyle/amenities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to education | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not live in the region |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To be near family/friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Shape the Regional Growth Strategy

Have Your Say FVRD

14. Rate your concerns about housing in the FRVD?

Question Statements	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Slightly Concerned	Not at all concerned	Unsure or not applicable
Suitable housing options/types	<input type="radio"/>					
Housing for seniors	<input type="radio"/>					
Housing for families	<input type="radio"/>					
Costs of home ownership	<input type="radio"/>					
Costs of rental housing	<input type="radio"/>					
Homelessness	<input type="radio"/>					

15. What best describes your home?

- Single family home
- Apartment or condo
- Townhouse
- Basement suite or carriage house
- Mobile home
- Assisted living
- Other _____

16. Have you or your family been personally impacted by housing conditions (costs, availability, choices etc.)? If yes, tell us how you or your family has been impacted.

The following questions are related to RGS Goals 5.0 Ecosystem Health, 7.0 Infrastructure and Services, and 8.0 Energy and Climate Change

17. How important are the following priority areas for environmental protection and sustainability?

Question Statements	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	No Importance	Unsure or not applicable
Improved health and protection of local rivers, streams and lakes	<input type="radio"/>					
Improved quality of drinking water	<input type="radio"/>					
Options for alternative energy	<input type="radio"/>					
Expanded waste management and recycling programs	<input type="radio"/>					
Improved air quality	<input type="radio"/>					
Climate change mitigation and adaptation	<input type="radio"/>					
Improved water conservation strategies	<input type="radio"/>					
Improved management of sewage systems	<input type="radio"/>					

18. Are there other environmental issues and/or climate change issues not identified in this list that are of importance to you?

19. Do your concerns about the environment and/or climate change impact your outlook on the future? If so, how?

The following questions relate to RGS Goal 6.0 Transportation and Mobility

20. How do you usually get around on a daily basis? Check up to 3.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike/electric scooter | <input type="checkbox"/> Train/light rail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle/moped | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive/passenger | _____ |

21. Do you currently own or lease an electric vehicle? (Choose any one option)

- Yes No Not applicable. I do not drive.

**Answer question 22 only if you have chosen 'No' for question 21, 'Do you currently own or lease an electric vehicle?'*

22. How likely are you to own or lease an electric vehicle in the next 5 or 10 years? (Choose any one option).

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very likely | <input type="checkbox"/> Likely | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat likely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not very likely | <input type="checkbox"/> Not likely at all | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure or not applicable |

23. What improvement(s) to transportation systems in the FVRD should be prioritized?

Shape the Regional Growth Strategy

Have Your Say FVRD

These last few questions help us understand who completed the survey

24. How old are you? (Choose any one option)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 years and under | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 - 64 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 25 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 + years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 - 49 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

25. Do you own or rent your home? (Choose any one option)

- Own Rent Unsure or not applicable. Other
-

26. How long have you lived in the Fraser Valley Regional District? (Choose any one option)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years or less | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 15 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 15+ years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure or not applicable |

Thank you for completing the survey!

The results of this survey will be shared in the fall of this year. Until then, keep checking the RGS project page at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/rgs for more ways to share your experiences, perspectives and ideas.

Let's stay connected. Do you have more to share?

Join a discussion on haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/rgs on topics including:

- Affordable Housing
- Environmental Issues
- Transportation
- Infrastructure & Services
- Parks & Natural Areas
- Energy & Climate Change
- Economic Development
- Collaboration

Completed surveys can be dropped off, mailed or emailed to:

Strategic Planning and Initiatives Dept.
Fraser Valley Regional District
45950 Cheam Ave,
Chilliwack, BC V2P 1N6
Email: stratplan@fvrd.ca

Appendix G: Other Forms of Public Engagement

Personal information has been redacted for protection of privacy.

Subject: Draft Regional Growth Strategy

Hello

My name is [REDACTED] I am a resident of the District of Kent and have been since [REDACTED]

Following a career in the forest industry, the majority of the time spent in the Chilliwack Forest District, I have spent a huge amount of my retirement hiking in the forests within the District of Kent, Harrison Hot Springs, and Electoral Areas B and C. Some how I missed the public comment period for the Draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and only the other day did I see a statement regarding the possible future establishment of an evacuation route through Sasquatch Provincial Park.

I understand the purpose of the RGS but I am very concerned with the inclusion of the statement on Map 8, Regional Transportation Priorities that states that a High priority is for an emergency access route along Rockwell Drive to the Lougheed Highway. I understand that the RGS does not commit or authorize a regional district to proceed with any project or action specified within the plan but my concern lies with the input that may have been gathered to support such a statement.

It is my understanding that there has been only one assessment of the relative risk of occurrence and the potential impact of emergencies or disasters on people and property within the District of Kent, as is mandated under the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation. The report, Community Wildfire Protection Plan determined that "The study area is 1% extreme threat class rating, 7% high, 40% moderate rating ...". The areas that represent the highest wildfire behaviour potential and greatest risk to values within the Kent AOI are areas of high and extreme threat class in the Mount Woodside area, the Federal prison and Cemetery Road area and in the forested area between Harrison Lake and the Fraser River and east of Harrison Hot Springs. I believe this does not warrant building a road in a Class A Provincial Park.

Furthermore it is common knowledge that Rockwell Drive is unsuitable as an evacuation road due to its frequency of being closed for very short periods due to motor vehicle accidents, rock slides, high water and washouts. The climatic changes taking place are playing havoc with the road making it an unreliable evacuation route. The minor emergencies, in themselves, should not be the reason for a building a road within a Class A park.

The District's lead-up reports to choosing a route through Sasquatch Provincial Park identified unstable slopes above the Sasquatch road as having the potential to fail. The writer of the report failed to mention the deposition sites could be on the Sasquatch road hence blocking any use of the road for evacuation. The recent rains show the error in their choice with a debris torrent and road washouts making the road unusable and closing the Park.

In BC's protected area system a Class A, Category 6 Provincial Park serves both the conservation and recreation roles established in the legislative mandate of the Park Act. Specifically, the main purposes of Sasquatch Provincial Park are to preserve and present to the public both the scenic and biodiverse mixed forest and lake features and to provide camping and day use activities. Nature has been working for 36

years to repair the damage from industrial activities over the area. Building the proposed road will destroy the developed aquatic habitats, the developed rock cliff features and the forest ecosystems.

I would like for the final copy of the Regional Growth Strategy to have the statement regarding the possible future establishment of an evacuation route through Sasquatch Provincial Park removed.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Subject: FV Future 2050

Hello,

How does this strategic plan fit in with the various OCP's? For example, the Area C OCP Bylaw 20 has not been updated in 23 years since last reviewed in 1998, even though the BC Municipal Act states they should be updated every 5 years. So if the FVRD does not have the resources to update the OCP bylaws when required, then how are resources available for an overall strategy? That is creating a summary before determining the details.

If that is the Board's direction, then why not eliminate the OCP'S, and just focus on the Strategy 2050?

Thanks for clarifying.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The following is FVRD's response to the above email.

Hello [REDACTED]

The regional growth strategy is a high-level strategic plan, not a land use plan. The FVRD has a current regional growth strategy, Choices For Our Future, that was adopted in 2004 and the RGS update underway is building upon that plan. The plan provides a high level framework that municipalities and electoral areas incorporate into their OCPs in ways that best reflect each community's or area's unique needs.

Typical best practice for the review and update of OCPs is a 10-15 year cycle, or when a plan update can be substantially justified by new circumstances, e.g. unforeseen population increases or housing demand, or large-scale development proposals inconsistent with the established vision of the Plan. The FVRD electoral areas have 10 OCPs. Several of our OCPs have not been updated in the last 15 years. Area E and H OCP was updated in 2010-11, Area F was updated in 2008-2010, and Area D OCP was adopted in January 2021. Hemlock OCP has received its first reading and is scheduled for adoption by Q1 in 2022. In general, we undertake an OCP update every 3-4 years.

During a September 2020 Electoral Areas Priority Setting Workshop, staff were asked to explore options to accelerate the update of the Electoral Area OCPs and present a proposal to the Committee for consideration. Based on that staff prepared a preliminary plan outlining several

timelines and resource allocations for updating all the Electoral Area OCPs. It was presented to the Committee in November 2020.

Area C OCP update initiation is in the workplan for 2022. The timeline for the Area C OCP update completion will depend on available resources. Typically, we would like to work with a 2-year timeline in mind.

Thanks,

Robin Beukens, MCIP, RPP

Strategic Planning and Initiatives

Planner II

Fraser Valley Regional District

1-45950 Cheam Ave, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1N6

604.702.5491 | fvr.d.ca

Subject: Request for input to FVRD future growth - Abbotsford News, Sept. 2, 2021

To: Fraser Valley Regional District – Response to your request for public feedback regarding future growth.

During the first, and hottest, of the 3 heatwaves that the FVRD experienced this summer I started reading Al Gore's, "An Inconvenient Truth". His predictions about Global Climate Change (GCC) are coming true and that Global Warming (GW) is the main cause. I believe GCC is Nature's way of combating GW by attempting to cool down the planet, and yes, forest fires do help cool the planet by blocking the sun's rays with blankets of smoke, as we saw last year when smoke from California's fires protected B.C. with cooler than seasonal temperatures resulting in fewer forest fires for us.

Planning for the future, if we are to even have one, means restoring the damage that humans have done, mostly within the last century, by replacing the vegetation (plants and trees) that we have destroyed to accommodate the increased population and their consumption habits. When I question our future it is because of Al Gore's books, including the one I'm currently reading called "The Future – Six Drivers of Global Change", in which he lists the six categories of government responsibility. I'm summarizing them by extracting his words from the chapter "Power In The Balance", as follows:

1. "...form intelligent policies and implement them in a timely manner..."
2. "The cohesion of its society..."
3. "The protection of property rights..."
4. "The development...of sustainable fiscal and monetary policies..."
5. "The development of...education and job training ..."
6. "The protection, conservation and stewardship of natural capital with environmental protection and energy efficiency."

It should be obvious, especially after this summer's catastrophic weather events around the globe, that the last item above is the most important, followed by the first, then the education required in the fifth. Without immediate attention to these three items the rest won't matter. All levels of government must be on the

same page and have the same goal; reduce pollution and restore the damage already done to our environment.

Something else I learned within the past year is that more energy arrives on earth from the sun every single day than human beings have generated by every means they've employed since their appearance as a species on this planet. Humans are not so much generating the heat causing GW, and subsequently GCC, as they are destroying Nature's method of absorbing the excess energy from the sun. If the sun is more responsible for 'Global Warming' than human activities such as burning fossil fuels how can we possibly stop the current trend of rising temperatures.

Conversion to man made devices such as solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicles may reduce pollution but will not solve Global Climate Change because they continue to add to Global Warming. Each of these devices will require materials that can only be extracted from the earth resulting in more deforestation, open pit mining and destruction of habitat that will require more expended energy and generated heat. The next steps will be the transportation, smelting and refining of the raw material before it can be manufactured into the finished product, consuming even more energy and generating more heat. Then when these devices are functional and in use they will require maintenance and repair with additional energy consumption and heat production. After a few years of service these devices will need to be replaced and the cycle will start all over again.

Instead of man made devices we need to use Nature's most effective devices, not just to block the sun's rays, but to absorb the energy and use it to produce products necessary to the survival of all life on this planet. These devices, the many different varieties of trees, which in addition to producing oxygen, also provide us with food, shelter, energy, and even shade, are being drastically reduced to make way for increased population and the development they demand.

Instead of removing trees to make way for increased pastures, farms or developments we need to be restoring trees to formerly forested areas. Archaeology has shown us that many of the world's great deserts, such as the Sahara and the Gobi, were forests once but human development destroyed the forests resulting in deserts. Much of the world's oil, resulting from the decomposition of living organisms, is found beneath these deserts providing further proof that they were once forested or covered with plant life. To paraphrase a common slogan seen in this area over the past few months: No Forests, No Food, No Future.

After finishing Al Gore's book I passed it on to a friend whose opinions I respect and I value his feedback. Also, before retirement, he was involved in the high-tech training field at three levels: training salespeople to sell products, customers to use the products, and technicians to install and maintain the products. This is what is needed to prevent what Al Gore was warning us about; the then future and now present Global Climate Change. We need to train people at all three levels: our leaders and teachers, the public and the researchers, engineers and scientists whose expertise is in finding solutions to problems, about the reality of Global Climate Change and its cause, Global Warming.

If the above proposal sounds like a complex process, consider the alternative being proposed by the likes of Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson which is to "Abandon Ship" and head for safer environs (?) on Mars! Even teenager Greta Thunberg sees the insanity of moving humanity millions of miles to a currently desolate and inhospitable planet instead of fixing earth's problems. Governments at all levels should be deciding how to plan for the future by following the advice of the Hippie Generation – Turn On (all six of your senses), Tune In (to Nature's message) and Drop Out (of the Rat Race).

The 'Rat Race' is just another term for greed, wanting more. History has taught us that wanting more leads to having less and usually we have less of what we really need: Love, Compassion and Care for each other.

Submitted on behalf of future generations by [REDACTED] Abbotsford

Subject: Bus shelters

I think Abbotsford should have more bus shelters.

The following email is in response to an in-person visit by a member of the public.

Subject: FVX comments

Hi [REDACTED]

Nice meeting you the other day and thank you for your comments. I will pass them on to BC Transit for their consideration as they finalize the Transit Future Action Plan for the region. We will also include these as comments as they relate to transportation policies in the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) update currently underway. We invite you to take the RGS survey and other engagement tools at <https://haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/rgs>.

Transit has come a long way in the Fraser Valley over the past ten years, but we recognize more needs to be done. The FVRD continues to work with BC Transit, TransLink, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and other regional partners to create a reliable, accessible and regionally integrated public transit system both inside and outside the region. Making transit a seamless experience for transit users is a goal we are working toward, and with new fare technologies on the horizon, improved municipal service connections and increased collaboration between BC Transit and TransLink we hope this will occur sooner rather than later.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your feedback and suggestions for improving public transit services in the region. I encourage you to register on the FVRD engagement site <https://haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/rgs> to stay in the know about future public engagement opportunities related to transportation planning as well as other topics that may be of importance to you.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards

Alison Stewart MCP MCIP RPP

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