



Revelstoke and Area Community Development Action Plan

UPDATE - June 2009

INTEGRATING & PRIMARILY SOCIAL GOALS

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City of Revelstoke

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Acknowledgements

The primary objective of the Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee is to facilitate proactive planning for positive social change through a variety of activities. An important aspect of this objective is maintaining and updating the *'integrating'* and *'primarily social'* goals of the Community Development Action Plan (CDAP). Much has changed in Revelstoke since the plan was completed in November of 2007. The *'what we know about our community'* and *'what we are doing'* sections as well as the *'projects/tasks'* have been updated with the generous assistance of the following:

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Executive Summary

On Monday, May 11, 2009 a planning event was held to update the *'integrating'* and *'primarily social'* goals of the Community Development Action Plan. 36 participants from a variety of organizations heard key presentations from 17 speakers addressing important aspects of each of the goals. The projects/tasks in each section were reviewed, supplemented, and prioritized. The following list pulls out the top priorities identified in each section:

Integrating Goals

1. Housing

- Identify (subsidized) rental needs and develop a plan to address the same.
- Determine demand for targeted needs/subsidized housing through the continuum of housing needs by client group.

2.1 Affordable, accessible transportation alternatives in-town

- Advocate for taxi service that meets the needs of the community
- Improve bike routes and bike storage

2.2 Safe vehicle access

- Complete a transportation plan for the City of Revelstoke including analysis of a second crossing of the Illecillewaet River

2.3 Alternatives to private automobiles

- Implement approaches which promote reduced vehicle use (including bike paths, revision of municipal subdivision bylaws to provide for sidewalks, bike paths etc, encourage walkable neighbourhoods through OCP zoning)

2.4 Out-of-town transportation

- Continue to lobby federal and provincial government to reduce safety hazards on Highway 1

3.1 Workforce

- Develop and implement a workforce strategy (to identify gaps, support recruitment, maximize local employment, involve youth, address barriers, expand linkage with co-op programs, etc)
- Work with employers/community regarding employee housing

3.2 Adult Learning

- Develop and implement strategies to address identified barriers to training for local citizens (eg. transportation, funding)

4. Child and Youth Learning

- Continue to update the early childhood development strategy and implement priority ECD activities
- Continue to offer a broad range of programs at RSS

5.2 Food Security

- Explore options to implement local gardening and agricultural activities
- Endorse a Food Security Charter

6.1 Community Character

- Host community events to welcome new residents

6.2 Sense of Belonging

- Develop a cultural centre with a theatre/performing arts space as a 'hub'

Primarily Social Goals

12. Safety and Emergency Services

- Continue the Women's Shelter
- Monitor population growth, visitor levels and crime incidents to identify and implement needed service expansion as population and visitations grow

13.1 Meeting Basic Needs

- Continue the community food bank/garden/kitchen and outreach program

13.2 Healthy Lifestyles

- Expand active, non-competitive sports programs in schools

13.3 Substance Use

- Develop a community-wide substance use strategic plan

13.4 Health Care

- Re-convene a Community Health Services Advisory Committee in partnership with Interior Health
- Encourage the development of a weekend walk-in medical clinic in the downtown area

14. Families, Children and Youth

- Continue existing support services for all families, including recreation, programming, prevention, counseling and crisis supports

15. Seniors

- Maintain and expand Home and Community Care services as needed
- Work with RCHS to address the continuum of housing needs for seniors, including the need to downsize from large single family homes

16. Recreation

- Continue to upgrade community park equipment

Integrating Goals

1. Housing

What We Know About our Community

- Private dwellings in Revelstoke are for the most part detached single-family homes with 50% built prior to 1965. Much of the older stock is in need of significant reinvestment.
 - The average assessed value of dwellings in 2008 was \$301,256 compared to \$200,000 in 2006.
 - The median value of houses sold in 2008 was \$433,557 - a slight drop in value and a 17% drop in volume over the previous year. (CMHC)
 - 3.9% of dwellings were owned by non-residents in 2008.
 - 919 or 30% of dwellings were not occupied by their owners in 2008 indicating that a significant number of rental units are in single family homes.
- Rental dwellings in apartment building represent a portion of the rental market with CMHC sampling 240 units with a vacancy rate in October of 2008 of 1.4%.
 - The majority of rental dwellings are in single-family homes either rented in part or whole. Accurate numbers on both the number of units and rate of occupancy in this segment are currently not available; however the number of dwellings not occupied by their owners provides an indication of magnitude (see above).
 - Mobile home parks represent another inventory of rental accommodation. Though the units tend to be owned the pads are generally rented. There are currently 360 occupied trailer pads in Revelstoke with approximately 20 unoccupied pads.
- Demand for ownership housing in Revelstoke moderated in 2008 following a dramatic surge in sales activity and prices between 2005 and 2007. The onset of an economic recession in late 2008 leading to job losses and layoffs in key sectors of the economy, and a decline in demand for housing purchased by non-residents has led to flattening in both demand and prices. Stagnation in the global economy indicates that these conditions are likely to persist for some time.
 - In 2006 it was anticipated that Revelstoke Mountain Resort would become a significant developer of residential housing in Revelstoke; however by winter 2008 RMR had only delivered 60 hotel-condominium units. Given current economic conditions and changes in ownership it is unlikely that RMR will deliver units at the rate originally anticipated. In light of this it is unlikely that Revelstoke will see any contribution to employee housing stock from RMR in the foreseeable future.
 - Collateral development resulting from the resort has likewise been modest with few single-family homes brought to market and no multi-unit housing delivered.
- Short term accommodation of construction workers for both RMR and BC Hydro and seasonal staffing for RMR led to increased demand for rental housing and a surge in rental rates in 2007; making it difficult for renters at the lower end of the income scale, particularly families. Conditions may abate with reduced construction but, in the mean time, based on anecdotal evidence people unable to find accommodation have simply left town.
- 86% of respondents to the 2007 community survey identified affordable housing as the most important economic and employment issue, and 85% viewed it as the most important social issue.

What We Are Doing

- The social housing stock in Revelstoke includes Monashee Court (45 units for low income seniors and disabled over 55), Mt. Begbie Manor (24 units for low income seniors over 55, 1 unit for disabled), Moberly Manor (11 assisted living units), Mt. Cartier Cottages at Queen Victoria Hospital (45 residential care beds including 1 respite bed & 1 palliative care bed), Forsythe House (temporary, confidential shelter for women and children fleeing abuse), and 3 Community Living residential group homes (for adults with developmental disabilities).
- In 2009, Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society was awarded the management of two specialized contracts from BC Housing. The Housing Outreach Coordinator provides client focused, community-based housing services to adults who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. As well, a Tenant Support Worker provides support to the residents of one of Revelstoke primary subsidized housing complexes.
- The Revelstoke Community Housing Society (RCHS) was formed in 2007 with the mandate of addressing a broad range of housing needs within the community. To this end the City provided access to municipally owned land and provided operational funding to the Society. In the spring of 2009 the society adopted guiding statements and completed a mid-term strategic plan.
 - Bridge Creek Properties (former Co-op lands) has been the focus of RCHS work over the past year; to this end zoning, master planning, sub-division design and development agreements between RCHS and the City have been prepared with construction anticipated pending sales in 2009. Subsequent phases will include rental housing.
 - Proposals are currently under consideration for seniors and supported living residences.

Community Goal

Increase the availability of affordable, suitable, adequate and safe housing that shelters our workforce and enables citizens to choose to live their entire lives in the community.

Objectives:

- Preserve existing inventory of affordable and rental housing.
- Ensure municipal bylaws, policies and procedures foster the preservation and development of affordable housing opportunities
- Develop a housing inventory, needs assessment and demand projections.
- Develop subsidised housing in conjunction with social sector and government agencies.
- Develop a non-profit entity to provide management and maintenance services for existing and new special needs and assisted living facilities.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Ensure no net loss of rental property through rezoning applications	Highest	(City)	Lowest
	2 Ensure no net loss of mobile home pads through rezoning applications.	Highest	(City)	Lowest
	3 Ensure the adequacy and safety of rental and mobile home properties through enforcement of the current maintenance bylaw	Highest	(City)	Medium
	4 Ensure zoning regulations are enforced to promote long-term rentals in residential zones (and discourage short term vacation rentals)	Highest	(City) (RCHS)	Medium
	5 Encourage owners of mobile home parks to optimize development potential and quality	Highest	(CityPlan)	

	6	Ensure bylaws flowing from the OCP include strategies that enable affordable development. Enabling strategies would include those that encourage higher density development, smaller unit and lot sizes, mixed use, reduced parking, infill development, accessory dwelling units, secondary suites and improved public transportation.	Highest	(City) (RCHS)	Medium
B	7	Create and/or revise municipal bylaws, policies and procedures to encourage preservation and or development of affordable housing; monitor best practices in other communities and review the effectiveness of existing bylaws	Highest	(City) (RCHS)	Medium
	8	Locate existing inventory of spaces that could be modified into affordable rental accommodation	High	(City) (RCHS)	Medium
	9	Support home owners to develop new suites/carriage cottages by reducing development cost charges and providing information through workshops	High	(City) (RCHS)	Low
C	10	Determine who will be the lead agency in the development of housing needs projections (and where funding, if required, will come from.)	Highest	(City) (RCHS)	Low
	11	Refine housing projections incorporated in the OCP and subsequent area plans; break down projections by household type and income.	Highest	(City) (RCHS)	Medium
	12	Determine demand for targeted needs/subsidised housing through the continuum of housing needs by client group.	Highest	(SSA) (RCHS)	Medium
D	13	Identify first priority needs and develop a project to meet them. - Work with social sector agencies to assess needs by client group identifying existing facilities and support services - Identify gaps in facilities and support services - Identify housing type(s) that would deliver the greatest improvement in living standards for the greatest number of individuals over the longest period - Develop a project proposal including data demonstrating need, building and support programming requirements, proposed partners, location and costs - Work with BC Housing and other funding agencies to meet funding criteria and apply for funding	Highest	(SSA) (RCHS)	Medium
	14	Identify second priority needs and a time line for project and support services development	Highest	(SSA) (RCHS)	Medium
	15	Identify (subsidized) rental needs and develop a plan to address the same	Highest	(SSA) (RCHS)	Medium
	16	Ensure the need for second-stage housing is addressed	Highest	(SSA) (RCHS)	Medium
	17	Ensure the need for assisted-living is addressed	Highest	(IH) (RCHS)	High
	18	Address the need for 'aging-in-place', enabling seniors to remain in their own community	Highest	(City) (RCHS)	Medium
E	19	Work with the social sector to understand current management/service need, funding and capacity - Determine whether a supplementary management agency is desirable and what form of entity would be best suited to the task - Set up a steering committee to develop terms of reference and an implementation strategy for the proposed management entity	Highest	(RCHS) (SSA)	Low

2. Transportation

What We Know About our Community

Within the community

- Citizens who responded to the 2007 community survey rely largely (50% in winter/60% in summer) on vehicles, mostly with single passengers to travel to work. About 20% walk in winter and 30% walk summer when 20% bicycle as well. Citizens have expressed an interest in walking and biking more often.
- There is one taxi company that currently holds both licenses for Revelstoke.
- BC Transit bus service is available. Generally, there is a high level of satisfaction with the transit service. The 2009 Seniors' Issues Survey respondents noted that the bus does not stop at the Seniors/Community Centre. Issues are cited with the taxi service. Neither are wheelchair accessible.
- There is a wheelchair accessible bus that was purchased by Interior Health and is used primarily for out of town medical appointments to Kelowna and Kamloops on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It is available for in town 'Handydart' use on the other days but it is costly to operate and will require groups to raise more funds to maximize use.
- Transportation options are still fairly challenging for some seniors, people with disabilities, and those on low incomes, creating social isolation and making it difficult for these citizens to be employed and to access services.
- Increased traffic is already being experienced with the Revelstoke Mountain Resort development. In 2008, local Tourism Infrastructure funds were used to purchase 2 passenger buses, which were operated by the resort during the 2008/09 ski season to transport residents and hotel/motel guests to the ski hill. The initial season was very successful. There may be opportunities to explore community use of the buses in off seasons.

Outside the community

- The Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) and Highway 23 South provide east-west and north-south access. Both roads experience occasional closures during winter and spring months for avalanche control, avalanches and mud slides. There is a high incidence of motor vehicle accidents on the TCH.
- The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs through the centre of the community but is not available for passenger service.
- Greyhound bus, charter bus and freight services are available. The taxi service can be unreliable.
- A full service airport is owned and operated by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District.

What We Are Doing

- The City develops and maintains the road networks within City limits. The City convenes the community Transit Committee to provide advice on transit use and services, and a Biking Trail Committee to provide advice on expanding trail networks, including construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Illecillewaet River.
- A 'handi-pass' system is in place that subsidizes 20 one-way taxi rides for people with disabilities.
- IHA and BC Transit have partnered to provide a 'health bus' which makes trips to Kamloops and Kelowna weekly for people with medical appointments.
- In 2008, the City completed a community assessment report on "Measuring Up: Accessibility and Inclusion in the City of Revelstoke" and acted on a number of recommendations to improve accessibility for disabled residents.
- Maintenance of out-of-town roads is the responsibility of a private company under contract with the provincial government.
- CSRD is preparing a 10 year airport management plan to accommodate additional use.
- The City of Revelstoke is undertaking a comprehensive transportation strategy for the community.

2.1 Affordable, accessible transportation alternatives in-town

Community goal

Create more affordable, accessible transportation alternatives for seniors and citizens living with disabilities or on low incomes.

Objective:

A. Transportation does not unduly restrict citizen access to basic needs, or cause isolation.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Continue the Handi-pass program. Evaluate accessibility issues created by having the application process at the hospital	Highest	TC	Lowest
	2 Develop a 'Handydart' service that is wheel-chair accessible for handi-pass users and others	Highest	(TC, SCA Others)	Medium
	3 Advocate for taxi service that meets the needs of the community	Highest	All	Lowest
	4 Continue the BC Transit bus service and expand as demand allows	High	TC*/ BC Transit	High
	5 Consider expanding access to bus passes for people living in poverty	Medium	(TC)	Low
	6 Investigate grants to provide access to the Car Share Coop	Medium	CSC	Lowest

Note: Continuing the 'medical bus' service is included in the Health services section.

2.2 Safe vehicle access

Community goal

Maintain safe, efficient, affordable and environmentally sound access throughout the community, including to the south side of the Illecillewaet River and the resort.

Objectives:

- A. Ensure safe, efficient access to the City off Highway 1 at the western entrance
- B. When needed, create new routes to the south side of the Illecillewaet River and the resort to address growing congestion on Victoria and 4th Street and create a second emergency exit route.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	7 Continue to monitor the safety and efficiency of the western City access route	Highest	CE & PW* MOTH	Medium
B	8 Complete a comprehensive Transportation Plan for the City of Revelstoke including an analysis of a second crossing of the Illecillewaet River	Highest	City*	Medium
	9 Monitor traffic patterns to identify needed improvements	Highest	CE & PW*	Medium
	10 Construct new access route across the Illecillewaet River	Medium	CE & PW	Highest
	11 Improve Victoria & 4 th street intersection	Medium	CE & PW	High

2.3 Alternatives to private automobiles

Community goal

Encourage use of alternatives to private automobiles, especially non-motorized transportation, as part of healthy lifestyles, to reduce congestion as the community grows, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Objective:

A. Decrease the use of motor vehicles.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	12 Implement approaches which promote reduced vehicle use: - complete the planning and implementation a system of bikeways on city streets (including painting of bike lanes, providing end-of-trip facilities with more bike racks with secure locking capacity and plowing snow on the river trail) - revise municipal subdivision control bylaws to provide for sidewalks, bikeways and pathways to be constructed as part of new subdivisions - encourage walkable neighbourhoods through zoning in OCPs	High	City ED/Plan* (CE/PW) City*/ CSRSD*	Medium Low Lowest
	13 Implement strategies to increase transit ridership, including: - promotional campaign and incentives - major service additions, - extended hours (revision/improvements to schedule) - addition of Sunday service - addition of a bus stop at the Seniors/Community Centre - business use incentives (eg. coupons)	High	TC*	Medium
	14 Support reduced vehicle use by expanding: - use of the car share co-op. - carpooling including using the ride share (carpooling) website	High	Citizens*	Lowest
	15 Initiate a commuter challenge or 'Leave Your Car At Home Week' (Bike to Work week)	High	(CSC, NCES)	Lowest
	16 Incentives for apartments/businesses to install more bike racks	Medium	City* NCES*	Low
	17 Start a blue bike (shared bicycles) program and/or bike swap program to buy/sell/trade used bikes	Medium		Medium
	18 Improve/identify bike routes throughout the city, expand street sweeping to include the bike lanes, and encourage better bike storage facilities throughout the community	Medium	City*	Medium
	19 Advocate for a taxi service that better meets the needs of the community	Medium	City*	Lowest

2.4 Out-of-town transportation

Community goal

Enhance existing highway, rail and air transportation options to improve the safety, reliability and cost of transportation to Revelstoke.

Objectives:

- A. Improve the safety and accessibility of the highway system serving the community to reduce the number of accidents and the number of road closures
- B. Maintain the existing rail system and business in the community, and enhance passenger rail transport when feasible.
- C. Implement feasible and appropriate airport development, recognizing the terrain and weather limitations of this area

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	20 Continue to support innovative snow removal and avalanche control practices	Highest	MOTH	Highest
	21 Continue the enhanced policing at high accident locations.	Highest	RCMP*	Highest
	22 Continue to lobby federal and provincial government to reduce safety hazards on Trans Canada Highway 1 (TCH)	Highest	Citizens for a Safe TCH*; City; CoC	Low
	23 Lobby provincial government to make winter snow tires mandatory on all rental vehicles	High	City*	Lowest
B	24 Continue communication links between CPR, the City and Chamber of Commerce	High	CPR* City*	Lowest
	25 Explore options for rail passenger transport	High	City CED/ CoC/ RMR*	Lowest
C	26 Continue to operate the airport for a range of users	High	CSR D*	Highest
	27 Complete the 10 year management plan to accommodate additional use	High	CSR D*	Low
	28 Investigate the feasibility of an airport shuttle service between airports in Calgary/Kamloops/Kelowna and Revelstoke	Medium	City CED*	High

3. Workforce and Adult Learning

What We Know About our Community

- In 2006 4,910 individuals earned employment income, with 2,640 being men and 2,270 women. In 2006, the most recent year information is readily available the average labour force participation rate in Revelstoke was 70.2%. Men had a higher participation rate (78.2%) than women (62.5%). Overall, the city's labour force participation rate was slightly higher than the provincial average of 65.6%.
- Since Nov 08 to Jan 09 the unemployment rates have increased to 7% up 2.2% from 4.8% at the same time last year, though the rate locally remains higher due of seasonal work in tourism, retail, service and forestry, with the summer and winter months being the high demand seasons. Even though the Thompson-Okanagan experienced an increase in employment (3,000), the labour force increased by more than three times as much (9,600) during the same period. As a result, the number of unemployed grew, pushing the unemployment rate upwards (2.2%) over the same period last year.
- Responses to the 2007 community survey identified lack of training for the jobs available and people not wanting to work as the main reasons for unemployment, with no jobs, drug or alcohol abuse and lack of daycare and transportation less important. This is a big change from 2000 when 70% of responses cited 'no jobs' as the main reason.
- There are about 80 unfilled positions chronically advertised at the Employment Centre for a variety of jobs from housekeepers to trades people. Skilled labour/trades represent about 11 positions 13.8% of these vacancies. Most local trades employers are laying off and foresee the slowdown to continue in the coming months.

- From December 2008 to March 2009 workers seeking employment support at the Employment Services Centre had the following characteristics:
 - More younger people than older: 37.2% 15-29 years, 29.7% 30-39 years, 12.8% 40-49 years, 17.6% 50 plus years
 - Less women (32.4%), than men (67.6%)
 - Most with grade 12 education (37.2%); 31.1% have completed post secondary training, and approximately 18.2% with less than grade 12
 - A wide range of work preferences, with labourer, equipment operator, truck driver and carpenter being most frequent.
- Most individuals who are not working experience multiple barriers to being successful full-time employees, including life skills challenges, substance abuse, mental health issues, lack of experience or training and limited transportation and childcare options. Employers are seeking work-ready employees – creating a challenge to placing local unemployed individuals into local positions.
- Over the last year (March 1 2008 to March 31 2009) 60 disabled individuals sought support to achieve employment at the Employment Centre. Wheel chair accessibility, particularly downtown, as well as barriers experienced by others limit employment options for these individuals.
- Over the last year (March 1 2008 to March 31 2009) there were 50% more people aged 15 to 29 years compared to those who are 45 to 65 years old, who sought assistance at the Employment Centre, signaling a growing youth labour market in the community.
- Over the next few years, the Revelstoke Mountain Resort development, BC Hydro's fifth/sixth turbine installation at Mica Creek just north of Revelstoke, as well as the construction of two new schools in downtown Revelstoke, may require workers.
- For some employers it is difficult to pay a 'living wage' that keeps pace with the rising cost of living and higher-paying jobs elsewhere. 66% of 2007 community survey respondents listed higher wages as the primary reason they or someone they knew has or is working out-of-town rather than in Revelstoke. Better benefits and training followed at 32% and 30%.
- It is currently an employers market, different from a year ago. Employers are reporting that they are receiving a high number of resumes/applications for the number of positions available.
- Immigration has been considered one possible solution to fill job vacancies. While two thirds of 2007 survey respondents thought Revelstoke is welcoming to people of all cultures, only 55% thought it was a good idea to consider immigration as one possible solution if Canadians cannot be found to fill available jobs, with younger respondents being especially unsupportive.
- The percentage of population over the age of 15 who have not achieved high school graduation is approximately five per cent above the provincial average.
- A higher percentage of population over the age of 15 have an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma than the provincial average, but this is heavily bolstered by the 35-64 age group. Those workers 15-24 and 25-34 are below the provincial average for apprenticeship or trades certificates or diplomas, suggesting a need for more trades training targeted at young workers.
- Approximately half as many individuals in all age groups have university level education compared with provincial levels.
- Interest in adult education is strong, with almost 60% of 2007 Community Survey respondents having participated in training.

- Based on community surveys, citizens were satisfied with both the quality and access to education and training services in Revelstoke. Barriers to participation cited in 2007 include lack of time/too busy, cost, courses offered but not run due to low registration of participants, no training available in field or to suit needs, and cost of travel/accommodation for out of town programs.
- In the 2007 community survey education and training was the top priority economic and employment sector that the community should develop.

What We Are Doing

- The total annual budget for employment services in the community is approximately \$500,000, with 12 full-time positions. Okanagan College, the primary centre for adult learning, has an approximate annual budget of \$250,000 and provides 6 full-time and 11 part-time positions.
- The Revelstoke Employment Services Centre and Stepping Stones Consulting offer employment and pre-employment support services for workers and recruitment support for employers. Goshen Consulting provides employment supports to residents with disabilities. Revelstoke Community Futures hosts the Self Employment Benefit program. Shuswap Community Futures operates the Employment Wage Subsidy program. These services are funded by the BC Ministry of Housing and Social Development and Service Canada. The City assists employers with workforce issues.
- Okanagan College runs basic adult education, certificate programs, employment training, English as a second language and literacy tutoring through classroom sessions, online and distance learning, and a Centre of Learning which includes exam supervision, study space, computer/internet use, learning supports and one-on-one activities. Recently, Okanagan College has received funding to create partnerships to focus on immigration, multiculturalism, workplace diversity and issues related to building and sustaining welcoming and inclusive communities.
- The Literacy Action Committee is the advisory body for the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, the Okanagan College volunteer adult literacy tutoring program, the English as a Second Language Settlement Assistance program (ELSAP), and the Community/District Literacy Plan for Revelstoke. Strong community partnerships continue to expand literacy and learning opportunities work for adults.
- The Columbia Mountains Institute and the Canadian Avalanche Centre provide ecological and avalanche safety and management activities for citizens and non-residents.

3.1 Workforce

Community goal

Alleviate workforce shortages by collective actions focused on employment of local residents, particularly by reducing the barriers faced by youth, women, older workers and the working poor and by attracting new residents to fill jobs that cannot be filled by residents.

Objectives:

- A. Community organizations work together on an ongoing basis to meet the workforce needs of local employers and workers.
- B. Enrich the employment experience to attract and retain workers.
- C. Provide supports for residents to reduce their employment barriers so they are able to join the workforce and earn an adequate income.
- D. Attract and retain workers from other provinces to fill gaps that cannot be filled by local workers.
- E. Attract and retain workers from other countries to fill employment gaps that cannot be filled by local workers.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Create a 'Workforce Partnership' including the City, Community Futures, the Employment Services Centre, Okanagan College, Stepping Stones Consulting, the School District/high school, Literacy Action Committee, Childcare Society and major employers.	Highest	City CED	Lowest
	2 Develop and implement a workforce strategy to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify current and future workforce gaps - Support employers to recruit and retain workers - Maximize local employment at the resort - Expedite the involvement of youth (14- 29 year olds) in local employment (e.g. via coop programs) - Encourage older workers to extend their working lives (care for aging parents may be a barrier) - Address barriers for citizens to be successful in the workforce - Expand linkage with cooperative work/learning programs at educational institutions - Communicate the results broadly in the community 	Highest	City CED Partnership	Low
	3 Work with employers and RCHS to address employee housing needs	Highest	(RCHS)	Highest
B	4 Encourage employers to consider 'perks' (e.g. events, gift certificates, bonuses)	Medium	(CofC)	Low
C	5 Continue the community-based employment supports, including job postings, employment coaching and support for workers with multi-barriers.	Highest	OC*/CC RESC*	Medium
	8 Develop and implement strategies to address identified barriers (affordable housing, training, transportation, child care, substance abuse, literacy) for local workers, being mindful of the potential differences in barriers for young workers (under 30 years)	Highest	RESC*, OC*, SSC*, RLAC*, RCCS*	
	9 Continue to develop and implement strategies for employment of workers with disabilities to achieve the provincial '10 by 10' challenge (10% increase in employment of people with disabilities by 2010).	High	(Goshon Consulting)* City ED, CC RESC*	
D	10 Learn from other communities who are successfully attracting Canadian workers	Highest	Partnership	Lowest
	11 Advertise in strategic locations to attract workers based on community assets (eg. skihill, outdoor adventure opportunities, early childhood learning supports)	Highest	Partnership	Medium
E	12 Designate a community contact for immigration information for employers and potential new workers, including information about the START Canada hospitality immigration program and the provincial nominee program	Highest	City ED* (OC)	Lowest
	13 Recruit recent graduates from resort management programs by participating in career fairs and coop learning programs	High		
	14 Improve the experience of settling in the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to provide English as a second language training for adults and expand the Host program - Complete the community handbook/directory and produce in multiple languages - Create a 'language bank' of trained volunteer interpreters - Community services available in multiple languages 	High	OC* City ED*	Low Medium

15	Establish and maintain links with immigration settlement services in Vancouver and Calgary, including job board links	High	City ED RESC	Low
16	Develop and implement targeted attraction campaigns based on employment gaps and potential employee sources	Medium	City ED	
17	Encourage the Union of BC Municipalities to advocate for continuing to swiftly review immigrant credentials	Medium	(City)	Low

3.2 Adult learning

Community goal

Strengthen the adult education system to allow local residents to compete for available employment opportunities, build community capacity, and engage in learning activities for personal and work related goals.

Objectives:

- A. Residents have reasonable access to education and training so they are the first choice for hiring by local employers.
- B. Provide life-long learning opportunities for all adult community members

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	18 Offer accredited, transferable, academic post-secondary training opportunities as well as employment-related and leisure courses and programs which will expand and adjust to meet the needs of the community	Highest	SD19*/ OC*	Medium
	19 In recognition of Revelstoke's smaller population and low enrollment challenges, advocate for base funded, subsidized, or innovative programming rather than cost-recovery programming	Highest	OC*	Medium
	20 Maintain literacy, numeracy and English as a second language learning opportunities, through one-on-one volunteer tutoring, classroom and/or online delivery in order to address the needs & styles of learners to minimize employment barriers for residents	High	OC* / RLAC*	Medium
	21 Identify, develop and implement strategies to reduce identified barriers to training for local citizens (eg. transportation, funding).	High	(OC / RLAC)	Low
	22 Promote, provide and advocate for continued and improved access to online learning opportunities through a dedicated Centre for Learning which has state of the art computer and conferencing capabilities	High	OC	High
	23 Advocate for funding to create more training opportunities and access to learning programs	High	OC	High
B	24 Develop partnerships with community organizations in order to coordinate and expand learning opportunities	Highest	RLAC*, CBAL*, RESC*, OC*, SC*	Lowest
	25 Ensure Revelstoke is represented on the Okanagan College regional board and/or that the local advisory committee has a means of reporting to community training needs to local and regional stakeholders, as well as the general	High	As above	Low
	26 Develop programming which will encourage and attract students from other communities or countries to enroll locally	High	(OC)	Lowest

4. Child and Youth Learning

What We Know About our Community

- School District 19 operates four elementary schools and one secondary school in the community with provincial government funding. About 150 people (125 full-time equivalents) are employed by the School District.
- School enrollment has declined steadily since 1994 to 1,050 students.
- An independent assessment of the District recognized ‘...the District, like the entire community... is focused on the well-being of their children. The district and community epitomize the idea that “it takes a village to raise a child”.’
- Assessment results of grade four reading, writing, and math levels found Revelstoke students exceed provincial standards, with Revelstoke out performing other districts in the province in reading.
- One measure of scholastic achievement indicates that since 1997, the graduation rate of grade 8 students entering Revelstoke Secondary School has improved from 64%, 7% below the provincial average, to 84%, 4% above the average. In 2008, RSS graduated 95% of eligible students, exceeding the provincial average by 17%
- Based on the 2008 Provincial Satisfaction survey responses, parents are generally satisfied with the school system, Respondents cited the need for programs for gifted children, increased communication with parents, French Immersion, and more physical education in the elementary schools. In response to parental feedback, the district is implementing a comprehensive gifted education program, has focused on communication by enhancing newsletters and the district website, is implementing Daily Physical Activity, supporting the Community Screen Smart initiative and investigated the feasibility of implementing Early French Immersion.
- School facilities are aging and declining enrollment has prompted the need to examine facilities. Subsequent to the submission of a comprehensive business case, the district was awarded a new elementary school to consolidate the downtown population and a new high school to replace the existing structure.
- Declining enrollment makes for significant budget challenges. The Board places the highest priority on programs and services to students, and as a result, most budget reductions have come from facility and administrative savings.

What We Are Doing

- The District has set and achieved or exceeded goals for reading, math and social responsibility. The social responsibility initiatives have greatly increased students’ sense of safety in schools. The number of students supported with behavioral challenges is at an all time low, due to the proactive and preventative measures in place.
- The District explored the feasibility of commencing an early French Immersion program, but a feasibility study determined that numbers of students are insufficient to sustain the program K-12. The district has commenced both a late French Immersion and Intensive French feasibility study.
- The consolidation of the two downtown elementary schools with construction of a new school and construction/renovation of the high school is underway. Both projects secured Neighborhoods of Learning funding to enhance the space as community hubs. The new schools are slated to open in September 2011.
- The district participates actively in community early childhood, literacy and social development initiatives. Early learning initiatives include the StrongStart program, a free parent and child drop-in program for children 5 years and under , Ready, Set, Learn, Leap Land and support to the Revelstoke Child Care Society to assist with additional child care pre-school spaces.
- The Early Childhood Development Committee is a cross-sectoral volunteer committee which acknowledges, values and supports the shared responsibility of investing in young children (0-6 years) so that they may live, learn, play and dream in safe and healthy surroundings. It coordinates community-wide early learning and care,

supports parents and providers through information and resources, and encourages family-friendly initiatives. Through outstanding collaborative planning, Revelstoke's children are among the least vulnerable in the province, based on research by the Human Early Learning Partnership.

- The Literacy Action Committee is an advisory body for the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (family literacy, and children's literacy programming) and the Community/District Literacy Plan. Schools continue to benefit from literacy support for children through strong community partnerships.

Community goal

Support the current high quality formal education for children and youth, and provide informal learning opportunities.

Objectives:

- A. Continue to enhance extensive early childhood development initiatives.
- B. Continue to implement community-wide literacy programs.
- C. Maintain a high-quality of education in the school system.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Continue to update the early childhood development strategy and implement priority ECD activities	Highest	ECDC* SC19*	Medium
B	2 Continue to update the Community/District Literacy Plan and implement priority literacy activities with community partners.	Highest	RLAC*; ECDC*; CBAL*; SD19*	Medium
	3 Expand opportunities for youth and seniors to learn together	High	SD19*; SCA.*	Low
C	4 Continue to implement early intervention strategies	Highest	SD19*	Medium
	5 Continue to offer a broad range of programs at RSS	Highest	SD19*	High
	6 Continue effective social responsibility initiatives	High	SD19	Low
	7 Continue to offer appropriate personal planning programs throughout a student's school experience	High	Schools*; Public health; SAFER	Medium
	8 Continue Screen Smart initiative	High	RSSC*	Medium
	9 Continue to plan for opportunities for community use of surplus school facilities	High	SD19, City	Low

5. Drinking Water and Food Security

5.1 Drinking Water

Note: See the Water section under Primarily Environmental Goals for information on water conservation

What We Know About our Community

- Drinking water is provided through three systems:
 - Greeley Creek watershed/treatment plant – This system serves the needs of the majority of the community. Unfortunately the watershed is not explicitly protected from timber harvesting or other development.

Furthermore, the aging reservoir is in need of upgrading. A City-operated state-of-the-art water treatment plant located 10 km east of town treats this water before distribution to all City residents excepting the Big Eddy area, some properties along Highway 23 North and in Upper Arrow Heights. Water from this source well exceeds mandatory provincial safe drinking water standards in all categories.

- Big Eddy water system – Surface water and well-sourced water is not disinfected and is under permanent boil water advisory.
- Outside the City limits - Wells or surface sources, also vulnerable to contamination, provide water.
- 2007 community survey respondents ranked quality drinking water was the third most important environmental issue with 40% flagging it as important.

What We Are Doing

- The City is responsible for the water treatment plant which provides water to most of City residents.
- The City has begun to implement a Water Conservation Strategy, which includes irrigation water restrictions and monitoring, repair of water main leaks and a water metering trial. This has helped reduce the amount of water used for irrigation by an estimated 30%.
- A back-up well has been drilled at the City golf course and provides irrigation water to the course. A reservoir has also been added in Arrow Heights.
- A local water purveyor group oversees the Big Eddy water system.

Community goal

Maintain safe and secure sources of drinking water for all residents of the City of Revelstoke and area.

Objective:

- A. Watersheds that provide drinking water for the community are protected and water safety issues related to the City's water system are resolved.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Protect the Greeley Creek and Dolan Creek Watersheds by either including the area within the City of Revelstoke city limits, or enhance land-use management practices in these drainages to ensure surface water quality is protected.	Highest	(CE& PW, Provincial agencies)	Medium
	2 Upgrade the Greeley Creek reservoir	Highest	City PW	High
	3 Address water issues for residents living below Revelstoke Mountain Resort	Highest	CSRD RMR	Medium
	4 Provide the public with education on protecting water sources including wells and surface water throughout the community and area	High	(City/ CSRD)	Low

5.2 Food Security

What We Know About our Community

- In the early years of the community, local businesses and families met a large portion of their food needs locally through gardening, hunting and agricultural businesses which provided produce, dairy and meat. Farming was a significant component of the economy, particularly to the south of Revelstoke.
- The creation of the reservoir for the Keenleyside dam flooded much of the arable, valley bottom land around the community and to the south.
- Currently there are two small lots of land totaling less than 5 acres/2 hectares within the Agriculture Land Reserve within the City boundaries. The Regional District lands in South Revelstoke include significant areas within the Agricultural Land Reserve; however some of these lands may be eligible for exclusion.
- Most citizens have come to rely on grocery stores for their food.
- Food supply has been disrupted locally because of our isolated geographical location and frequent highway/rail closures. There are concerns about global food distribution disruptions from environmental or political upheavals, or energy shortages.

What We Are Doing

- Citizens currently have access to local foods (defined as from within 100 miles of the community) through the weekly summer Farmers Market and winter fairs, as well as from a private sector household 'basket' service and health food store.
- Some citizens continue to garden, hunt and preserve foods, thus supplying a portion their own needs.
- Community Connections Outreach Program has taken the lead in a new initiative with interested community members to educate, create awareness about food security issues and generate enthusiasm for possible solutions.

Community goal

Community members are aware of and there is community-wide planning to address food security issues.

Objective:

- A. Increase community member awareness of local food security issues.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	5 Create a local Food Security Task Force	Highest	CC*	Low
	6 Endorse a Food Security Charter	Highest	CC, City	Low
	7 Develop and implement a long-term plan, including community awareness and education	High	CC, NCES, City	Medium
	8 Map available community food sources	Medium	CC*	Low
	9 Explore options to implement local gardening and agriculture activities	Medium	CC*	Low
	10 Integrate with Emergency Preparedness Planning (for example, encourage households to keep a 3 day supply of food set aside for emergencies)	Medium	ESS* CC*	Low

6. Community Character and Sense of Belonging

What We Know About our Community

- The 2007 survey results describe the current community character and sense of belonging:
 - The five words most often cited to describe the community were: friendly, beautiful, safe, scenic, and clean.
 - Most citizens are proud of Revelstoke – 78% of survey respondents answered “yes” (up from 60% in 2000) and 21% “somewhat” when asked this question. Almost all survey respondents invited people to vacation in the area - over 44% regularly (up from 18% in 2000), and almost 50% occasionally.
 - There is a strong sense of belonging - almost 90% of respondents indicated a very strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging, about 15% more than in 2000.
 - There is optimism about the future of the community - almost 90% of responses were ‘yes’ to this question – about 10% higher than the 2000 survey.
 - Revelstoke citizens are active volunteers - 64% of respondents indicated they volunteer their time and talents to the community.
 - Citizens take an active role in community decisions - as in 2000, almost half of the respondents indicated they had provided input on a major community decision in the past year. Younger respondents were less likely to have provided input - only 19% under the age of 30 responded “yes”, compared to 50 - 55% of those older than 30. Reasons for not providing input included the perception that their voice would not be heard (52% of respondents thought that public input influences major decisions, 22% were not convinced and 26% didn’t know), being too busy, and lack of interest.
- Service providers have identified social isolation as an issue for some seniors, people with disabilities and people living on low incomes.
- Newcomers and immigrants to the community can be confused about how to find services and supports in the community. There are no centralized supports or resources to alleviate this issue.

What We Are Doing

- The City, CSRD and community organizations provide avenues and mechanisms for the public to provide input into key decisions.
- Many volunteer groups take active roles in the economic, recreational and social dimensions of the community and have been responsible for key initiatives.
- Despite high participation, finding enough volunteers is limiting some groups. The local Community Futures Development Corporation has a committee to recognize and attract volunteers.
- The Senior’s Association, IHA funded Adult Day Program for seniors with certain needs, Community Connections Outreach Program and the Awareness and Outreach Program for people with mental disabilities are providing opportunities for socially isolated individuals to engage in activities.
- Okanagan College has embarked on a Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces program funded by the BC’s Settlement and Multiculturalism Division (WelcomeBC).

6.1 Community Character

Community goal

Retain the friendly, beautiful, safe, clean small-town community character in this historic mountain setting where a diverse mix of people live as respectful neighbours enjoying a high quality of life.

Many of the elements of this goal are covered in other sections of this plan. This section addresses the friendly, small-town, neighbourly aspect of community life.

Objectives:

- A. Residential neighbourhoods retain a high sense of safety and quality of life.
- B. New residents and visitors are welcomed to the community and are invited to respect and participate in community life.

Objective		Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1	Citizens continue to welcome new neighbours and inform them about community norms	Highest	(Citizens)	Lowest
	2	Zoning to limit vacation rental properties within residential neighbourhoods. (duplicated in Housing section)	Highest	(City Plan)	Lowest
B	3	Complete the Community Handbook/Directory describing services and small-town customs; update as needed	High	OC/City ED*	Medium
	4	Upgrade the City of Revelstoke website – user-friendly & welcoming	High	City	Medium
	5	Continue to build on community partnerships and collaborative actions	High	All	Low
	6	Host community events to welcome new residents (Health & Wellness Fairs to introduce services to new residents – at least once/year)	Medium	CC City	Low
	7	Familiarization (Fam) tours offered to new residents, hosted by long-time residents	Medium	Museum CoC	Low

6.2 Sense of Belonging

Community goal

Continue the high level of participation, volunteerism and involvement of citizens in community activities and decisions, which leads to the current high sense of belonging.

Objective:

- A. Continue opportunities for community input to planning and decision processes.
- B. Maintain and expand volunteering.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	8 Continue the City services website survey	High	City*	Lowest
	9 Continue to seek community input to community and sector strategic plans and development plans	High	City*	Medium
	10 Involve, engage, and encourage youth to provide meaningful input; ensure services are 'youth-friendly' to encourage a sense of belonging	High	All	Low
	11 Support the formation of community neighbourhood associations to provide input into development within specific neighbourhoods	High	City Plan	Low
	12 Provide opportunities to welcome newcomers to become part of the community (immigrants, persons with disabilities, persons whose first language is not English)	High	OC City	Medium
	13 Develop a cultural centre with a theatre/performing arts space as a 'hub'	High		Highest
B	14 Continue the Volunteer Revelstoke group and consider creating a volunteer coordinator position/point of contact	High	CFDC*	Lowest
	15 'Volunteer Revelstoke' website on its own but linked to other websites (City, Chamber, CFDC)	Medium	(CFDC)	Low
	16 Continue to explore and implement new opportunities for volunteer recognition	Medium	CFCD* all	Low
	17 Develop links between groups needing volunteers and seniors	Medium	SCA*	Lowest

Primarily Social Goals

12. Safety and Emergency Services

What We Know About our Community

- 95% of the community survey respondents felt safe in the community, and almost 100% of respondents felt safe in their homes, a slight improvement from 2000 when 89% felt safe in the community and about 94% felt safe at home.
- The average serious crime rate increased slightly (1.5%) from 2001-03 to 2004-06. Crime levels are relatively low, excepting for youth property crimes, spousal assault and non-cannabis drug offenses which are slightly higher than provincial averages.
- The Community Response Network, an organization that trains and supports citizens to identify adult abuse has noted a rising number of incident reports.
- Slightly over half of the 2007 community survey respondents reported that they, their family or a close friend had experienced crime in the past three years. Theft and vandalism are most frequent, followed by physical assault and substance related crimes.
- Community safety generally was not noted as an important community issue in the 2007 survey. Family violence was cited as the third lowest social priority compared to the second highest in 2000.
- Increased crime and the need for more policing are concerns raised by survey respondents about the resort development.
- Wildfires adjacent to Revelstoke in recent years have heightened concerns about risks to the community.
- The annual call volume for paramedics is now over 1100, up from around 600 in 2000. About 30% of these call-outs are for trauma, with a good portion being motor vehicle accident related.
- Citizens have continually been satisfied with fire protection and police services over the past decade. 2007 community survey respondents expressed the highest level of satisfaction for emergency services (police, fire, ambulance) of all services listed, with 85% being somewhat or very satisfied. Emergency services were the second lowest priority for improvement.
- Community Connections and the Ministry of Children and Family Development have identified the need for support for men experiencing and involved in violence. As well, there is limited available support for single males who have problems dealing with child custody issues, supervised visits, and other matters.

What We Are Doing

- Police services are provided by the local branch of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under contract with the City with 11 full time officers and three auxiliaries. As well, the province funds three Integrated Road Safety Unit officers, two Forensic Identification officers, and two General Duty officers.
- The Revelstoke Fire Department has seven paid members and 30 volunteers and provides service within the City and to some rural areas. The plan for Revelstoke Mountain Resort includes a site for a potential satellite fire station on resort lands. As well, the fire department provides a base for the local Highway Rescue Society.
- In 2006 the City commissioned a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and have created a Community Wildfire Committee to support implementation of the plan.
- The Revelstoke branch of the BC Ambulance Service strives to have four paramedic staff on call 24 hours per day. There are eight part-time paramedic staff available, with one full-time member – down from 13 in 2000. Two emergency vehicles are available and each has a capacity of two patients. Planning is underway for the

construction of a new ambulance station: land has been purchased, construction finances approved and set aside, and architectural design services contracted out. It is hoped construction will commence in July 2009.

- The City has an Emergency Planning Committee involving all emergency organizations, and has, in partnership with CSRD, hired a coordinator and Emergency Social Services personnel.
- Emergency management training is being delivered to city staff and other agencies.
- A local Search and Rescue group provides expertise, training and manpower for all-season backcountry rescues.
- In partnership with the province, the City funds Victim Support Services.
- The Women's Shelter Society runs Forsythe House with programs to assist women and children experiencing violence as well as the Community Response Network, and Community Connections offers counseling for children and families experiencing violence.
- The Revelstoke Fire Department has initiated a First Responder Program.

Community goal

Improve on the current high sense of safety in the community by continuing to address conditions that lead to violence and crime and by providing emergency services and services to support victims.

Objectives:

- Maintain availability of services for policing, fire protection, search & rescue and ambulance, with expansion as needed
- Expand emergency preparedness and wildfire protection activities
- Reduce family, spousal and relationship violence and abuse

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Continue policing, fire protection, highway rescue and backcountry search and rescue services to meet existing community needs	Highest	City*, RCMP* Search & Rescue*	Highest
	2 Establish additional fire protection services for the resort area	Highest	RFD / RMR*	Highest
	3 Establish a police community consultation group	High	RCMP City	Low
	4 Monitor population growth, visitor levels, and crime incidents to identify and secure additional resources for needed service expansion as population and visitations grow	High	City, RCMP S & R	??
	5 Stabilize paramedic staffing and complete construction of a permanent base location	High	Prov gov ¹	Highest
	6 Establish a police front office at the resort base	Medium	RCMP RMR	High
B	7 Continue the emergency preparedness program by: - Continuing to retain a coordinator and emergency social services coordinator - Updating the community preparedness plan - Continuing to implement mock-up exercises, training, and equipment upgrades	Highest	RFD	High
	8 Implement the community wildfire protection plan	High	RFD*	High
	9 Encourage households to practice emergency preparedness	High	RFD*	Lowest

C	10	Continue counseling services for children and families experiencing violence	Highest	CC*	Medium,
	11	Continue Victim Support Services	Highest	City*	Medium
	12	Continue the Women's Shelter	Highest	WSS*	High
	13	Continue the Community Response Network	Highest	WSS*	Medium
	14	Re-establish a dating anti-violence program	Highest	RSS/ CC*	
	15	Explore approaches for violence prevention for men and women	Medium	MCF/ CC*	

Note: Substance abuse related projects are listed under b) Substance Abuse. Elder abuse related projects are listed under e) Health, Medical and Wellness

13. Health and Wellness

13.1 Meeting Basic Needs

What We Know About our Community

- In the last few years, there have been national price increases for homeowner's replacement costs and food purchased in restaurants. Gasoline prices fluctuate but remain fairly high. Rental housing costs have also increased locally.
- There are several indicators of increasing hardship for a certain portion of the population: use of the local food bank has risen dramatically since 2001 and there are growing waiting lists for all subsidized housing in the community. The local MCFD office is seeing an increase in calls related to poverty issues and is finding creative ways to support families.
- Recent research from Selkirk College found that in 2006, 15.6% of owner households (365), and 32.7% of tenant households (245) – a total of 615 households - were spending 30% or more of household income on shelter.
- In 2006, compared to 2004 data the number of low income families decreased by 30 families but the median incomes increased somewhat. 2006 income tax returns indicate the following households fall below the low-income cut-offs used by the federal government to define low-income families:
 - 40 couples with no children and median annual income of \$13,400
 - 50 couples with 110 children and median income with two children of \$19,500.
 - 150 lone parents with 220 children and median income for two children of \$16,800.
 - 370 individuals with median income of \$10,600.
- The percent of Revelstoke's population receiving income assistance is less than provincial averages.
- In 2007 186 residents were receiving provincial disability pensions. Many of these individuals live in poverty, particularly recently as housing costs have increased.
- The proportion of low-income families is almost half the provincial average using a measure of spending more than 20% of the average family on food, clothing and shelter.
- Since Nov 08 to Jan 09 the unemployment rates have increased to 7% up 2.2% from 4.8% at the same time last year, though the rate locally remains higher due of seasonal work in tourism, retail, service and forestry, with the summer and winter months being the high demand seasons.
- Recent food bank client information provides more insights into who is struggling to make ends meet in the community:
 - Most food bank users are single people, with the remaining being equally lone- and two- parent families and couples with no children.

- Major income sources for clients are employment income ranking the highest followed by social assistance and disability support programs then followed by pension income.
 - Aboriginal people use the food bank at 10-fold higher rates than their representation in the community population.
 - The vast majority are renters, with some living in social housing and most people pay more than 50% of their income on rent. Several families and individuals have moved to other communities after being evicted and not being able to find suitable, affordable housing.
- 36% of respondents to the 2007 community survey identified access to basic food, shelter and clothing as an important social issue needing attention – making this the 4th highest priority. Child poverty was ranked 6th with 19% of responses.
 - The 2007 community survey revealed that lower income households were more likely to experience social isolation. Low-income families were also the likeliest to describe their family situation as “messed up” (26%) and have difficulty accessing recreation due to cost. Low-income households were much more likely to select “Access to basic food, shelter and clothing” as a priority social issue.
 - With new eligibility requirements and accounting procedures for income assistance and employment insurance, there is concern among social service providers that some people are ‘falling through the cracks’.
 - Literacy and employment support providers identify reliable transportation as a key factor that limits the potential for low-income families to access services and retain employment.

What We Are Doing

- Since the closure of the Ministry of Human Resources office in 2001, some services have been developed in the community for people facing emergency financial or housing situations – in particular, Community Connections provides advocacy through the Social Justice Advocate, Housing Outreach Worker and Tenant Support Worker positions. However, people still face many challenges. For those 2007 community survey respondents who were, or had anyone close as recipients of income assistance or social services support, over 68% were somewhat or very dissatisfied with income assistance, and almost 62% were somewhat or very dissatisfied with social service support.
- Community Connections Outreach Program runs the food bank, community garden and community kitchen, provides baby bundles and promotes other community activities to support families living in poverty.
- Some schools provide food programs for children living in poverty.
- Churches are active in supporting those in need, with one hot lunch program offered by the United Church.
- The Women’s Shelter assists women and families in crisis to meet their immediate needs.
- The Revelstoke Awareness and Outreach Program for people living with mental disabilities is sponsored by the Canadian Mental Health Association and runs primarily with volunteers.
- The Seniors Association is implementing new programs to support seniors to meet their basic needs.

Community goal

Increase the wellness and sense of belonging of citizens coping with poverty, mental health challenges or social isolation.

Objectives:

- A. Support all citizens to access healthy foods.
- B. Citizens have equal access to the resources, employment, services and opportunities they require to meet their basic needs.

- C. Citizens have at least one source of family, friend or professional support in the community.
- D. Provide services to meet short-term, emergency needs

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Continue the community food bank/garden/kitchen and outreach program	Highest	CC*	High
	2 Continue and encourage further church sponsored soup/lunch programs.	Highest	Churches*	Low
	3 Continue Meals on Wheels program and Seniors Helping Seniors and programs	Highest	SCA*	Medium
	4 Expand school breakfast/lunch and emergency food stores programs to all schools	Highest	Schools*	Medium
B	5 Continue programs and services for developmentally disabled citizens	Highest	CC*/CLBC*	Highest
	6 Provide points of contact for citizen concerns about local, federal and provincial services, including computer access of issues other than employment topics.	Highest	CC*	Medium
	7 Lobby for an income assistance office in the community	Highest	All	Low
C	8 Continue the awareness and outreach program for citizens with mental health challenges	High	IHA*	High
	9 Continue the life skills worker	High	IHA*	High
	10 Support men's basic needs such as shelter, healthy lifestyles, mental & emotional health, while transitioning to the community	High	MCFD, CC	High
	11 Continue the summer entertainment in the Plaza, and explore ways to offer free entertainment at other times of the year (including by & for youth)	High	City	Medium
D	12 Develop local, collective solutions (eg. homeless shelter, allocated emergency funds, etc.)	High	CC* / WSS / Churches	Low

Note: The Housing and Transportation sections include actions to improve these services for people struggling to meet their basic needs. The Solid Waste Management/Recycling section includes an action to create a 'free store' for furniture, and other items that are not currently recycled in the community.

13.2 Healthy Lifestyles

What We Know About our Community

- Almost 93% of respondents to the 2007 survey consider the general well being of the people in their households to be stable or improving, almost the same result as in the 2000 survey.
- For infants, the mortality rate and incidence of low birth weights, which increases health risks for children, are close to or better than the provincial rate.
- The average 2006-07 hospitalization rate for children 0-14 years old was much higher than the provincial rate for respiratory diseases, but less than the rate for injuries and poisoning. In 2006/07 the hospitalization rate for youth aged 15-24 was half the provincial rate. In 2004-06 the number of teen pregnancies for 15-17 year old women was also less than provincial averages.
- From 2001-2005 there were slightly more deaths in total than expected compared to provincial rates. Diseases of the circulatory system were the leading cause of death and accounted for over 33% of total deaths.

- Health professionals indicate community members reflect the national ‘crisis’ in child and adult health issues related to excess weight such as Type 2 diabetes, although diabetes is no longer one of the top 5 causes of death in the Revelstoke Local Health area.
- Responses to the 2007 community survey indicate about 32% of local citizens experience levels of personal stress or frustration they didn’t feel they could handle. This is down from about 40% in 2000. The major sources of stress are personal or family finances, health problems and workplace problems.
- Eighty percent of the survey respondents had someone to turn to, with family and friends being the main sources of support. Almost 27% of survey respondents sought professional help. Half the respondents had used these supports one to three times in the past year, while slightly over 20% turned to their support systems more than 10 times in the past year.

What We Are Doing

- Provincially funded services offered through public health, the mental health clinic and the hospital promote healthy lifestyles through pre-and post –natal services, counseling and nutrition advice.
- Approximately every second year the community holds a Seniors Health Fair. In October 2008 the first “Health and Wellness Fair” was held open to the all of the public with the aim being that they alternate each year.
- The Screen Smart Committee is providing information and hosting events to encourage alternative family activities to ‘screen time’, especially physical activities.
- The School District has expanded healthy foods at the high school cafeteria and reduced junk foods in vending machines. The Parks and Recreation Department is shifting to healthier choices for the vending machines in the Community Centre.

Community goal

Promote and encourage healthy lifestyles to improve the health of all citizens.

Objective:

- A. Improve quality of life and reduce mortality rates from unnatural causes

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	13 Continue to promote alternative family activities to ‘screen time’.	Highest	RSSC *	Low
	14 Expand active, non-competitive sports programs at schools	Highest	SD#19, RTA	Low
	15 Inform the community about the highest preventable sources of mortality (currently circulatory) and prevention options	Highest	IH	Low
	16 Raise the profile and broaden the Community Health Fair, particularly to include promotion of active, healthy lifestyles	High	CC City	Medium
	17 Explore options to support other health & wellness fairs (seniors, men’s health, helping residents link up with service providers)	High	all	Low
	18 Continue to improve universal accessibility to recreation facilities and programs	High	City P&R	Low
	19 Continue to limit junk food sales in community and school facilities	High	City P&R* SD19*	Lowest
	20 Continue to implement community-based ‘healthy lifestyle’ days, e.g. Bike and walk to work days	Medium	City P&R	Low
	21 Install more bike racks throughout the community	Medium	City	Low

13.3 Substance Use

What We Know About the Situation

- Citizens see problem substance use as a significant community issue as indicated by the following responses to the 2007 community survey:
 - almost 40% cited problems with substance use in Revelstoke as negatively affecting them, their family, friends or co-workers;
 - 36% identified problem substance use as a reason for unemployment, the third highest ranking, and drug and alcohol counseling was listed as a factor that might have kept someone who was working out of town in the community;
 - substance related crimes were reported as the fourth most common type of crime experienced by respondents, their family, or close friends, the same ranking as in 2000;
 - 52% identified this factor as needing attention – the second highest ranking; and
 - in somewhat of a contradiction, substance use was listed as the second lowest source of personal stress, by only nine individuals.
- Community health professionals also identify problem substance use as a major community issue, with services historically provided mainly for alcohol (58%) and cocaine (22%) use, with marijuana being somewhat less (12%), and prescription drug use also a concern. The School District also sees substance use as a significant community issue.
- Over a 1 year period, between March 1, 2007 and Feb 29, 2008, about 44% of client intakes at the Revelstoke Women's Shelter had known problem substance use or addiction issues.
- Between September 2007 & September 2008 18% of local RCMP files were drug & alcohol related, although this does not include crimes where it is thought that problem substance use was involved or crimes committed to support substance use.
- Available statistics and health professionals from outside the community suggest the substance use levels in the community may not be any more significant than in other communities:
 - Between 2000 & 2004, there were 22 alcohol-related deaths and between 2001 & 2005, there were 20 alcohol-related deaths. For Revelstoke, this puts 'alcohol-related' deaths in the top 5 causes of death.
 - Between 2004 & 2006, Revelstoke's 'non-cannabis' drug offenses were higher than provincial averages, ranking Revelstoke the 14th (worse) out of 78 Local Health Areas in the province. This is an increase over previous years, when 'non-cannabis' drug offenses were less than provincial averages.
 - Per capita alcohol sales have also been on the rise, and remained consistently significantly higher than provincial averages (with the qualification that high tourist areas will be overstated).
 - The Centre of Addictions Research BC found that overall in BC:
 - Use of tobacco & crystal meth has declined, and use of alcohol, cocaine & crack cocaine has risen.
 - Tobacco and alcohol are responsible for the majority of direct costs to health care and enforcement.
 - Productivity costs in the workplace account for the largest portion of the overall burden of problem substance use on the BC economy.

What We Are Doing

- An Alcohol and Drug Counselor who is funded by the provincial government through IHA is located at the Mental Health and Addictions Clinic at the hospital and works closely with other clinical staff and the psychiatrist. Approximately, 100 to 150 clients are seen annually by the counselor. Historically 55% are employed and almost 60% are men.
- Most major employers have employee assistance programs that make referrals to counseling available in town.

- Detox services (usually takes 4-7 days for a patient to detoxify) are available outside of the community, with the closest locations in Kamloops or Kelowna, but are inadequate to meet the demand. Waiting lists for access to detox and treatment exist across the province and it can take anywhere from one day to two weeks to be admitted. There are some private treatment centres in the province, but at \$350/day the cost is prohibitive for the average patient.
- Although this varies, in 2008 approximately 20 individuals were referred for treatment by Mental Health and Addictions program locally; others attend independently. The local annual budget for treatment assistance through the provincial government is approximately \$3,000 – not enough for one month of treatment in most residential programs. Additional funds are sought on a case by case basis.
- There is a School Prevention Worker based at the high school who also provides service to the elementary schools funded through IHA. She also has an office located at Public Health.
- The DARE program, which encourages prevention of drug/alcohol use, has been delivered by the RCMP in grade 5 or 6 classes.
- Twelve substance use self-help/support groups meet every week, attended by an average of 10-15 people per session.
- An Alcohol & Drug Task Force was established in October 2007 and the group developed a mission statement. However, the Task Force recognized the difficulty of trying to do this work off the sides of their desks and the group stalled.
- In 2008, the Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee (RCSDC) recognized substance use as a priority action and named a subcommittee to begin work on a community-wide substance use strategy. In 2009, RCSDC invited Dan Reist from the Centre of Addictions Research BC to the community to present on a health-based approach to substance use. The workshops were well attended and represented a starting point to develop the strategy.
- Harm reduction packages are available from Public Health and the local pharmacy.

Community Goal

Recognize substance use as a major factor limiting the social and economic life of individuals, families and the community and act collectively to reduce problem use and support treatment.

Objectives:

- Develop and implement a community-wide substance use strategy
- Enhance policing and enforcement of substance use related activities.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A 22	Develop a comprehensive community health based approach to lower risk factors on a community-wide basis, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gathering relevant data - Using the 'Four Pillar' approach 	Highest	RCSDC	Medium

23	<p>Increase community-wide awareness of problem substance use through activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinated community-wide communication about substance use levels in the community, its effects on personal, family and community life and available treatment - Informing employers of the substance use situation in the community and resources available to support workers to prevent problem substance use as well as access counseling and treatment (Employee Assistance Programs) - Creating community events around drug awareness week - Organizing and promoting non-alcohol related alternative activities during special events 	Highest	all	Low
24	<p>Encourage responsible use through activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced municipal policy related to the sale of alcoholic beverages at community events (e.g., sporting and cultural events) - Coordinated community-based awareness (e.g. information in bars and pubs) program on affects of alcohol and drugs during pregnancy and on fetal development - Establishing the Safe Bar program (effective in Ontario) - Establishing mentor programs for children and youth lacking positive role models 	Highest	City, CoC, private secur, CC	Low
25	<p>Expand awareness of and access to counselling, detox and treatment services through activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue drug and alcohol counselling in the community - Information campaign to increase awareness of barriers to access to detox and treatment services - Continue to advocate for increased access to regional detox and treatment services - Training hospital staff to handle detox and mental health patients - Providing life skills support for individuals involved in substance use counseling - Working with Public Health to enable more flexibility around availability of tuberculosis tests to expedite access to regional detox services. (Skin tests are offered every week. X ray requests can also be done through physicians) - Providing home care nursing support for in-home detox - Providing access to hospital acute care beds available for detox 	Highest	IH CC MCFD	Medium
26	<p>Continue, and where appropriate, proactively expand substance use prevention programs to meet identified needs through activities such as,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue full-time school-based prevention program at the high school and the elementary schools and work with IH to develop these services as appropriate 	Highest	IH City	High
27	Encourage enhanced policing of drug and alcohol related activities	High	(RCMP)	
B 28	Substance use related offenders to be required to enter intervention program and pay fines to local programs where appropriate	High	(Attorney General)	

13.4 Health Care Services

What We Know About our Community

- The health care system in the community includes provincially funded services, private fee-for-service providers and volunteer groups.
- Provincial services in the community funded by the Interior Health Authority include:
 - Queen Victoria Hospital** - Offers services related to stabilization of major trauma in preparation for transfer to the relevant tertiary centre, maternity, minor elective surgeries, laboratory and radiology, physiotherapy, outpatient ambulatory care, nutrition, care for the elderly, respite and hospice with staffing of approximately 90 full-time equivalents. There are ten acute care beds and 45 long-term care beds, which include one respite bed and one palliative care bed. Visiting physicians provide specialized medical care. One benefit of the Revelstoke

Mountain Resort development has been that recruitment for most staff positions has been less challenging however it may become an issue again if there continues to be increases in house prices. An exception is that there continues to be a shortage of home care aid workers – this difficulty has been flagged and management is investigating strategies to address the issue.

Public health services - Offers immunizations, hearing screens, baby clinics, influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, communicable & STD disease investigation, education, and resources, prenatal and postnatal services, support for new mothers, services for children with special needs, individual and group counselling on every aspect of health, tobacco education, school health services, and environmental health services. The public health team includes a public health inspector, health unit aide, public health nurses, and a school-based prevention worker. A speech and language pathologist for pre-school children is co-located with the Child Care Society.

- Dental health education and services, nutrition services, newborn hearing screening program, preschool vision program and health protection services are provided by IHA through staff from outside the community.

Mental Health and Addictions Clinic – Provide counselling and life skills support through one part-time counsellor, one full time community mental health nurse, and one part-time life skills worker. Substance use counselling is provided with one full-time staff.

Selkirk Medical Clinic - Houses ten physicians practicing general medicine, a laboratory, and a complement of nursing staff.

- Public health services, the mental health clinic, substance use counsellor and a private psychiatrist are located at the hospital. The benefits to co-location include inter-linking communication and patient care between departments and cost efficiency. However, since the amalgamation, there have been repeated calls for a satellite office downtown to facilitate walk-in access, as well as some concerns about confidentiality due to the public location of the waiting room.
- Independent health care providers include three dentists, two chiropractors, one optometrist, a part-time hearing specialist, two part-time physiotherapists, seven registered massage therapists, and three acupuncturists.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) provides support to families in their efforts for positive and healthy relationships. Services offered include Individual and Family Support, Child and Youth Mental Health, Foster Care, Respite, Adoption and Protective Services. The local office works along side community and families to engage formal and informal supports toward the goal of healthy families.
- An active volunteer hospice society provides respite and hospice support. A S.A.F.E.R. clinic (Sexual Awareness for Everyone in Revelstoke) provides sexual health counseling. Numerous volunteer support groups bring people with specific health challenges or experiencing bereavement together.
- Satisfaction with health care services has improved from 2000, when citizens were least satisfied with health care services of all community services. There is still a desire for improvement with access to doctors and hospital services ranking second and third out of 12 services in the survey, mental health and home care services ranking eighth and ninth. 2007 community survey respondents cited a desire for a “walk-in” medical office and an overall improvement in health care services in Revelstoke.
- There is also a concern about the impact of Revelstoke Mountain Resort on health care services in the community – 61% of 2007 community survey respondents felt the resort would negatively impact Revelstoke with an increased demand on health care services and 81% felt there should be a high priority placed on taking action to reduce this negative impact.
- 95% of 2009 seniors' issues survey respondents indicated that it was very important/important to know what health and community care services were available in the community and how to access them; 83% thought it was very important/important that flu shots be offered in a downtown location.

- Access to services not available in Revelstoke is a major issue given the geographic location of the community, although this has been alleviated somewhat by a weekly medical health bus service. As well, Interior Health has instigated a regional initiative that will result in a comprehensive plan for critical care transport from rural sites.

Community goal

Enhance local health care services and assist citizens to access out-of-town care when needed.

Objective:

- A. Continue open communications with IHA to bring appropriate services to the community and initiate proactive strategic thinking to plan for longer term needs.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
29	Re-convene a Community Health Services Advisory Committee in partnership with Interior Health to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for community health services - Clarify the future use of the Moberly Manor building - Develop a shared understanding of the need for medical services, hospital staffing levels and acute care bed needs – particularly as Revelstoke Mountain Resort develops - Continue to monitor opportunities to establish a downtown health unit or satellite office for public health, mental health clinic and Alcohol and Drug counseling 	Highest	City* /IH	Lowest
30	Continue the out-of-town medical bus service	Highest	IH*	Medium
A 31	Ensure timely implementation of increased medical services, including ambulance services, in response to growing need – particularly as Revelstoke Mountain Resort develops	Highest	(IH/RMR)	Medium
32	Advocate for expanded hours to Selkirk Medical Clinic to include after business hours and Saturdays	Highest	City/IH	Medium
33	Reinforce critical care transport services to ensure regional teams are available as needed and air transport is facilitated	High	(IH)	High
34	Continue access to the medical equipment/aids Red Cross Loans Cupboard	High	(Red Cross)	Lowest
35	Monitor 'no refusal' protocol for hospital transfers to ensure local citizens have access to health care as needed	Medium	(City/ IH)	Lowest

Note: The Seniors section includes action to provide additional services for aging people with developmental disabilities.

14. Families, Children and Youth

What We Know About our Community

- The type and number of households in the community in 2006 were:

Type of Household	No. of Households	Percentage
Couples	1,830	51%
One person	1,320	37%
Lone parent with children	430	12%
TOTAL	3,580	100%

- In 2006 about 25% of the population – 1,805 young people were between 5 and 24 years old. 950 were between ages 15 to 24
- 97% of 2007 community survey respondents thought it was important to be, and over 90% viewed Revelstoke as being, family oriented, similar to 2000.
- 46% of 2007 community survey respondents described their families as “thriving” (compared to 35% in 2000) and 46.5% as “managing” (compared to 55% in 2000). Conversely, low-income households were the likeliest (26%) to describe their family situation as “messed up”. Nearly 48% of 2007 community survey respondents had family members living in Revelstoke other than those in their home.
- Child Care choices have been expanded and in 2009 there is no longer a shortage of care in our community. With the addition of new Licensed Family Child Care providers and the Child Care Society’s expansion from 25 spaces to: 20 Licensed Group 3 – 5 year old spaces for at total of 45; 20 Licensed School Age spaces; 20 Licensed Preschool spaces and most recently 12 Licensed Infant and Toddler spaces, waitlists have been addressed. The Child Care Resource and Referral has the new mandate to support parents to access Child Care Subsidy resulting in more families with an income threshold of \$38,000 able to access this support program.
- As of September 2007 the percentage of youth aged 19 to 24 receiving employment insurance was slightly higher in Revelstoke than the provincial average, the percentage of youth under 19 receiving income assistance was much less. In 2008, BC Stats “Index of Youth at Risk” ranked Revelstoke the 13th best area of 77 Local Health Areas in the province – down from 5th best in 2007.
- 65% of 2007 community survey respondents indicated satisfaction with support for families and children, down from 75% in 2000. Citizens indicated a moderate to high priority for improvement in these services.
- Some 2007 community survey respondents felt there could be more activities for youth
- Youth respondents to the 2007 community survey differed from older people:
 - they were more likely to be dissatisfied with Revelstoke as a place to live;
 - they were less likely to have provided input on a major community decision in the last year and were less certain how their input would impact community decisions;
 - they were much more likely to be affected by substance abuse.
 - they displayed the most optimism toward the current state of the economy, with 74% believing the economy is growing.
 - they identified “access to education” as a high social priority.
 - they chose “support for entrepreneurs”, “arts and cultural expansion”, and not surprisingly, “opportunities for youth” as high economic and employment priorities.
 - they were concerned with environmental priorities such as energy conservation.

What We Are Doing

- **The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)** provides support to families in their efforts for positive and healthy relationships. Services offered include Individual and Family Support, Child and Youth Mental Health, Foster Care, Respite, Adoption and Protective Services. The local office works along side community and families to engage formal and informal supports toward the goal of healthy families.
- **Community Connections** - The largest community organization, operating as a non-profit society, offering services for adults (including residential group homes) and children with developmental disabilities; counseling services; family support programs; Jumping Jacks preschool; women’s programs; outreach programs for individuals and families that live in poverty; and a youth program.
- **Interior Health** – Provides pre- and post-natal and parenting services and supports for raising healthy families; communicable disease avoidance and vaccination services; school-based prevention services; hearing and vision services; environmental services and speech and language services.

- **Revelstoke Community Childcare Society** – A non–profit society that focuses on child care and early childhood development. RCCS operates: a group child care for 3 to 5 years; both school-aged and infant/toddler child care; Leap and Learn Preschool; the Early Learning Resource Lending Library; and the Child Care Resource and Referral Program which supports all child care providers and early learning programs in the community with training, education, support and networking. CCRR also supports parents with child care referrals, child care subsidy and information about quality child care and early learning.
- **Early Childhood Development Committee** - This cross-sectoral volunteer committee acknowledges, values and supports the shared responsibility of investing in young children (0-6 years) so that they may live, learn, play and dream in safe and healthy surroundings. It facilitates community-wide early learning and care, supports parents and providers through information and resources, and encourages family-friendly initiatives.
- **Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy** – CBAL is a non-profit organization that promotes literacy and lifelong learning in the community. A number of family and children’s literacy programs and services are offered. Building on the strengths of families, these programs, either directly or indirectly, support parents to guide their children in learning.
- **School District # 19** – In addition to responsibility for the child and youth education system in the community, the School District participates actively in community committees related to child and youth development and learning. Early learning initiatives include the StrongStart Center, a free parent and child (to age 5) drop in program, Baby Talk, a free drop-in program for new parents and babies to 12 months. As well, the Child Care Society opened a licensed preschool hosted at the StrongStart site.
- **City of Revelstoke** – Runs a licensed preschool and supports many activities centered around families and children.
- **Okanagan College** – Provides a prenatal training program.
- **S.A.F.E.R. clinic** (Sexual Awareness for Everyone in Revelstoke) - Provides sexual health counseling for youth. It is staffed by a physician, a nurse and volunteers, many of whom are youth. This clinic addresses the need for confidential health care services for youth, including a drop-in health clinic, with a particular emphasis on sexual health care and education.

Community goal

Continue to demonstrate that our community cares about our children, youth, and families by expanding childcare services and maintaining diverse recreational, cultural, educational and employment opportunities.

Objectives:

- A. Maintain the community focus on child care through the Child Care Society with expanded child care services.
- B. Maintain community services to support children, parents, teens, couples and individuals
- C. Improve teen and youth sense of belonging

Objective	Projects/Tasks		Priority	Leader	Cost
	A	1	Maintain the Community Child Care Resource and Referral Program	Highest	RCCS*
2		Maintain a full complement of child care options within the community, including for infants.	Highest	RCCS*	

B	3	Enhance & improve resources and existing support services for all families, including recreation, programming, prevention, all counseling and crisis support needs	Highest	CC*, MCF*, IHA*, RCCS*, CBAL, SD19 ECDC*	Highest
	4	Continue and expand approaches to make recreational equipment and supervision available to low income families	High	MCF*, CC*, RCCS*	Low
	5	Act on opportunities to expand recreational activities, physical activity and entertainment options for youth and families	Medium	ECD, RCCS, CC, CBAL, City	
	6	Explore co-location opportunities for family services (teen, alcohol & drug, MCFD, recreation – ‘one-stop shop’)			
	7	Ensure safe bike paths connecting throughout the community			
C	8	Continue the Youth Program Coordinator and events	Highest	CC*/ (City)	Medium
	9	Continue the S.A.F.E.R. program (walk-in sexuality clinic)	Highest	SAFER Society	Medium
	10	Involve teens and youth in community processes	High	RLAC / CC / City	Low
	11	Establish a youth centre in the community that provides both space and a centre for activities (card table, pool table, climbing wall etc)	Medium		

Note: Transportation to meet basic needs is addressed in the Transportation section, education and life long learning are included in the Child and Youth Education section, youth recreation projects are included in the Recreation section.

15. Seniors

What We Know About our Community

- In 2006, there were 1785 citizens aged 55 years and older in Revelstoke. Citizens aged 65 years and older represented just over half of this figure (925), about 12.8% of the overall population. As with most other communities, the aging population is expected to grow significantly over the next several years. In 2009, seniors' survey respondents indicated that most wanted to stay in Revelstoke for the rest of their lives; those who 'didn't know' cited insecurity regarding affordability and whether enough services would be available to meet their needs.
- Currently, most seniors own and live in their own homes. However, there are wait lists for all independent living, subsidized housing, residential care, and assisted living facilities in the community. Furthermore, there are very limited rental, ownership or supported housing options for older residents needing to downsize.
- For many seniors, walking is a priority. A key barrier to accessibility and social participation is the icy, slippery condition of sidewalks in the winter and mounds of snow blocking access to shops, bus stops, postal boxes and the like. Sloping curbs are fine in summer but treacherous in winter if not maintained. Although in recent years there have been improvements to sidewalks in the downtown core, there are many sidewalks and curbs in need of repair. More benches are needed at bus stops, shopping areas, and at other downtown locations. Other accessibility concerns include the need for more disabled parking spaces in the downtown core and the need to enforce existing parking (disabled and senior's parking at the Community Centre). Parking close to shops and medical facilities is important for those for whom walking any distance is difficult. The location of the hospital and

related services far from the downtown core makes access difficult. As well, many commercial buildings have steps, narrow aisles and slippery floors.

- The recent addition of a 'handydart' bus to the community has improved transportation options for mobility-challenged seniors and disabled who are unable to transfer from a wheelchair to a vehicle. However, 2009 seniors' survey respondents pointed out that there is no public transit bus in the evenings, nor does the transit bus stop at the Community Centre or Seniors' Centre.
- The vast majority of seniors feel safe in their homes and around the community, but a significant number do not know whom to call if they feel unsafe. As well, there is a need for better communication and information about accessing local health, community care and government services. The recent loss of a number of provincial offices in the community also affects accessibility to a variety of services and often necessitates traveling outside the community, or leaving the community altogether.
- As the community grows and changes with the development of Revelstoke Mountain Resort, many seniors feel disengaged from planning processes and uncertain about the direction of community development. Concerns revolve around the rising cost of living and the impression that most of the new commercial ventures meet the needs of a younger generation (board and skate shops, bars).

What We Are Doing

- Revelstoke Senior Citizens Association Branch #83 is a volunteer organization that offers support, social and learning activities for seniors. Programs include Seniors Helping Seniors (grocery shopping for those unable to leave home), guest speakers, choir, and the monthly birthday party, among others. The association is currently upgrading its computer learning resources and is broadening activities for seniors, with a special emphasis on isolated individuals.
- The office for the volunteer senior's counselor, offering advocacy services, is also located in the Seniors' Centre.
- The Community Care Social Worker and Life Skills worker from the hospital provide health related social support. Interior Health Home and Community Care Services offer home support services, community care nursing, an adult day program and respite services.
- Despite limitations, the "Health Bus" for out-of-town medical appointments and 'Handydart' bus are important services for seniors.
- The Community Response Network is focusing on education around adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect.
- Recently, the Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee identified planning for seniors as a high priority and an 'Age-friendly' plan for Revelstoke and Area is underway. As well, funding was obtained to support seniors through the implementation of a number of initiatives. The newly developed Senior's Planning Steering Committee meets on a monthly basis, this includes representation from the Senior's Association; Interior Health; Community Connections and the Social Development Committee.

<h3>Community goal</h3>

Support seniors to enjoy a high quality of life within the community.

Objective:

- A. Provide sufficient services to meet seniors' needs and encourage them to stay in Revelstoke

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Implement recommendations in the Age-Friendly Plan			
	2 Expand seniors' participation in programs and services	Highest	SCA.	Lowest
	3 Continue and expand existing seniors programs and services (recreation, learning opportunities, shopping support, income taxes, meals, etc.)	Highest	SCA.*/ OC* / RLAC*	Medium
	4 Provide ongoing learning opportunities about personal safety (eg. avoiding scams and thefts – including on the internet – and emergency preparedness) and avoiding abuse (physical, emotional and financial)	Highest	SCA	Lowest
	5 Work with RCHS to address the continuum of housing needs for seniors, including the need to downsize from large single family homes	Highest	RCHS	High
	6 Explore options to reduce the cost of lifeline (personal emergency alert devices) services so more seniors can afford to use this service	Highest		Lowest
	7 Develop supports for seniors to purchase medical supplies and services	High	(CC, SCA)	Medium
	8 Re-establish the fall prevention program	High	(IHA, SCA)	Lowest
	9 Expand snow removal, yard and handyman services	High	CFDC	Lowest
	10 Pharmacist support to help sort-out and dispose of old medications	High	(Pharmac ists) / SCA	Lowest
	11 Maintain and expand Home and Community Care services as needed.	High	(IHA / Private sector)	??
	12 Encourage employers to provide retirement planning at the workplace	Medium	(Employe rs)	Lowest
	13 Ensure adequate medical care for aging individuals with developmental disabilities.		(IHA, CC, CLBC)	

Note: Transportation to access basic needs is addressed in the Transportation section; abuse prevention (Community Response Network) is addressed in the safety and emergency services section

16. Recreation

Note: See the Parks and Green Space section for information on parks.

What We Know About our Community

- Public recreation facilities include:
 - A full service community center with Okanagan Regional Library, an attached seniors activity center, aquatic centre and gym. The Aquatic Centre, which opened in March 2005, is popular with residents and tourists alike and has quickly become a prized feature of the community.
 - Revelstoke Golf Course (18 holes).
 - Revelstoke Forum skating/hockey arena with adjacent curling rink.
 - Three community parks, six neighbourhood parks, including skate board park, soccer, ball fields, and tennis courts.
 - Several other park areas, such as the heritage garden at the museum, Williamson's Lake swimming area, and Grizzly Plaza.
 - Undeveloped parks (e.g. east Williamson's Lake).
- Some community facilities need upgrades, such as the hockey arena and Centennial Park.

- The City Parks and Recreation Department offers a range of activities for children and adults. Organized recreation is also available through 75 recreation groups. 34 of these groups organize activities for children. The community hosts a wide range of tournaments and other sporting events.
- Private businesses operate two gyms and a bowling alley. The former community ski hill has undergone expansion into Revelstoke Mountain Resort.
- The regional district and surrounding public forests offer hiking, rock-climbing, mountain biking, mountaineering, camping, bird-watching, boating, fishing, Nordic and back-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling.
- Two national parks and three provincial parks are easily accessible from the community.
- Almost 85% of 2007 community survey respondents felt their recreational needs were being met, compared to 50% in 2000. Suggestions for further activities included more biking and walking trails, a boat launch, climbing gym and more facilities for youth.
- Almost 90% of survey respondents' families were able to participate in the organized recreational activities in which they were interested, compared to 76% in 2000.

What We Are Doing

- The City's Parks and Recreation Department manages community recreation facilities and hosts programs. CSRD has a cost sharing arrangement with the City for recreation services (including the indoor pool).
- The City's Parks and Recreation staff supports recreation groups with organizational development, accessing funding and hosting special events.
- The Revelstoke Board of Education has created the Leap Land Indoor Playground. It is an indoor play space located at Mt. View School for children birth to school age, accompanied by their parent or child care provider – free of charge.
- Formal and informal mechanisms exist to support children whose families cannot afford recreation costs to participate in activities.
- The City has convened a biking trail committee to expand the trail network.
- BC Hydro is exploring options to improve the Centennial Park boat launch; a separate initiative is underway to develop a boat launch on Lake Revelstoke.

Community goal

Retain the broad range of recreation opportunities and support accessibility for all citizens.

Objective:

- A. Replace unsafe equipment and infrastructure in community parks and facilities to support a full range of recreational pursuits
- B. Ensure recreation facilities and activities are affordable for all residents

Objective	Projects/Tasks			Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1	Continue to upgrade community park equipment		Highest	City P&R*	High
	2	Examine and implement feasible and affordable options to upgrade the Forum (skating and curling rinks)		Medium	City P&R	High
	3	Examine and implement feasible and affordable options to develop Centennial Park with suitable facilities for a variety of sports (also in the Tourism section)		High	City P&R CED	High

	4	Develop permanent bocce and lawn bowling facilities for use by seniors and others (perhaps at the golf course)	Low	City P&R	Medium
B	5	Continue the free pass program at the pool for low-income residents and expand to include other city recreational facilities as well as programs	High	City P&R	Medium
	6	Develop more indoor winter recreation opportunities for a variety of groups and residents	Medium	City P&R all	Medium

Community Organization Abbreviations

AG	Ministry of the Attorney General
AQC.....	Air Quality Committee
CC	Community Connections
CDC.....	Conservation Data Centre
CFDC	Revelstoke Community Futures Development Corporation
City CED.....	City Community Economic Development Department
CE & PW	City Engineering and Public Works Department
City P&R.....	City Parks and Recreation Department
City Plan	City Planning Department
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railway
CSC.....	Carshare Coop
CSRD	Columbia-Shuswap Regional District
MCFD	Ministry for Children and Family Development
M&GC.....	Museums & Gallery Collective
MOTH.....	Ministry of Transportation & Highways
MOFR.....	Ministry of Forests and Range
OC	Okanagan College
PAC's	Parent Advisory Council for each school
PC	Parks Canada
RAA	Revelstoke Accommodation Association
RAC.....	Revelstoke Arts Council
RBAS.....	Revelstoke Bear Aware Society
RFD	Revelstoke Fire Department
RCCS	Revelstoke Child Care Society
RCFC	Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
RCHS	Revelstoke Community Housing Society
RESC	Revelstoke Employment Services Centre
RMR	Revelstoke Mountain Resort
RSS	Revelstoke Secondary School
RSSC	Revelstoke Screen Smart Committee
RTA	Revelstoke Teacher's Association
S & R.....	Search and Rescue
SCA	Senior Citizens Association
SD19	School District 19 (Revelstoke)
SSA	Social Sector Agencies
SSC	Stepping Stones Consulting
TC.....	Transit Committee
WSS	Women's Shelter Society

Leader and Cost Categories

Leader – Ideally leaders are identified for each project/task to define which organization will take leadership to action on each priority. These leaders are not solely responsible for implementation, but would spearhead the project and engage others as appropriate. Entries in the leader column are coded as shown below.

Leader Code	Meaning
No entry	No possible leader identified – implementation is unlikely
(Leader in brackets)	Suggested leader
Leader in plain text	Listed leader has agreed to act on this priority
Leader starred*	Leader has taken action on this priority

Cost categories – An attempt has been made to identify ‘order of magnitude’ costs for implementing each project/task. While not necessarily an over-riding factor, costs often significantly affect the ability to implement projects/tasks. The following cost categories are used (annual if an ongoing project/task; one-time if not):

Cost	Category
\$0 - \$999	Lowest
\$1,000 - \$9,999	Low
\$10,000- \$49,999	Medium
\$50,000 – \$99,999	High
> \$100,000	Highest

Additional Resources

BC Stats, (2007), Local Health Area 19 Revelstoke, Statistical Profile

Interior Health, (December 2007), Local Health Area Profile

Penfold, George (2008), Revelstoke Housing Stats, http://selkirk.ca/research/ric/housing_resources.html

Statistics Canada, Small Area and Administrative Data Division, (June 2008), 2006 Taxfiler data