



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
LETHBRIDGE + SOUTHWESTERN ALBERTA

VitalSigns[®] 2018



**COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS**



ENVIRONMENT



**HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES**



**LIVING
STANDARDS**



CULTURAL LIFE



**LIFELONG
LEARNING**

WELCOME MESSAGES



The Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta adopted Vital Signs six years ago. The Board of Directors encouraged and promoted Vital Signs research as an annual community check-up. We have increased our knowledge and the knowledge of other organizations providing for the needs in our community by gathering data and by measuring the vitality of our community.

Each year the Vital Signs research provides information to help us determine how our community is faring in some key areas. Knowing these key areas helps us build a healthier and more vibrant community. In 2017 the Community Foundation's Board of Directors decided to use this research in our granting process.

As you read through this Vital Signs report you will note that grant funding is awarded through one of six Impact Areas: Community Connections, Environment, Healthy Communities, Living Standards, Lifelong Learning, and Cultural Life. These grants are awarded in spring and fall of each year and funded through the Community Priorities Grants Program.

The Vital Signs report focuses on Southwestern Alberta, but we are reminded that we are part of a larger community in the reference to the Sustainable Development Goals established in the United Nations Agenda for 2030.

The Community Foundation develops this annual report to assist in opening discussion and encouraging action among people who care about our community. We hope that this report will encourage conversation about social issues and the recognition of community trends.

Geri Hecker
President



I am delighted to welcome you to our 2018 edition of Vital Signs! Vital Signs is a snapshot of life in Southwestern Alberta that uses local research and data to measure the vitality of our community. By identifying trends and areas of need in six key Impact Areas, Vital Signs touches on all aspects of our daily lives and focuses on our overall sense of belonging.

This year marks our sixth Vital Signs report. As the report continues to grow and evolve, we use it increasingly to inform our work. We share the report with our community to raise awareness, spark conversation, and encourage action. We also use Vital Signs to focus our Community Priorities and Rural Life granting programs strategically, supporting projects concentrating on emergent issues. This alignment ensures that our work goes beyond simply identifying areas of need, enabling us to be flexible and responsive.

For those of you familiar with our past Vital Signs reports, you will notice a few changes to this year's edition. Namely, we expanded and redesigned the publication to allow for a deeper exploration of the topics presented in each of the six Impact Areas.

The additional room allows us to supplement the data with more content and detail when relevant. For example, the Community Connections Impact Area begins with a broad look at the demographics of Southwestern Alberta, followed by a focus on voter turnout, and local efforts to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

We are proud to research and write this unique report and happy to share it with our community. Through our Vital Signs work, we support the many charities across Southwestern Alberta that work to build a vibrant and healthy community, where everyone has a strong sense of belonging.

I hope that you will find the information useful and helpful. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's report; we are grateful to you for sharing your data.

Charleen Davidson
Executive Director

WHAT IS VITAL SIGNS?



Vital Signs is a community check-up, conducted by community foundations across Canada, to measure the vitality of our communities and identify significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by the Community Foundations of Canada.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta's Vital Signs measures quality of life in six Impact Areas:

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	What creates and maintains our sense of belonging in Southwestern Alberta?
ENVIRONMENT	How do our natural and built environments affect our quality of life?
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	How does our mental and physical fitness contribute to our quality of life?
LIVING STANDARDS	How well does our community help us to satisfy our basic needs?
CULTURAL LIFE	What makes life in Southwestern Alberta distinctive and vibrant?
LIFELONG LEARNING	What knowledge and skills do we possess, and how do we learn them?

Taken as a group or individually, these categories outline key indicators of the quality of life in Southwestern Alberta—where our communities shine, and where there's room for improvement.

WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

If Vital Signs is Southwestern Alberta's annual community check-up, then the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a worldwide physical exam. Established as part of the United Nations' Agenda 2030, the SDGs are a set of 17 interconnected objectives focused on eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and championing responsible, sustainable growth by the end of the next decade. The goals are a call to action, advocating that all people have a right to peace and prosperity.

As you read through Vital Signs, you'll notice icons representing the SDGs relevant to each Impact Area at the bottom of the page. We encourage you to consider each topic through the lens of these goals, and determine for yourself how close we are in Southwestern Alberta to achieving each outcome. More information on the Sustainable Development Goals is available at <http://www.undp.org/SDGs>.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

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HOW WE USE THIS REPORT

The Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta uses Vital Signs to identify areas of need and to inform its granting decisions. Applicants to the Community Foundation's Granting programs must indicate how their proposed project will address these areas of need by identifying which of the six Impact Areas their project addresses. By sharing Vital Signs with donors it becomes a tool that guides gift giving.

HOW YOU CAN USE THIS REPORT

Vital Signs can be a tool to spark dialogue. The information presented in this report is a quick look at bigger topics—use Vital Signs as a starting point to initiate conversations and learn more.

Vital Signs presents the strengths or opportunities for improvement in our community. If any of the areas highlighted by the report are meaningful to you, consider making a difference by getting involved.

Vital Signs can guide your gift giving. Use the data collected in this report to focus your charitable support within areas that resonate with you.

TWO FOCUS ITEMS PER IMPACT AREA:

How the Community Foundation Helps details how many of the 66 grants awarded by the Community Priorities Granting Program in the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018 were given to projects enhancing each Impact Area. For a full list of grants awarded, please visit <http://www.cflsa.ca/granting>.

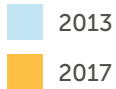
The "Did you know?" boxes highlight important, interesting, or colourful details related to the information presented in each Impact Area.



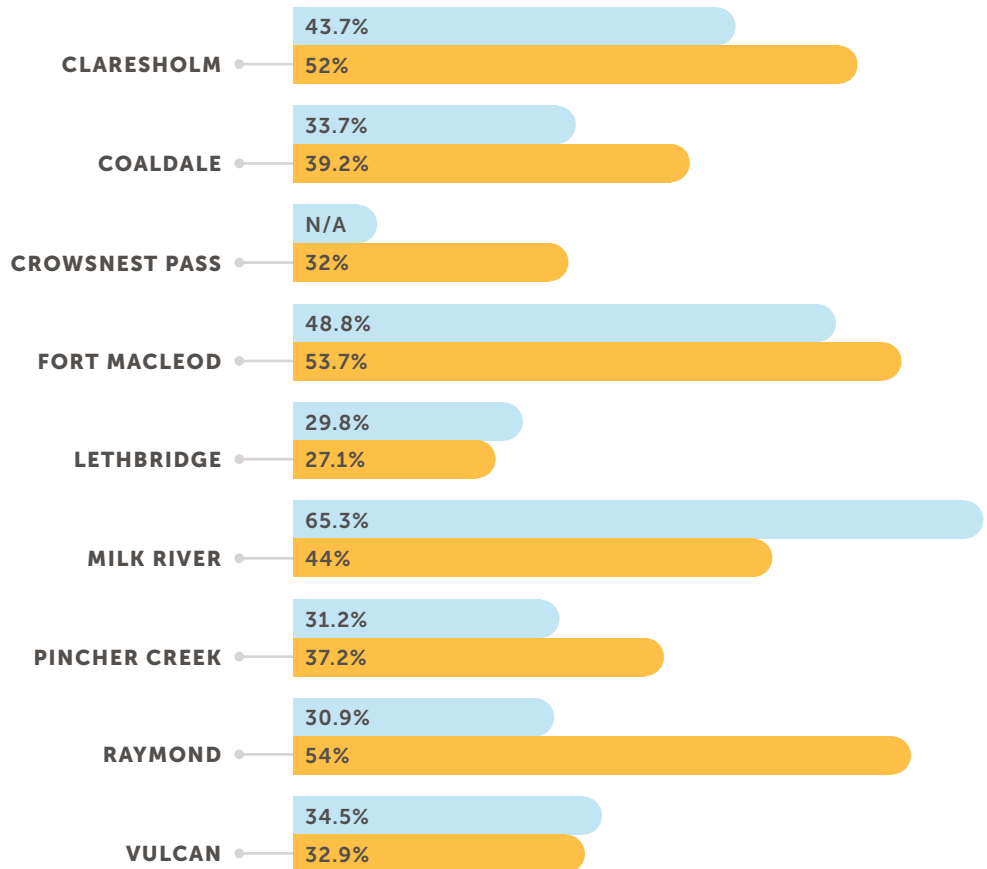


Voter Turnout

Across Southwestern Alberta



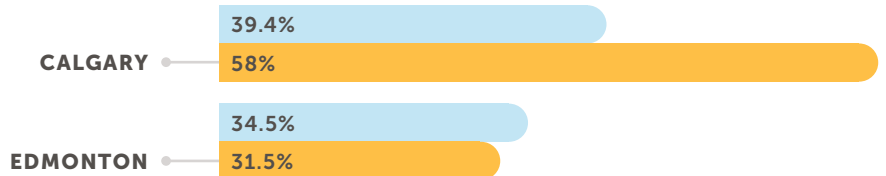
Alberta went to the polls in 2017 to elect new municipal governments. How many people actually voted? How engaged are we in the political process?



Representation

In Counties and Municipal Districts

Southwestern Albertans residing in the eight counties or municipal districts within the region elect a combined total of 50 councillors. In 2017, 27 of the 50 council seats were acclaimed. No elections were held for councils in the MD of Ranchland or the County of Warner—each of those council seats was acclaimed.



*Records on voter turnout for the 2017 Alberta Municipal Elections were not available for all municipalities.

For Comparison

2015

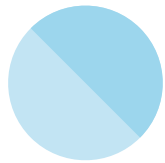


HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

In 2017, the Community Foundation awarded \$76,630 in grant funding to ten organizations for projects focused specifically on enhancing quality of life within the Community Connections Impact Area.

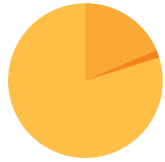
Southwestern Alberta in 100 People

Southwestern Alberta has a population of just under 200,000 people—199,764, according to data from the 2016 Census. But what would it look like if only 100 people lived here?



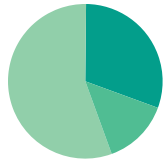
EQUAL PARTS

An even number of women and men (Census results do not account for individuals who express a gender identity outside of the binary).



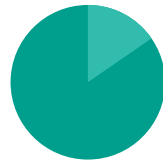
PRIMARY LANGUAGE

81 people would speak English as their primary language; 1 person would speak French as their primary language, and 17 others would speak a non-official language.



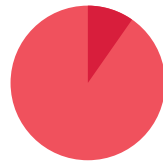
EDUCATION

85 people would be high school graduates; 56 people would have gone to post-secondary.



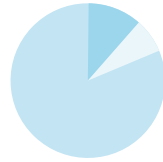
LOCATION

16 people would be residents of rural Alberta (i.e., not from a community of 1,000 or more).



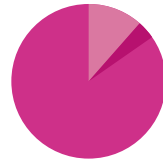
ETHNIC ORIGIN

9 people would have Indigenous ethnic origins.



INCOME

9 people would make less than \$10,000 annually; 6 people would make more than \$100,000 annually.



IMMIGRATION

13 people would have immigrated to Canada—3 of them in the last five years.

Reconciliation Lethbridge

Southwestern Alberta is located within traditional Blackfoot territory. According to the 2016 Census, 15,725 residents of Southwestern Alberta, or 7.9%, indicated they identify as Indigenous. (This percentage includes anyone who identifies as First Nations, Metis, or Inuit, anyone who is a Registered or Treaty Indian, or anyone with membership in a First Nation or Indian band.) This is higher than the provincial average of 6.5%.

According to Reconciliation Canada's 2017 National Narrative on Reconciliation Report, 62% of Indigenous Canadians and 46% of non-Indigenous Canadians believe there is a great need for reconciliation. A majority (61% Indigenous /64% non-Indigenous) believe that municipal, provincial, or federal governments are most responsible for "leadership in bringing about reconciliation."

Lethbridge's municipal government is the first in Canada to create a Reconciliation Implementation Plan. Assembled by a coalition of the Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network and the City of Lethbridge, the plan sets out specific responses to 18 of the 94 Calls to Action outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final report. Five of these calls to action advocate direct municipal action; the other 13 encompass areas of society where community support can promote healing.

The Reconciliation Implementation Plan has influenced the City of Lethbridge's approach to urban planning. As a response to Call to Action 47, the City has incorporated engagement of Indigenous peoples and perspectives within the urban planning process. The City intends to seek Elder input into infrastructure placement, development, and helping in the preservation of historical Indigenous sites.

In 2017, Reconciliation Lethbridge held its inaugural Reconciliation Week. The event was commemorated with ceremonies and a flag-raising at City Hall, as well as events throughout the week organized by local community groups. In 2018, Lethbridge City Council granted the Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee's request for \$25,000 in funding for 2018, and gave approval for a further \$50,000 per year in funding for events, education, and research.



Did You Know? Nobleford became a town on February 28, 2018, 100 years to the date of its incorporation as a village.

ENVIRONMENT



National Parks

Canada's seven mountain parks, Banff, Jasper, Yoho, Kootenay, Mount Revelstoke, Glacier, and Waterton Lakes, received 57.9% of all attendance to national parks in Canada through 2016-17. In the first six months of 2017, national park attendance was up by 9% compared to the year before. Park passes were free in 2017, in commemoration of Canada 150.

Waterton Lakes National Park

Waterton Lakes, Southwestern Alberta's very own national park, achieved record attendance numbers despite enduring a shortened season due to the devastation of the Kenow Wildfire in September 2017. Overall attendance increased by 7.35% over 2016. The park was such a popular destination that during the August long weekend it reached maximum capacity, and for the first time in its history, found itself temporarily unable to admit more visitors.

KENOW 2017 FIRE



The 35,000-hectare Kenow Wildfire forced the closure of the Waterton Lakes National Park from September 8th to the 20th. Almost two-fifths of the park was burned by the fire, and approximately half of its vegetation was lost. Reforestation after a forest fire depends on a variety of factors, including topography, amount of affected land, types of trees burned, and levels of natural and artificial regeneration.

Provincial Parks

In addition to Canada's 42 national parks, Canadians benefit from hundreds of provincial parks. Alberta has 76 provincial parks over 246,798 hectares, and 32 wildland provincial parks, covering over 1.8 million hectares.



Wildland provincial parks—such as the newly-established Castle Wildland Provincial Park—differ from the standard provincial park designation, affording the territory a higher level of environmental protection.

HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

In 2017, the Community Foundation awarded \$46,500 in grant funding to six organizations for projects focused specifically on enhancing quality of life within the Environment Impact Area.

CHAIN LAKES PROVINCIAL PARK FIRE



A 2017 wildfire near Chain Lakes Provincial Park in the Municipal District of Ranchland prompted evacuations along Chimney Rock Road. The wildfire grew to an enormous size of 1,535 hectares by the time Alberta Wildfire classified it as "being held."

NOVEMBER 2011 FIRES



Unrelated fires broke out on the same day on the Blood Reserve west of Lethbridge and on the Milk River Ridge. The fire on the Blood Reserve destroyed two homes, prompted the evacuation of 100 more near Lethbridge, and burned an area of almost 1,600 hectares. The Milk River Ridge fire burned an area of grassland approximately 6,950 hectares in size; structural damage was limited to fencing.

SEPTEMBER 2012 FIRES



Two fires again broke out on the same day, originating in roughly the same areas as the fires in the previous year. The fire originating on the Blood Reserve consumed approximately 4,800 hectares and resulted in evacuation orders for Coalhurst and parts of West Lethbridge, while the second Milk River Ridge fire consumed approximately 6,500 hectares, this time closer to city limits. Residents of Milk River evacuated to Raymond.



Did You Know? The Kenow Wildfire burned 19,303 hectares of Waterton Lakes National Park. That's 38.6% of the park's total area.

The Castle Mountain Area

Southwestern Alberta's Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park, designated in February of 2017, cover a combined total of 105,179 hectares of land.

THE CASTLE AREA IS HOME TO

Over 800 vascular plant species.

25 species of fish.

59 species of mammals.

This makes it one of the most biologically diverse regions in the province.



The Castle area is a major habitat for grizzly bears. Grizzly bears, included on Alberta's Threatened Species List, are an indicator species: their vitality reflects the conditions of the ecosystem they inhabit. Conditions that endanger the grizzly bear, whether natural or human-caused, affect the health of the ecosystem and the region as a whole.

Human-caused mortality is a major cause of death for Alberta's grizzly bears.



Off-highway vehicle (OHV) usage also contributes to the displacement of bears from habitable areas, limiting their ability to forage and prepare for hibernation.

OHV Use in Southwestern Alberta



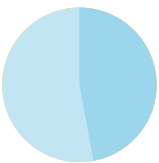
88.4% of Albertans over 18 believe that protecting wilderness land is important.

2 in 3 Albertans prefer non-motorized outdoor recreation.

Between 4% and 6% of Albertans over the age of 18 participate in OHV recreation throughout the year. Twenty-five percent of survey respondents believed there were not enough areas designated for OHV recreation, while 33% felt there was an oversupply. The survey was completed in 2015, before the designation of the Castle Provincial and Wildland Parks, as well as the establishment of the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones. As of 2018, OHV use is permitted in three of the Public Land Use Zones in Southwestern Alberta: the Allison/Chinook, Livingstone, and Porcupine Hills zones.

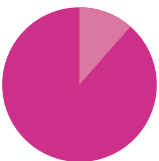
Renewable Energy

The Climate Leadership Plan set out by the Alberta Government aims to increase renewable electricity generation to 30%, and phase out coal-fired generation by 2030. Renewable energy generation in Alberta has been increasing gradually since 2011.



NON-RENEWABLE SOURCES

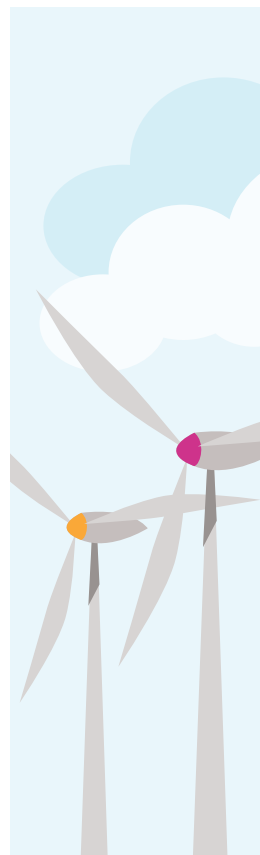
As much as 47% and 40% of Alberta's electricity is still produced by coal and natural gas, respectively.



RENEWABLE SOURCES

Just 13% of electricity is produced by renewable sources.

Alberta's power consumption record was set in December 2017, when in just one hour we consumed 11,473 megawatts (MW)—Albertans typically consume between 10,200 and 10,300 MW. One MW is roughly the amount of electricity required to power 1,000 homes. With a 2017 population of 4,306,039, this means that each MW of power generated can provide for the peak demand of 375 Albertans.



The 21 wind farms and 525 turbines in Southwestern Alberta can generate a total of 825 MW.

825 MW of wind energy at 35% capacity supplies the peak power needs of 102,506 Albertans. The 35% capacity factor accounts for the fact that wind does not blow constantly—though it may seem like it does!

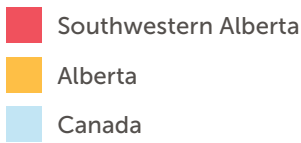
The 96 MW of hydroelectric power generated by the 8 hydroelectric generating stations throughout Southwestern Alberta, at 22% capacity, can theoretically provide enough power for 7,498 Albertans.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Health Indicators in Southwestern Alberta



OBESITY

32.4%, 27.7%, 26.3%



Obesity has increased by 10.8% in less than 10 years, from 21.6% in 2007-08 to 32.4% in 2015-16.

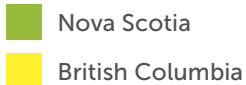
SMOKING

20.3%, 18.4%, 17.4%



Rates have been decreasing steadily—down 4.9% since 2007-08.

24.1g, 27.1g, 24.6g



A 2018 survey found that Alberta was third in cannabis consumption per capita at 24.1g, behind Nova Scotia (27.1g) and British Columbia (24.6g).

ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS

10.8%, 18.7%, 16.4%



The percent of the population without a regular medical doctor has decreased 3.8% since 2007-08.

Family and Community Support Services

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a funding partnership between the Government of Alberta and a municipality or a Métis settlement. FCSS provides support for community programs or initiatives that offer preventive services to children and youth, adults, seniors, families, and community. These services try to identify those who might be at risk, and provide them with assistance to overcome their challenges. In each municipality or Métis settlement, the provincial government provides 80% of FCSS funding. The local governing body supplies the other 20%.

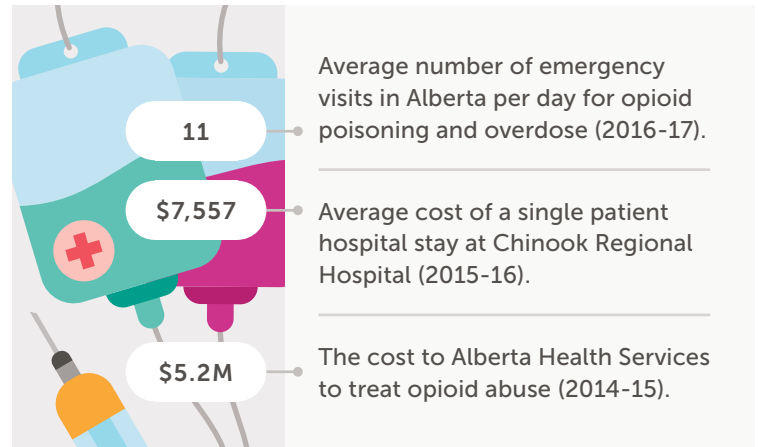
FCSS funded programs are accessible to communities throughout Southwestern Alberta, including agencies in Barons-Eureka-Warner, Cardston, Pincher Creek, Crowsnest Pass, Fort Macleod, Granum, Lethbridge, Magrath, Pincher Creek, and Vulcan.

HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

In 2017, the Community Foundation awarded \$94,900 in grant funding to 12 organizations for projects focused specifically on enhancing quality of life within the Healthy Communities Impact Area.

Supervised Consumption Sites

These sites must apply for an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act in order to operate. These exemptions recognize that, in some circumstances, providing medical help is of a greater overall benefit to society than filing criminal charges.



Studies of other supervised consumption sites in North America have found that as much as \$5 is saved for every dollar spent, to reduce future health expenses and save lives. These sites also help to reduce transmission of viruses like Hepatitis C and HIV. The Vancouver site helps to prevent an average of 35 new cases of HIV each year, each of which would cost approximately \$250,000 to treat over the course of the infected person's life.

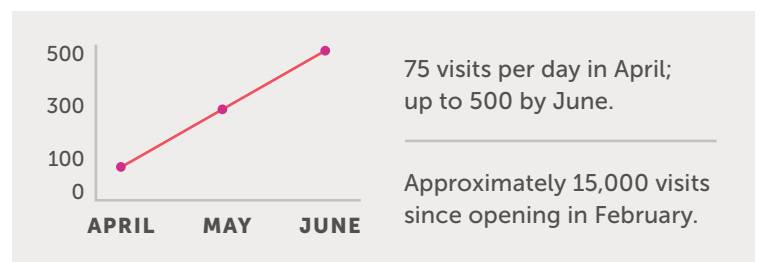
As Tools of Harm Reduction

Harm reduction strategies seek to minimize ensuing health risks for individuals who are unwilling or unable to curb risky behaviour. These strategies complement previously existing drug prevention and use reduction services. Many supervised consumption sites also offer access to harm reduction services, including addictions counselling, nursing services, and needle exchange programs.

Lethbridge's Supervised Consumption Site

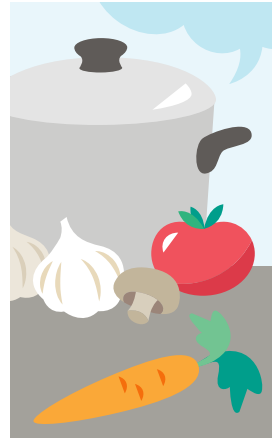
In 2017, Lethbridge had Alberta's third highest mortality rate due to opioid overdose, at 19 deaths per 100,000 people.

Opening at noon on February 28, 2018, Lethbridge's supervised consumption site had 240 visits in its first week. In the first three months of operation, it offered more than 1,300 referrals to services like addictions counselling, housing supports, harm reduction, and primary wound care.



Food Production and Food Insecurity

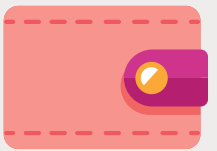
Food insecurity is the lack of access to sources of consistent, high quality, nutritious, affordable food. What we eat is informed by multiculturalism, and metered by what is available; however, the strongest determinant of food insecurity is income. Just over one in ten Albertans said they worried at some point during the year that food would run out before they were able to buy more, down from the year before.



Southwestern Albertans have access to more than 50 food banks, organizations, community kitchens, and other food programs in order to help reduce conditions that lead to food insecurity.

Arguably the most well-known are food banks, of which Food Banks Alberta counts 14 in Southwestern Alberta alone.

RISING FOOD INSECURITY



Of the 11.6% who worried at some point, 3.3% indicated they worried about this "often."

This number is higher than both the previous year (2.7%) and the provincial rate (2.9%).



Did You Know? The University of Lethbridge Students' Union and Lethbridge College Students' Association each run their own food bank to support students on campus.

Agriculture

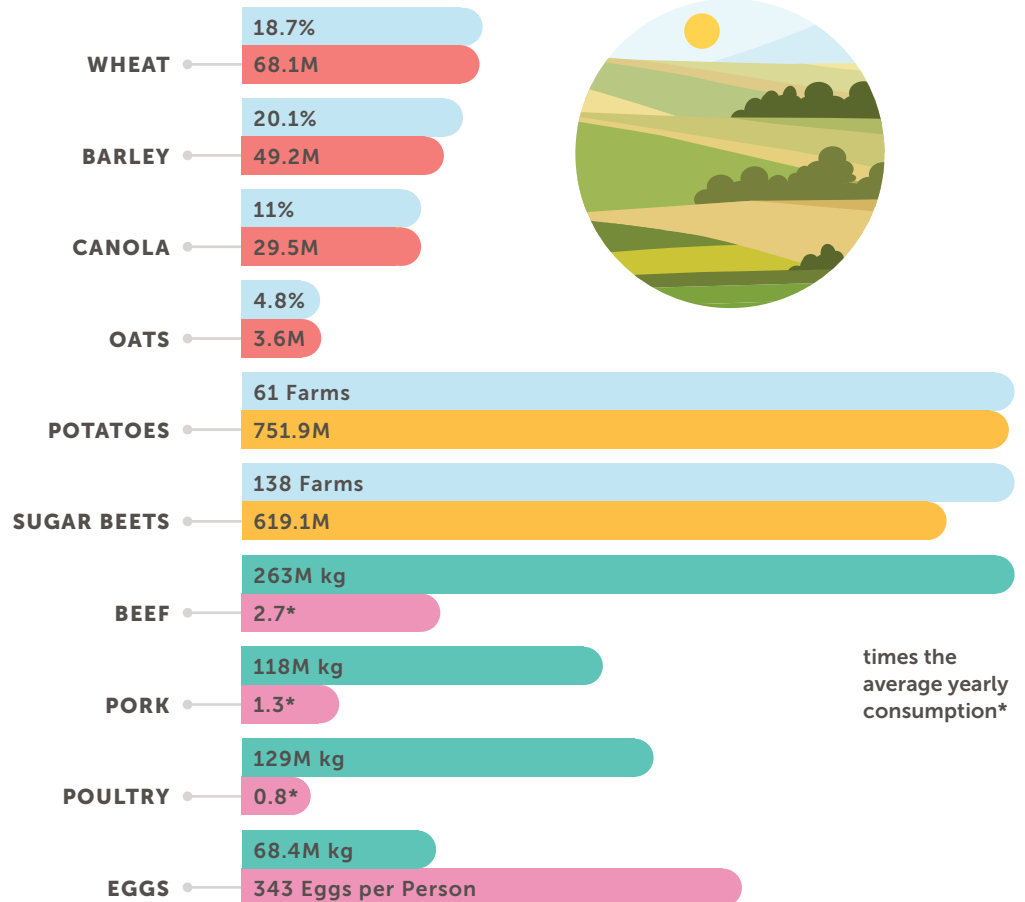
and Livestock in Alberta

- SW Alberta Cropland/Farms
- Farm Production (Bushels)
- Farm Production (kg)

There are over 1.6 million hectares of cropland and 4,398 farms in Southwestern Alberta. As a result, we produce massive quantities of crops and livestock. Alberta is a net food exporter—much of what we produce is sold to other jurisdictions.

- AB Livestock Exports
- Enough to Feed Albertans

This chart shows a measure of food crops produced in 2017, and livestock exported in 2016. The blue bars represent, for each crop, the percentage of the province's farm land that is located in Southwestern Alberta.





Groundwater as Drinking Water

Groundwater is water found in underground aquifers that supplies wells and springs. It is only viable as a source of potable drinking water if it is within 150 metres of the surface. The deeper the water, the more likely it is to be salinated and therefore undrinkable.

2,071,591 Albertans in the South Saskatchewan drainage region, which covers most of Southwestern Alberta, source their drinking water from surface water.



110,729 residents living in the same region, rely on a groundwater source for drinking water.

In Alberta, 142,030 people rely on a drinking water source that comes from groundwater.



Did You Know? The Blood Indian Reserve No. 148 is the largest reserve in Canada, with an area of 1,413.87 km².

Water on First Nations Reserves

A long-term drinking water advisory (LTDWA) is a water quality advisory that has been in effect for longer than one year. Since starting with 105 advisories in November 2015, 33 new advisories have been added and 64 have been lifted from First Nations Reserves throughout Canada. As of June 2018, there were still LTDWAs in place in 74 First Nations communities. Four LTDWAs are in effect for Indigenous communities in Alberta, for the Kehewin, Whitefish Lake, Frog Lake, and Kapawe'no First Nations.

Water Rights

The Kainai Nation in Southwestern Alberta was one of four Alberta First Nations groups who came together to sue the federal government in 2014, hoping to obtain a federal court decision to force the government to upgrade their water systems, and to provide money for continued maintenance. The government responded in its Statement of Defence: "Canada denies it has any obligation or duty to the Plaintiffs, as alleged or at all." The lawsuit is on hold pending negotiations between the parties.

KAINAI NATION



Standoff Water Line: Upgraded in 2014, the Standoff Water Treatment Plant provides water to 4,500 people per day.

PIIKANI NATION



The Piikani Water Treatment Plant, located in Brocket, was completed in 2002 at an approximate cost of \$1.4 million.

Economic Growth

In 2016, 92.1% of all businesses in Southwestern Alberta were classified as small businesses (having between 1 and 49 employees).



In 2017, the City of Lethbridge registered 651 new businesses.



In the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Economic Region, the unemployment rate in 2017 was 5.7%, down from 6.9% in 2016.



In 2017, there was a labour force of 152,800 and a working age population (ages 15-64) of 229,800.

The average hourly wage in 2017 was \$24.15 (compared to a provincial average of \$28.39).

HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS In 2017, the Community Foundation awarded \$69,200 in grant funding to seven organizations for projects focused specifically on enhancing quality of life within the Living Standards Impact Area.

Crime in Southwestern Alberta

In the South Zone of Alberta Health Services, 74.4% of individuals reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging, compared to the Alberta average of 69.5%. Public Safety Canada reports that youth with strong family or community support systems are less likely to develop risk factors for offending. Juvenile delinquency is strongly linked to youth who suffer from early onset of antisocial behaviour, or those with unstable homes or difficulties in personal relationship.

Rural RCMP detachments in Southwestern Alberta reported 6,973 violations in 2016 (compared to over 22,000 in all of Alberta), representing an increase of 777 violations over 2015.



These violations resulted in charges laid against 1,754 adults and 166 youth.

Of these charges, 491 were violent crimes and 349 were property-related.

Established in 2018 by the Alberta government in response to increases in rural crime, the Southern Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit filed 234 charges, made 30 arrests, executed 47 warrants, and recovered 20 vehicles. In that time, property crimes have decreased by 8% compared to the same period in 2017.

The Southern Alberta District spans RCMP detachments in the lower third of the province, as far north as Lake Louise and Drumheller, but excludes Calgary.

On Maclean's list of Canada's Most Dangerous Places, the Lethbridge region was the 26th most dangerous municipality out of 229.



In the Lethbridge region, homicide and sexual assault rates decreased from 2017. However, firearms offences increased.

A majority of the crimes reported were Breaking and Entering (595), Fraud (636), and Impaired Driving (211).

Caring for Seniors

As of the national 2016 Census, Alberta is the youngest province, with an average age of 37.8 years (compared to the national median of 41.2 years). Lethbridge has the largest share of children of any city in Canada—19.1% of the city's population is 14 years of age or younger. Seniors make up 12.3% of Alberta's population.

In Southwestern Alberta, the average age is 39.5. Seniors make up 16% of the population, 3.7% higher than the rest of the province.

Our seniors have a positive outlook on their own mental health. Almost 70% of residents 65 and over rated their mental health as very good or excellent. Though this rate is about 2% higher than the previous year, it is below the provincial average of 72.2%, and significantly lower than youth ages 12-17, at 79.3%.

For those receiving standard care, the average cost in Alberta in 2017 for a one-bedroom residence in an assisted living facility was \$3,051 per month. For those requiring heavy care—1.5 hours or more of care per day—the cost jumps to \$5,456 per month.

In March of 2016, there were almost 25,000 long-term care beds available in Alberta.



32 residential continuing care and assisted living facilities in Southwestern Alberta.



3 are undergoing renovations.



1 new facility is being built in Fort Macleod with completion expected in 2018.

In 2016-17, 56% of patients needing residential care were placed in a continuing care facility within 30 days of being assessed, down from 60%.



Did You Know? The term "Sandwich Generation" refers to middle-aged adults that become responsible for raising their children as well as caring for aging parents.



Southwestern Alberta in Film and Television

According to Alberta Culture and Tourism, from 2007 to 2017, productions shot in Alberta have won more Emmys, Golden Globes, and Oscars than productions in any other province. The film and television production industry in Alberta is the fourth-largest in Canada, after industries in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Of the \$8.38 billion spent on production in Canada in 2016-17, \$308 million was spent in Alberta.



Film and television production in Canada jumped 24.3% to \$8.38 billion in 2016-17.

TV series that have recently filmed in Southwestern Alberta include Fargo, Heartland, Hell on Wheels, and Wynonna Earp.

Hollywood movies that have filmed in Southwestern Alberta include Brokeback Mountain, RV, Passchendaele, Interstellar, The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet, and Hold the Dark.

A thriving film industry in our region increases the opportunities available to youth who are passionate about a career in film and television production. The 2016 Census recorded 2,175 individuals living in Southwestern Alberta who identified their major field of study as visual and performing arts and the supporting communications technologies. However, only 1,505 people reported having a job in this or a similar field.

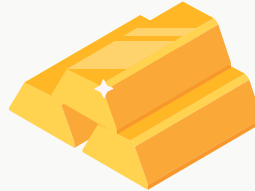
This growing industry enhances the cultural life of Southwestern Alberta as it provides new opportunities for homegrown stories and storytellers to flourish. It creates opportunity for our writers, directors, actors, producers, and technicians to share their talent and passion with Canada and the rest of the world, and it contributes positively to the economy of Southwestern Alberta. Eighty-two percent of provincial film and television production spending happens in Calgary and Southern Alberta.

**HOW THE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
HELPS**

In 2017, the Community Foundation awarded \$119,775 in grant funding to 18 organizations for projects focused specifically on enhancing quality of life within the Cultural Life Impact Area.

Historic Places

As of the first half of 2018, there are more than 75 locations throughout Southwestern Alberta on the Canadian Register of Historic Places, which includes national, provincial, and territorial historic sites. These sites include structures of historical or architectural significance, locations of notable archaeological finds, and areas of historical importance. Southwestern Alberta averages 1 historical place every 433.5 square kilometers. The average for the province is 1 for every 1048.9 square kilometers.



Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Culture in Canada was \$53.8 billion in 2016, which was 2.8% of the country's total. Alberta's Culture GDP was \$5.3 billion in 2016.

Selected historic sites in Southwestern Alberta include the Lethbridge homes of Charles A. Magrath, William Duncan Livingstone Hardie, and Dr. Arthur Haig; the Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton; courthouses in Blairmore, Cardston, and Fort Macleod; and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce building in Taber.

Funding for Arts and Culture

The Investing in Canada Plan is a federal initiative to provide \$180 billion in funding over 12 years to build, upgrade, or renovate infrastructure across Canada for green projects, social projects, and initiatives for public transit, trade and transportation, and rural and northern communities. Funding comes from new and existing programs in 13 federal departments, including the Ministry of Canadian Heritage's Canada Cultural Spaces Fund.

Two projects in Southwestern Alberta have recently received funding from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund:



**YATES REVITALIZATION,
LETHBRIDGE**

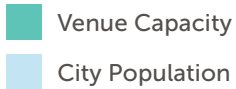
**AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE
BUILDING, MAGRATH**



Did You Know? There are more than 30 festivals that happen every year throughout Southwestern Alberta, including Flip Fest, South Country Fair, Rum Runner Days, Cornfest, Spock Days, and Whoop-Up Days. These events enrich the cultural landscape of Southwestern Alberta, provide opportunities for community belonging, and contribute to the local economy.

Selected Traditional Performing Arts Venues

In Alberta by Capacity



Yates Theatre Revitalization

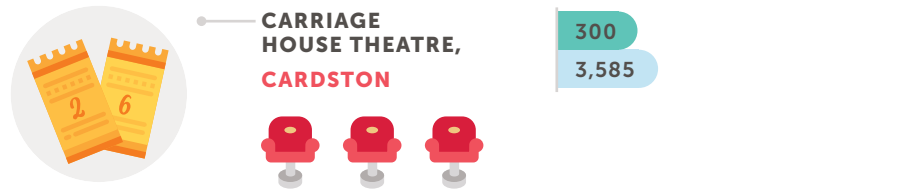
The Genevieve E. Yates Memorial Centre was opened on May 1, 1966. Its conception was facilitated by a \$200,000 bequest left to the City of Lethbridge by Deane Yates, who named the building after his late wife.



The Yates has a seating capacity of 487, which makes it Southwestern Alberta's largest traditional performing arts venue by number of seats. The revitalization project is budgeted at \$13.4 million, with funding coming from a number of sources:



Once completed, the building will have enhanced accessibility features, renovated washrooms and back-of-house facilities, as well as upgraded seating, flooring, new paint, signage, and audiovisual equipment. Seating capacity will remain unchanged.



*City populations from the 2016 Census



LIFELONG LEARNING



NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

18,315 Southwestern Albertans speak a language other than English or French at home.



The ten most commonly-known languages outside of English and French are German, Spanish, Dutch, Blackfoot, Japanese, Nepali, Polish, Cantonese, Hungarian, and Arabic.

BILINGUALISM

4% of Southwestern Alberta can speak Canada's two official languages, compared to 7% provincially.



MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

4,385 residents regularly speak more than one language at home.

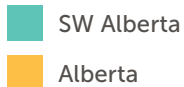
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE

Almost 4,000 Southwestern Albertans can speak an Indigenous language. The most common is Blackfoot, which has 3,680 speakers in Southwestern Alberta.



Average Diploma

Exam Results, 2016-17

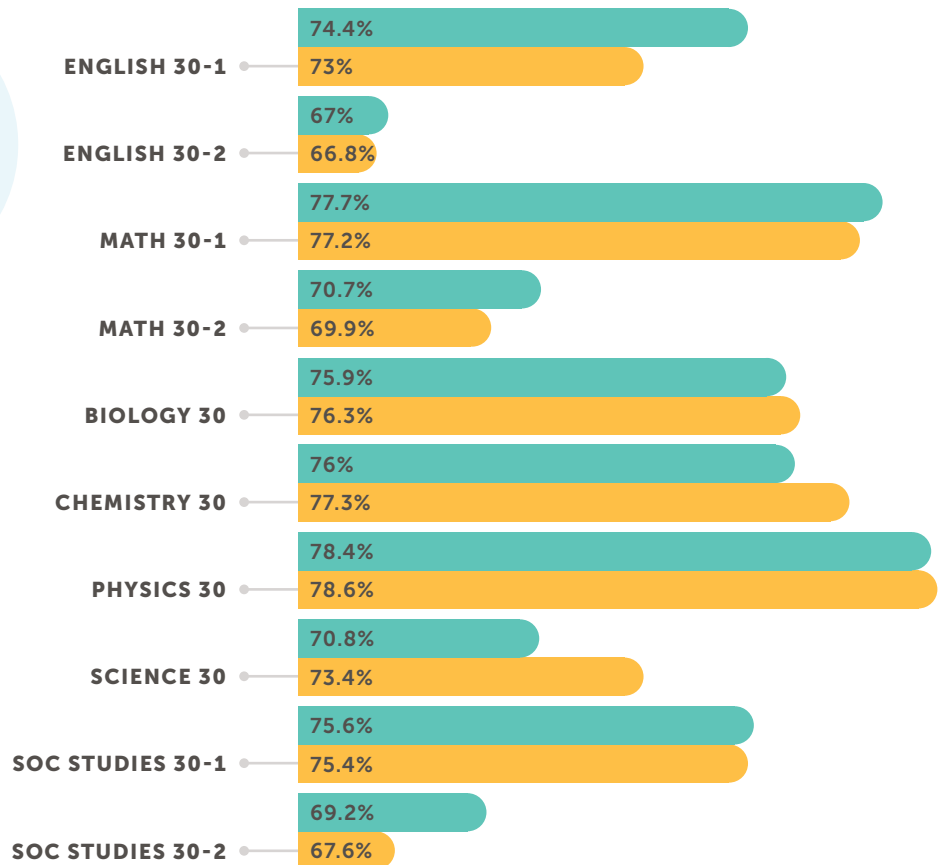


Learning for Youth

In the 2016-17 school year, the average English, Math, and Social Studies diploma exam scores in Southwestern Alberta exceeded the provincial average. Students did not fare quite as well in science subjects—scores fell short of the provincial average by roughly 2.6%.

Learning for Adults

Community Adult Learning Programs (CALP) in Alberta teach skills and offer tutoring in areas of adult literacy, numeracy, the English language, basic computer skills, foundational life skills, and family literacy. These programs have a total budget of approximately \$17.5 million, an average of just over \$144,000 for each of Alberta's 121 programs. Nine of these 121 are located in Southwestern Alberta, and the South CALP region, excluding Calgary, counted 2,537 unique adult foundational learners in the 2016-17 grant term.



*Exam results for Southwestern Alberta were calculated as an average of reported diploma exam results of the following school districts: Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division, Horizon School Division, Livingstone Range School Division, Lethbridge School District 51, Palliser Regional Schools, and Westwind School Division.

HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS

In 2017, the Community Foundation awarded \$64,700 in grant funding to 13 organizations for projects focused specifically on enhancing quality of life within the Lifelong Learning Impact Area.



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