



---

# Revelstoke and Area Community Development Action Plan

*UPDATE – February 2011*

## **INTEGRATING & PRIMARILY SOCIAL GOALS**

**Prepared for:**  
City of Revelstoke

**Prepared by:**  
Jill Zacharias, Social Development Coordinator  
Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee

---

## 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). This is the second update of this section since the plan was completed in November of 2007, the last update being in June 2009. 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:

**Linda Chell**, Executive Director, Revelstoke Child Care Society  
**Anne Cooper**, District Superintendent, SD#19  
**Kerry Dawson**, Director, City of Revelstoke Parks, Recreation & Culture  
**Cathy Girling**, Manager, Community Development, Community Connections  
**John Guenther**, Director of Planning  
**Mary Kline**, Program Coordinator, Okanagan College, Revelstoke Branch  
**Patti Larson**, Community Connections Outreach Coordinator  
**Julie Lowes**, Acute Health Services/Site Manager, Queen Victoria Hospital  
**Alan Mason**, Director of Community Economic Development  
**Jacque Olsen**, Detachment Commander, Revelstoke RCMP  
**Nelli Richardson**, Executive Director, Revelstoke Women's Shelter  
**Tracy Spanner**, Community Literacy Coordinator, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy;  
Early Childhood Development Coordinator  
**Cathie Thacker**, Program Coordinator, Revelstoke Employment Services Centre  
**Alice Weber, Sarah Newton, Hailey Ross**, North Columbia Environmental Society

Thank you to **Deb Wozniak** for expert technical support.

Thank you to the **Columbia Basin Trust** for their generous contribution to this initiative.

*Jill Zacharias*  
Social Development Coordinator  
Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Integrating Goals .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1. Housing .....</b>	9
<b>2. Transportation .....</b>	12
2.1 In-town transportation.....	13
2.2 Alternatives to private automobiles .....	13
2.3 Out-of-town transportation .....	14
<b>3. Workforce and Adult Learning .....</b>	15
3.1 Workforce .....	17
3.2 Adult learning .....	18
<b>4. Child and Youth Learning .....</b>	19
<b>5. Drinking Water and Food Security .....</b>	21
5.1 Drinking Water .....	21
5.2 Food Security .....	22
<b>6. Community Character and Sense of Belonging .....</b>	24
6.1 Community Character .....	25
6.2 Sense of Belonging .....	25
<b>Primarily Social Goals .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>12. Safety and Emergency Services .....</b>	27
<b>13. Health and Wellness .....</b>	29
13.1 Meeting Basic Needs .....	29
13.2 Healthy Lifestyles .....	33
13.3 Substance Use .....	34
13.4 Health Care Services .....	35
<b>14. Families, Children and Youth .....</b>	39
<b>15. Seniors .....</b>	42
<b>16. Recreation .....</b>	44
<b>Organization Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Cost Categories .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Additional Resources.....</b>	<b>47</b>

---

## Executive Summary

### Integrating Goals

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2009 TOP PRIORITIES</b>	<b>SUCCESSSES SINCE 2009 (OR UNDERWAY)</b>
1. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify (subsidized) rental needs and develop a plan to address the same.</li> <li>- Determine demand for targeted needs/subsidized housing through the continuum of housing needs by client group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An additional 24 subsidized housing units for low-income seniors &amp; disabled constructed at Mt. Begbie Manor &amp; Moberly.</li> <li>- Housing Society constructed 2 new rental units on Bridge Creek Properties.</li> <li>- New secondary suites bylaw for R1 zones.</li> <li>- New Unified Development Bylaw will promote mixed used, higher density, infill, and more.</li> </ul>
2.1 In-town transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocate for additional taxi service</li> <li>- Improve bike routes and bike storage</li> <li>- Complete a transportation plan for the City of Revelstoke including analysis of a second crossing of the Illecillewaet River</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bike routes identified in Active Transportation Plan.</li> <li>- HandyDart transit bus implemented for 6 hours/day, 3 days/week.</li> <li>- BC Transit completes comprehensive service review and increases number of service hours allotted to Revelstoke.</li> <li>- Planning Department completes Draft Transportation Master Plan.</li> </ul>
2.2 Alternatives to private automobiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning &amp; Engineering Departments complete Active Transportation Plan as part of the Transportation Master Plan.</li> <li>- Completion of Grizzly Plaza expansion.</li> <li>- New bike racks installed downtown.</li> </ul>
2.3 Out-of-town transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to lobby federal and provincial government to reduce safety hazards on Trans Canada Highway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seniors Centre offers new out-of-town transportation program to medical appointments using volunteer drivers.</li> <li>- Private company initiates shuttle service between Revelstoke and the Kelowna airport.</li> </ul>
3.1 Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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)</li> <li>- Work with employers/community regarding employee housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RESC continues to offer a high level of support to those seeking work</li> </ul>
3.2 Adult Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and implement strategies to address identified barriers to training for local citizens (e.g. transportation, funding)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OC delivers employability programs for older workers (Experience Works), youth (Youth Skills Link), and individuals with disabilities.</li> <li>- Seniors free computer lab tutorials expand.</li> </ul>

4. Child and Youth Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to update the early childhood development strategy and implement priority ECD activities</li> <li>- Continue to offer a broad range of programs at RSS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revelstoke continues to implement ECD activities &amp; remains top in the province using Early Development Instrument measurements.</li> <li>- Construction of new schools and Neighbourhood Learning Centres underway.</li> <li>- High school completion rates increase significantly.</li> <li>- Full day kindergarten to be implemented in Fall 2011.</li> <li>- French language school for K/1 slated to open in Fall 2011.</li> </ul>
5.1 Drinking Water		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CSRD completes an assessment of the ground water used by its residents along Airport Way - water quality issues are not related to the activities of Revelstoke Mountain Resort but are inherent to the ground water source.</li> </ul>
5.2 Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore options to implement local gardening and agricultural activities</li> <li>- Endorse a Food Security Charter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NCES makes food security a priority for action &amp; partners with the United Church to construct a community garden downtown; Food Bank implements city wide Food Share Donor Program.</li> </ul>
6.1 Community Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Host community events to welcome new residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Welcome to Revelstoke Guide' published February 2011; Newcomers website under construction; new City of Revelstoke website under construction.</li> <li>- New Multicultural Society formed.</li> </ul>
6.2 Sense of Belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a cultural centre with a theatre/performing arts space as a 'hub'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Performing Arts Theatre currently under construction as part of new school (Neighbourhood Learning Centre).</li> </ul>

## Primarily Social Goals

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2009 TOP PRIORITIES</b>	<b>SUCCESSSES SINCE 2009 (OR UNDERWAY)</b>
12. Safety and Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue the Women's Shelter</li> <li>- Monitor population growth, visitor levels and crime incidents to identify and implement needed service expansion as population and visitations grow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New ambulance station constructed on Bridge Creek property.</li> <li>- Fire Department implements First Responder program &amp; fuel management demonstration areas, and purchases new engine.</li> <li>- RCMP establishes Community Consultative Group.</li> <li>- Search &amp; Rescue expands - becomes a society, recruits &amp; trains new volunteers &amp; purchases new equipment.</li> </ul>
13.1 Meeting Basic Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue the community food bank/garden/kitchen and outreach program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NCES partners with the United Church to construct a community garden downtown; Food Bank implements city-wide Food Share Donor Program.</li> </ul>
13.2 Healthy Lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand active, non-competitive sports programs in schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bike to work week &amp; Screen Smart week continue; prescribed physical activity programs in schools continue.</li> </ul>
13.3 Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a community-wide substance use strategic plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revelstoke Community Substance Use Strategy completed &amp; implementation of recommended actions initiated.</li> </ul>

13.4 Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re-convene a Community Health Services Advisory Committee in partnership with Interior Health</li> <li>- Encourage the development of a weekend walk-in medical clinic in the downtown area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health Care Advisory Committee convened as a committee of council.</li> <li>- Midwife now available in community</li> <li>- IH partners with RMR &amp; BCAS – new committee addresses flow of patients from resort to hospital.</li> <li>- Initiation of IH's High Acuity Response Team (HART) to streamline critical care transport from rural sites.</li> <li>- New Revelstoke Palliative Care Committee</li> <li>- Increased patient satisfaction with emergency care at QVH</li> </ul>
14. Families, Children and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue existing support services for all families, including recreation, programming, prevention, counselling and crisis supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revelstoke Youth Initiative Committee.</li> <li>- OC gets funding to develop Youth Action Plan.</li> <li>- A variety of family services will be co-located for young children with the opening of the Province's first, purpose built Neighbourhood Learning Center at the new elementary school; space at the new Revelstoke Secondary School has will support youth, drug and alcohol, mental health and community support agency program delivery.</li> <li>- Community Connections initiates youth mentoring program.</li> </ul>
15. Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain and expand Home and Community Care services as needed</li> <li>- Work with RCHS to address the continuum of housing needs for seniors, including the need to downsize from large single family homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An additional 24 subsidized housing units for low-income seniors &amp; disabled constructed at Mt. Begbie Manor &amp; Moberly.</li> <li>- Volunteer Coordinator hired at the Seniors Centre.</li> <li>- Seniors' Association membership grows.</li> </ul>
16. Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to upgrade community park equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New playground equipment installed at Beruschi Park.</li> <li>- Draft Parks, Rec &amp; Culture Master Plan completed.</li> </ul>

On Thursday, February 10, 2011 a planning event was held to update the *'integrating'* and *'primarily social'* goals of the Community Development Action Plan. 28 participants from a variety of organizations heard key presentations from 14 speakers addressing important aspects of each of the goals. The projects/tasks in each section were reviewed, supplemented, and prioritized.

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.

New top priorities are as follows:

## Integrating Goals

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2011 TOP PRIORITIES</b>
1. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor best practices in other communities and review the effectiveness of existing bylaws, including management approaches and land trust models, to ensure preservation and/or development of affordable housing</li> <li>- Ensure the need for second-stage housing is addressed</li> </ul>
2.1 In-town transportation	- Expand the public transit system to include 2 transit buses operating 4 routes as per recommendations in BC Transit's comprehensive service review
2.2 Alternatives to private automobiles	- Develop safe, convenient, and attractive pedestrian routes including sidewalk priorities specified in the 'seniors' walking routes', safe routes to schools, and key routes in outlying areas as detailed in the Transportation Master Plan
2.3 Out-of-town transportation	- Continue to lobby federal and provincial government to reduce safety hazards on Trans Canada Highway (TCH)
3.1 Workforce	- Continue the community-based employment supports, including job postings, employment coaching and support for workers with multi-barriers
3.2 Adult Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In recognition of Revelstoke's smaller population and low enrolment challenges, advocate for base funded, subsidized, or innovative programming in addition to cost-recovery programming</li> <li>- Develop community partnerships to create programming or an applied research institute which will encourage and attract students from outside the community, diversify the local economy and build community capacity (e.g. Mountain Search and Rescue Training Institute)</li> </ul>
4.0 Child & Youth Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximize the use of new school facilities to promote school-family-community connectedness</li> <li>- Enhance community partnerships to restore a high level of school-based substance use prevention in all schools</li> </ul>
5.1 Drinking Water	- 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 & quantity is protected
5.2 Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify ways to help all members of the community to meet their basic food needs (see Poverty Reduction Strategy in section 13.1)</li> <li>- Explore and support options to implement local gardening and agriculture activities</li> </ul>
6.1 Community Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure the new City of Revelstoke website is user-friendly, welcoming and acts as a portal or links to other community organizations and services</li> <li>- Encourage citizens to welcome new residents, and promote the benefits of having new people in the community</li> </ul>
6.2 Sense of Belonging	- Involve, engage, and encourage youth to provide meaningful input; ensure services are 'youth-friendly' to encourage a sense of belonging

## Primarily Social Goals

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2011 TOP PRIORITIES</b>
12.0 Safety & Emergency Services	- Continue policing, fire protection, ambulance, highway rescue and backcountry search and rescue services to meet expanding community needs
13.1 Meeting Basic Needs	- Develop a community-wide Poverty Reduction Strategy - Continue the Social Justice Advocate as a key point of contact to assist citizens to access government subsidies; and the Homeless Outreach Worker & Tenant Support Worker as critical housing support workers for marginalized and low income residents - Support the development and construction of subsidized housing for low income families
13.2 Healthy Lifestyles	- Continue to support universal accessibility to city-run recreation facilities and programs - Promote alternative transportation methods to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles, including continuing to implement community-based 'healthy lifestyle' days, e.g. Bike and walk to work days
13.3 Substance Use	- Implement priority actions, particularly around community and parent education, prevention supports for youth, and reducing alcohol-related harms in the community
13.4 Health Care Services	- Advocate for expanded hours to Selkirk Medical Clinic to include after business hours and Saturdays to ensure access to non-emergency medical care - Continue the out-of-town medical bus service and volunteer transportation program
14. Families, Children & Youth	- Once completed, support implementation of recommendations in the Youth Action Plan - Continue to work towards enhancing resources and existing support services for all families, including recreation, programming, prevention, counselling and crisis support needs
15. Seniors	- Encourage Interior Health to increase the number of assisted living and residential care beds in the community - Continue to provide ongoing learning opportunities for seniors (falls prevention, internet safety, abuse prevention, computer literacy etc)
16. Recreation	- Ensure priorities for action are inclusive of the needs of <i>all</i> families, youth, seniors, and low income residents - Continue to implement the subsidy program for low-income residents for the aquatic centre and all city-run recreational facilities and programs



## Integrating Goals

### 1. Housing

#### What We Know About our Community

- 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.
- Private dwellings in Revelstoke are for the most part detached single-family homes with 50% built prior to 1965. Although much of the older stock is in need of significant reinvestment, building permit data reveals upgrades are taking place (see below).
  - The average assessed value of dwellings in 2011 was \$314, 424, compared to \$325,974 in 2010, \$300,080 in 2009, \$301,256 in 2008 and \$200,000 in 2006.
  - Demand for ownership housing in Revelstoke moderated in 2008 following a dramatic surge in sales activity and prices between 2005 and 2007. 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). A recent housing market study (August 2010) found that comparing all 2009 to 2010 sales, the average size of the residential unit, price per square foot, and time on the market decreased further, albeit slightly. In 2009, the average sale price for a detached home was \$365,094 and in 2010, \$364,459. There is currently an oversupply of luxury homes (\$350,000+) and condos in the market, with strong demand for affordable homes and average demand for moderately priced residential units.
  - 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.
  - City of Revelstoke building permit data indicates additions/alternations activity (107 in 2008, 71 in 2009, and 27 to April 2010), site mobile homes (34 in 2008, 10 in 2009, and 3 to April 2010), new homes (31 in 2008, 10 in 2009, and 12 to April 2010), and new strata units (1 in 2008, 1 in 2009). No new apartments or designated rentals have been constructed for many years.
- Vacancy rates for rental dwellings fluctuate fairly dramatically both seasonally and year to year. For example, the CMHC sampling of apartments and row units in October of 2008 calculated a 1.4% vacancy rate, and 18.7% in October 2010. Other rental dwellings include single-family homes, basement suites and the like. Accurate numbers on both the number of units and rate of occupancy in this segment are not available.
  - Despite vacancy rate fluctuations, since 2007 there has been an overall increased demand for rental housing and a surge in rental rates. The cost of rental housing has remained high making it difficult for renters at the lower end of the income scale. Rents can range from \$500/month for the low-end apartments (one room with bath and kitchenette) or a room in a shared house, to over \$1,000/month for larger, better-maintained units. In 2010, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment was \$690 and \$902 for a two-bedroom unit (CMHC). The cost of renting a single family residential home can be up to \$2,500/month.
  - Mobile home parks represent another inventory of rental accommodation. Though the units tend to be owned the pads are generally rented. There are currently over 400 occupied trailer pads in Revelstoke with very few unoccupied pads.
- Homelessness exists in Revelstoke and is a serious issue. From February 2009 to January 2011, the Homeless Outreach Worker served 124 separate clients. For further statistical details provided by Community Connections Homeless Outreach Worker, see the "Meeting Basic Needs" section below.
- Currently, Revelstoke Mountain Resort (RMR) is in Phase One of development and 106 condo units of varying sizes (total of 708 bed units) have either been completed or are under construction on resort lands. An additional 6 lots in the 'Mackenzie Landing' area have been developed (total of 36 bed units). These residential units are primarily attracting non-resident buyers and are likely to be used as secondary/seasonal housing, and vacation rentals when not occupied by the owners.
  - The Master Development Agreement (2004) between RMR, the city & the province, does not require provision of employee housing until Phase Two of development. Phase Two will not be reached until a total

3015 bed units have been constructed. As well, RMR has assumed that up to half the required employee bed units can be supplied by the private sector within the community of Revelstoke. The other half would be constructed by RMR, primarily within the Revelstoke community on land that RMR would purchase, not on resort lands. Given current economic conditions and changes in ownership it is uncertain how development will proceed, and therefore when or if the resort will be mandated to supply employee housing.

---

## What We Are Doing

---

- The social housing stock in Revelstoke includes Monashee Court (45 units for low income seniors over 55 and disabled residents), 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 2010/11, 16 new units of social housing stock for low-income seniors and disabled are being added to Mt Begbie Manor and 8 new units are being constructed at the Moberly Manor site.
- 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. Although the City has set aside some municipally owned land for potential construction of affordable housing, thus far RCHS has been charged market value for lands purchased for affordable housing development. The City no longer provides operational funding to the Society.
  - To date, the Bridge Creek Properties (former Co-op lands) has been the focus of RCHS work; to this end zoning, master planning, sub-division design and development agreements between RCHS and the City have been prepared. In 2010 the first rental unit – a duplex – was constructed.
- In 2010 the municipality started enforcing a bylaw restricting the rental of residential homes as short-term vacation rentals, and is exploring other accessory dwelling unit options to increase the level of housing diversity - carriage cottages; secondary suites; boarding rooms; and other rental types.
- New bylaws will consider a range of housing types, which should help lower costs and rental rates. More compact development, live work studios, and inclusionary zoning are geared to increase housing options.
- One goal of a parking management strategy, referenced in the transportation master plan, is to reduce housing costs by 'unbundling' parking costs from housing. Transportation demand management will encourage other mobility options, especially in the downtown core.
- Also underway are a 'buildable' lands analysis and regional growth strategy. It is anticipated these will be important baseline documents to help prescribe the community character of housing by focusing development into infill areas (currently provided with roads, sewer and water); and building quality compact developments within prime 'green field' locations.
- An affordable housing fund has been created with the implementation of the inclusionary zoning bylaw. At October 2010 approximately \$150,000 had been contributed to the fund in lieu of developers constructing non-market housing units.

## Community Goal

Increase the availability of rental and ownership (market and non-market) housing for all citizens in Revelstoke across every stage of life, while delivering on affordability, liveability and special needs priorities.

## Objectives:

- A. Preserve existing inventory of affordable ownership and rental housing.
- B. Ensure municipal bylaws, policies and procedures foster the preservation and development of affordable housing opportunities
- C. Develop a housing inventory, needs assessment and demand projections that specifies housing stock, methods of retrofit, and funding options.
- D. Develop subsidised housing in conjunction with social sector and government agencies that is integrated throughout the community.
- E. Work towards local management and provision of support services for subsidized and specialized housing (e.g. mental health housing and/or emergency shelter) in Revelstoke.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Ensure no net loss of rental property through increasing housing options, and provision of housing agreements that promote rental options for new housing stock.	Highest	City	Lowest
	2 Ensure no net loss of mobile home pads through rezoning applications in areas currently designated as R-5.	High	City	Lowest
	3 Ensure the adequacy and safety of rental properties through enforcement of the standards of maintenance bylaw.	High	City	Medium
	4 Ensure zoning regulations are enforced to promote long-term rentals in residential zones (and discourage short term vacation rentals); and establish enforcement protocol to deter illegal rentals.	Medium	City RCHS	Medium
	5 Encourage owners of mobile home parks to optimize development potential and quality by improving mobile home standards, including specialized maintenance standards.	Medium	City Plan	Low
B	6 Ensure bylaws flowing from the OCP include strategies that enable affordable development. Enabling strategies would include those that encourage higher density development, density bonusing, smaller unit and lot sizes, mixed use, reduced parking, infill development, accessory dwelling units, secondary suites and improved public transportation	Highest	City RCHS	Medium
	7 Monitor best practices in other communities and review the effectiveness of existing bylaws, including management approaches and land trust models, to ensure preservation and/or development of affordable housing	Medium	City RCHS	Medium
	8 Support homeowners to develop affordable new suites/carriage cottages by reducing development cost charges, demonstrating best practices, and providing information through workshops	High	City RCHS	Low
	9 Address the need for 'aging-in-place', enabling seniors to remain in their own community by developing an adaptability program and including in City regulations and policies	Highest	City RCHS	Medium
	10 Work with the private sector to develop affordable housing	Medium	City RCHS	Low
C	11 Refine housing projections incorporated in the OCP and subsequent area plans; break down projections by household type and income.	High	City RCHS	Low
	12 Determine demand for targeted needs/subsidised housing through the continuum of housing needs by client group.	High	City RCHS	Medium
D	13 Continue discussion around the need for an emergency shelter in Revelstoke and identify key organization who will take the lead in developing an emergency shelter in Revelstoke	Highest	City, SSA RCHS	Low
	14 Ensure the need for second-stage housing is addressed	Highest	SSA RCHS	Medium
	15 Ensure the need for assisted-living is addressed	Highest	IH RCHS	High
E	16 Develop community partnerships or a non-profit entity to provide management, maintenance and support services for existing and/or new subsidized housing when needed.	High	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 occupies both licenses for Revelstoke. Attempts to obtain another taxi license have been stalled due to difficulty in proving the need and dealing with the Ministry of Transportation.
- BC Transit bus service are available. To date, use of the transit bus is fairly low. In 2010, BC Transit undertook a comprehensive service review of Revelstoke Transit Services with the goal of improving public transportation services in the community. As well, BC Transit increased the number of service hours allotted to Revelstoke, and agreed to 'hold' the hours until another transit bus is available for Revelstoke.
- The wheelchair accessible Health Connections bus travels to Kelowna and Kamloops on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It is used primarily for out of town medical appointments. It is available for in town 'HandyDart' use on Monday, Thursday and Friday for 6 hours each day. This is complimented by the taxi supplement for those who can get in and out of a vehicle without assistance.
- 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.
- There is increased traffic along the route to Revelstoke Mountain Resort, peaking southbound in the morning (about 8 am to 9 am) and northbound in the afternoon (about 3 pm to 4 pm). In 2008, local Tourism Infrastructure funds were used to purchase 2 passenger buses, which have been operated by the resort during the ski seasons to transport residents and visitors to the ski hill. Ski shuttle use is high. In 2010, Parks Canada used the buses to transport people from downtown Revelstoke to the top of Mt. Revelstoke National Park during the summer season.

#### 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 in both summer and winter seasons. Between 2004-2008 there were 130 MVA's within 8.5 km of Revelstoke.
- 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.
- In 2010, in partnership with the Seniors Association, a Volunteer Transportation Program was initiated in which volunteer drivers provide transportation to and from out-of-town medical appointments for those who have no other options.
- A private shuttle bus operates between Revelstoke and the Kelowna airport.
- A full service airport is owned and operated by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. There is no commercial airline service to Revelstoke.

---

### What We Are Doing

---

- The City develops and maintains the road networks within City limits.
- Maintenance of out-of-town roads is the responsibility of a private company under contract with the provincial government.
- In 2011, a Draft Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan was completed. The plan is to be used for guidance on transportation issues and transportation-related capital expenditures. An Active Transportation Plan complements the master plan and is intended to provide guidance for non-vehicular facilities and policies.
- CSRD is preparing a 10-year airport management plan to accommodate additional use.

## 2.1 In-town transportation

### Community goal

Develop facilities that permit safe, efficient, affordable and sustainable movement of residents within the community, including those with disabilities.

### Objective:

- A. Access to transportation does not unduly restrict citizen access, community participation or basic need requirements.
- B. Ensure efficient, safe access to the City off Highway 1 at the western entrance to reduce congestion.
- C. When needed, create new routes to the south side of the Illecillewaet River and the resort to address growing congestion on Victoria Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and Airport Way.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Continue the Handi-pass program. Improve accessibility of application process by moving it from the hospital to a downtown location	Highest	City CED	Lowest
	2 Expand the wheelchair accessible 'HandyDart' service	Highest	City CED BC Transit	Medium
	3 Expand the public transit system to include 2 transit buses operating 4 routes as per recommendations in BC Transit's comprehensive service review	Highest	City CED BC Transit	High
	4 Ensure all public and private infrastructure is designed to accommodate universal access, recognizing the varying physical capabilities of community members	Highest	City	High
	5 Ensure people living in poverty continue to access provincial bus pass supplement program	High	SSA CC	Low
	6 Develop bus stop guidelines to ensure future stops are designed for safety, accessibility and ongoing improvements to existing transit stops	High	City Plan	Low
	7 Continue to support the operation of the transit shuttle service to Revelstoke Mountain Resort	High	City RMR RAA	Medium
	8 Continue working with external transportation agencies to ensure effective, coordinated transportation services are provided for residents and visitors, including addressing limitations imposed by restricting the number of taxi licenses in the community	Medium	City CED	Lowest
	9 Implement recommendations in the Transportation Master Plan, once approved, as priorities and budget allows	Medium	City Plan	Highest
B	10 Continue to monitor the safety and efficiency of the western City access route	Highest	CE, PW MOTH	Medium
C	11 Begin to plan and fundraise for construction of a second crossing of the Illecillewaet River	High	CE, PW	Highest
	12 Continue to monitor and construct as needed, left turn lanes and traffic signals along the route to all southern aspects of Revelstoke including Arrow Heights and RMR	High	CE, PW	Medium

Note: Continuing the 'Health Connections' bus service and Volunteer Transportation Program for out-of-town medical appointments is included in the Health services section.

## 2.2 Alternatives to private automobiles

### Community goal

Reduce the modal share of vehicle trips in favour of trips made by walking, bicycle, and transit, 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	13 Develop safe, convenient, and attractive pedestrian routes including sidewalk priorities specified in the 'seniors' walking routes', safe routes to schools, and key routes in outlying areas as detailed in the Transportation Master Plan	Highest	City Plan CE&PW CSR	High
	14 Expand the public transit system to include 2 transit buses operating 4 routes as per recommendations in BC Transit's Service Review, including a stop at the Seniors/Community Centre	Highest	BC Transit, City CED	High
	15 Once the public transit system is improved, implement strategies to increase transit ridership, including: - promotional campaign and incentives - business use incentives (eg. coupons)	High	City CED	Lowest
	16 Support reduced vehicle use as outlined in the Transportation Master Plan, including: - expanding use of the car share co-op - expanding carpooling including using the ride share (carpooling) website - encouraging the provision of transportation demand management programs to help reduce reliance on automobiles and reduce parking requirements, and adopting roundabout and traffic calming policies	High	Citizens	Lowest
	17 Develop safe, convenient, and comfortable bicycle routes in accordance with the Transportation Master Plan, which includes designated bike lanes, on-road bike routes, recreational routes, and multiuse trails	High	City Plan CE &PW	High
	18 Provide end-point bicycle facilities, such as bicycle parking and shower/locker facilities, by developing public facilities and including requirements in new development	Medium	City Plan City P&R	High
	19 Continue 'Bike to Work week' as a commuter challenge	High	City P&R NCES	Lowest
	20 Incentives for apartments/businesses to install more bike racks	Medium	City	Medium

## 2.3 Out-of-town transportation

### Community goal

Strengthen highway, rail, and air transport links between Revelstoke and destinations beyond 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
	21 Continue to support innovative snow removal and avalanche control practices	Highest	MOTH	Highest
	22 Continue the enhanced policing at high accident locations	Highest	RCMP	High



	23	Continue to lobby federal and provincial government to reduce safety hazards on Trans Canada Highway (TCH)	Highest	Citizens for a Safe TCH, City	Low
	24	Lobby provincial government to make winter snow tires mandatory on all rental vehicles	High	City	Lowest
<b>B C</b>	25	Continue communication links between CPR, the City and Chamber of Commerce	High	CPR City, CoC	Lowest
	26	Explore options for rail passenger transport	High	City CED, CPR	Lowest
	27	Complete the 10 airport year management plan to accommodate additional use	High	CSRD	Low

### 3. Workforce and Adult Learning

#### What We Know About our Community

- Interest in adult education is strong, with almost 60% of 2007 Community Survey respondents having participated in training.
  - 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.
  - 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.
- In 2007 4,970 individuals earned employment income, with 2,690 being men and 2,280 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%.
- From Nov 08 to Jan 09 the unemployment rate increased to 7% up 2.2% from 4.8% at the same time the prior 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 the prior year.
- Jan 08 saw 230 EI Recipients compared to 430 in Jan 09 and 470 in Jan 2010, while July 08 saw 160 EI Recipients compared to 380 in July 09 and 280 in July 2010. Reviewing longer term trends of EI Recipient data from Jan 2000 to Jul 2008 shows that local data closely mirrors overall trends in BC. Generally, the number of EI recipients during the summer averaged 150 persons, while being higher during the winter months.
- 2007 taxfiler data reports 170 persons receiving social assistance (80 males and 90 females).
- Since 2009, the number of unfilled positions chronically advertised at the Employment Centre for a variety of jobs from housekeepers to trades people has dropped from about 80 to 60 as of December 2010. Skilled labour/trades represent about 13 positions 21.6% of these vacancies.
- From December 2009 to March 2010 workers seeking employment support at the Employment Services Centre had the following characteristics:
  - More younger people than older: 36.5% 15-29 years, 31.7% 30-39 years, 14.8% 40-49 years, 16.2% 50 plus years
  - Less women (35.8%), than men (64.1%)
  - Most with grade 12 education (333.7%); 29% 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.
- Slightly down from the previous year, last year (March 1 2009 to March 31 2010) 56 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.
- Up considerably from the past year, last year (March 1 2009 to March 31 2010) there were 100% more people aged 15 to 29 (162) years compared to those who are 45 to 65 years old (82), who sought assistance at the Employment Centre, signalling 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%.
- Currently, the job market is very competitive. It is an 'employers' market', different from a few years ago. Employers are reporting that they are receiving a high number of resumes/applications for the number of positions available.
- It is important to note that while 2007 & 2009 Community Goal addressed workforce shortages, with increased unemployment this is no longer relevant.
- Immigration has been considered one possible solution to fill job vacancies – particularly in terms of business succession as demographic shifts occur with an aging population. 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.
- In 2006, the percentage of population over the age of 15 who have not achieved high school graduation was approximately five per cent above the provincial average. However, in the past few years, high school completion rates in Revelstoke have increased significantly.
- A higher percentage of population over the age of 15 has 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.

---

## **What We Are Doing**

---

- The Revelstoke Employment Services Centre (RESC) provides 7 full-time and 1 part-time positions.
- RESC and Stepping Stones Consulting offer employment and pre-employment support services for workers and recruitment support for employers, including a Youth Employment Facilitator and youth-related services/supprts. RESC also delivers programs through the Opportunities Fund for people with disabilities. 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. The BC Ministry of Social Development and Service Canada fund these services. The City assists employers with workforce issues.



- It is important to note that the Ministry of Social Development has recently issued an RFP to support a new model of delivery for employment services province-wide. As yet it is unknown how this will affect the delivery of employment support services in Revelstoke.
- In 2010, Okanagan College implemented restructuring of the management team. The appointed Dean of the Shuswap-Revelstoke region, Jim Barnby, made meeting the adult education needs of Revelstoke a key priority.
- Okanagan College Revelstoke Campus (OC), the primary centre for adult learning, has an approximate annual budget of \$250,000 and provides 3 full-time and 11 part-time positions.
- OC 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. As well, OC offers general interest courses for anyone who is interested in learning, including on evenings and weekends.
- OC has received funding to create partnerships to focus on immigration, multiculturalism, workplace diversity and issues related to building and sustaining welcoming and inclusive communities. Projects have included development of a multiculturalism/antiracism strategy and workshop series, and production of the 'Welcome to Revelstoke Guide.
- In the last 2 years, OC has pursued and delivered employability programs for older workers (Experience Works), youth (Youth Skills Link), and individuals with disabilities.
- 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 support and plan for literacy and learning opportunities for all individuals including adults and seniors.
- The Columbia Mountains Institute and the Canadian Avalanche Centre provide ecological and avalanche safety and management activities for citizens and non-residents.
- The Revelstoke Seniors Association offers free computer tutorials on a variety of subjects to members.

### 3.1 Workforce

#### Community goal

Retain and attract a skilled workforce, and locally based employment support services.

#### Objectives:

- Community organizations work together on an ongoing basis to meet the needs of local employers and workers.
- Provide supports for residents to reduce their employment barriers so they are able to join the workforce and earn an adequate income.
- Expand supports for newcomers and immigrants to Revelstoke.

Objective	Projects/Tasks			Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1	Ensure new and existing businesses are able to continue to provide employment (e.g. reduce the cost of doing business)		Highest	City	Low
	2	Support employers to recruit and retain workers		Highest	City CED	Low
	3	Work with employers and RCHS to address employee housing needs		Highest	RCHS	Highest
	4	Support employers' ability to pay a living wage		High	City CED	Low
	5	Work with Revelstoke Mountain Resort to maximize local employment		High	City CED, RESC	Lowest

	6	Encourage and support the creation of year-round employment throughout the community	High	City CED	Low
	7	Expedite the involvement of youth (14- 29 year olds) in local employment (e.g. via coop programs)	High	OC, RESC	Low
	8	Expand linkage with cooperative work/learning programs at educational institutions	High	OC	Low
	9	Encourage older workers to extend their working lives	High	OC RESC	Medium
<b>B</b>	10	Continue the community-based employment supports, including job postings, employment coaching and support for workers with multi-barriers	Highest	RESC OC	Medium
	11	Continue to offer educational programs to reduce barriers to employment (e.g. Experience Works, Youth Skills Link)	Highest	OC	Medium
	12	Continue to actively 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	Medium
<b>C</b>	13	Designate a community contact for immigration information for employers and potential new workers	Highest	City CED OC	Lowest
	14	Translate & publish the 'Welcome to Revelstoke' guide in multiple languages	Highest	OC City CED	Medium
	15	Develop a website for newcomers accessible in multiple languages and ensure it is linked to the City of Revelstoke website	Highest	OC City CED	Medium
	16	Improve the experience of settling in the community - Continue to provide English as a second language training for adults and expand the Host program - Create a 'language bank' of trained volunteer interpreters - Strengthen and support the newly formed Multicultural Society - Provide community services available in multiple languages where possible	High	OC City CED	Low
	17	Establish and maintain links with regional immigration settlement services	High	City CED RESC OC	Low

### 3.2 Adult learning

#### Community goal

Strengthen and expand local, life long learning opportunities for residents.

#### Objectives:

- A. Strengthen the adult education system within Revelstoke to support continuous learning, skill development, and employability for residents.
- B. Ensure opportunities exist for all residents to attain literacy skills necessary to fully participate in the community and the economy.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
18	Continue to support and provide facilities that offer continued learning opportunities for all residents, including promotion of the Centre of Learning	Highest	OC	Highest
<b>A</b>	19 Offer accredited, transferable, academic post-secondary education courses locally	Highest	SD19 OC	Medium
	20 Continue to offer employment-related and leisure courses and programs which will expand and adjust to meet the needs of the community	Highest	OC	Medium
	21 In recognition of Revelstoke's smaller population and low enrolment challenges, advocate for base funded, subsidized, or innovative programming in addition to cost-recovery programming	Highest	OC	Medium

22	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 eliminate employment barriers for residents	High	OC RLAC	Medium
23	Promote, provide and advocate for continued and improved access to online learning opportunities through the Centre for Learning	High	OC	Medium
24	Continue to advocate for funding to create more training opportunities and access to learning programs	High	OC	High
25	Develop community partnerships to create programming or an applied research institute which will encourage and attract students from outside the community, diversify the local economy and build community capacity (e.g. Mountain Search and Rescue Training Institute)	Highest	OC CAA Other	Highest
26	Ensure Revelstoke continues to have strong advocacy within the structure of Okanagan College in order to communicate community training needs to local and regional stakeholders	High	OC	Low
27	Identify, develop and implement strategies to reduce identified barriers to training for local citizens (e.g. transportation, funding)	High	OC All	Medium
<b>B</b>	28 Continue the Revelstoke Literacy Action Committee and continue to update and implement recommended actions in the Community/District Literacy Plan for Revelstoke	Highest	RLAC, CBAL	Lowest
	29 Develop partnerships with community organizations and businesses in order to coordinate and expand learning opportunities for all ages	Highest	RLAC OC	Low

## 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 145 staff (120 full-time equivalents) are employed by the School District.
- School enrolment has declined steadily since 1994 to 988 students enrolled at September 30, 2010.
- 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 and seven reading, writing, and numeracy levels found Revelstoke students lead the province in these measures.
- One measure of scholastic achievement indicates that since 1997, the six year graduation rate of grade 8 students entering Revelstoke Secondary School has improved from 64%, 7% below the provincial average, to 98%, 18% above the average.
- In 2010, RSS graduated 83% of aboriginal students, exceeding the provincial average by 30%.
- Based on the 2010 Provincial Satisfaction survey responses, parents are satisfied with the school system. School Planning Councils, Parent Advisory Councils and the District Parent Advisory Council all operate with high levels of collaboration.
- School facilities are aging and declining enrolment prompted the need to examine facilities and 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 enrolment 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 behavioural 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. However, in 2010, a group of parents initiated a proposal with the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (School District 93, British Columbia's French Education Authority) to offer a Francophone Public Education Program in Revelstoke. The proposal was accepted and in September 2011 a French language public school will be offered to eligible Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. Among other conditions, for at least one parent the first language learned and still understood must be French. The location is still to be confirmed. Estimated enrolment is expected to be 15 in 2011 and up to 30 by 2015. Grades will be added to the program each year after.
- 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 Neighbourhood Learning Centre funding to enhance the space as community hubs. The new high school is slated to open in November 2011 and the new elementary school will open in September 2012.
- 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 and 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 remain the least vulnerable in the province, based on research by the Human Early Learning Partnership.
- 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 support and plan for literacy and learning opportunities for all including early learning, family literacy, youth initiatives and programming in partnership with schools.

## Community goal

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

### Objectives:

- Continue to enhance extensive early childhood development initiatives.
- Continue to implement community-wide literacy programs.
- 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, including early intervention strategies	Highest	ECD SD19 CC	Medium
B 2	Continue to update the Community/District Literacy Plan and implement priority literacy activities with community partners.	Highest	RLAC CBAL OC SD19	Medium
C 3	Continue to offer a broad range of programs at RSS	Highest	SD19	High
4	Enhance community partnerships to restore a high level of school-based substance use prevention in all schools	Highest	SD19 City SD	Medium

5	Develop community partnerships to enhance sexual health education in all schools by a trained sexual health educator	Highest	SD19 SAFER	Low
6	Continue effective social responsibility initiatives	High	SD19	Low
7	Continue Screen Smart initiative	High	RSSC SD19	Medium
8	Maximize the use of new school facilities to promote school-family-community connectedness	High	SD19	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

- 2007 community survey respondents ranked quality drinking water was the third most important environmental issue with 40% flagging it as important.
- 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. The aging reservoir is in need of upgrading. The City is replacing its tank reservoir as a first step in insuring the rehabilitation of the Greeley source.
    - 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 approximately 5 residential properties in Upper Arrow Heights. With a recent expansion of the water utility network the majority of the properties in Upper Arrow Heights will now be able to be connected directly the City service. Water quality from the Greeley Creek source meets or 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 provide water to residential properties. These sources are vulnerable to contamination.
    - The CSRD completed an assessment of the ground water used by its residents along Airport Way. The study found that the water quality issues are not related to the activities of Revelstoke Mountain Resort but are inherent to the ground water source.

#### 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

Protect the water quality and quantity from local water sources, watercourses and groundwater flows in order to 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 & quantity is protected	Highest	CE&PW Provincial agencies	High
	2 Upgrade the Greeley Creek reservoir & tank	Highest	CE&PW	Highest
	3 Work towards eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicides through a city-wide bylaw	Highest	City	Low
	4 Develop and implement policies and bylaws to promote water protection and conservation in new development, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintaining natural stream morphology</li> <li>- Utilizing green infrastructure to protect storm water system</li> <li>- Encouraging xeriscaping and water conservation technologies</li> <li>- Restricting the placement of fill or debris in natural watercourses or on lands that could lead to the discharge of deleterious materials into waterways etc</li> <li>- Protecting riparian areas</li> </ul>	Highest	City Plan	Medium
	5 Continue to implement the Water Conservation Strategy	Highest	CE&PW	Low
	6 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.
- The forests and lakes surrounding Revelstoke continue to be an abundant source of food for some residents (e.g. fish, deer and moose, huckleberries, and mushrooms).
- Currently there are two small lots of land totalling 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.
- The climate in the Revelstoke area supports the growth of a wide variety of fruits (grapes, cherries, peaches, plums, apples, raspberries & strawberries) as well as vegetables.
- Many of the existing fruit and nut trees in town are underutilized as food sources.
- Most citizens have come to rely on grocery stores for most of their food.
- At times, particularly in the winter months, frequent highway or rail closures can disrupt the local food supply. 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 the health food store.
- Some citizens continue to garden, hunt and preserve foods, thus supplying a portion their own needs.
- Community Connections Outreach Program operates the local food bank and community kitchen, and as well, partners with local food merchants (grocery stores, restaurants and cafes) and organizations (Bear Aware Fruit Picking Program, NCES Community Garden) to deliver the Food Share Donor Program through which excess food is donated to the food bank.
- In 2010, the NCES and United Church created a Community Garden on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Mackenzie. In the summer 2010, NCES Community Garden growers took 15 loads of fresh produce to the food bank.
- The NCES has identified food security as one of their primary education and action priorities, and community members have been very responsive to Food Security topics, events, workshops and information such as: Garden Guru workshop series, the 'Harvest Palooza' celebration, Community Garden plot rentals and speaker series.

## Community goal

Improve community-wide and individual food security and resiliency in Revelstoke.

### Objective:

A. Increase community awareness, planning and action to address food security issues, including local food production, sharing, and purchasing.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	7 Develop a Food Security Charter which includes both community-wide and individual food security	Highest	NCES CC, City	Lowest
	8 Identify ways to help all members of the community to meet their basic food needs (see Poverty Reduction Strategy in section 13.1)	Highest	City SD CC NCES	Lowest
	9 Develop and implement a long-term plan, including community awareness and education	High	NCES CC, City	Medium
	10 Explore and support options to implement local gardening and agriculture activities, including: - A school garden and green house project associated with the new schools project - A bear aware, chicken friendly by law for the downtown - Matching unused garden space with potential gardeners - Encourage the planting of walnut and hazelnut trees, (bear safe sources of protein that grow well in Revelstoke) - Encourage wild plant food knowledge (e.g. berries and mushrooms) - Encourage the city to plant more edible products like decorative kale, for autumn harvest and donation to the food bank - Advocate to allow ALR land and other areas to be subdivided into smaller lots for market gardening - Encourage new developments to set aside land for gardens - Encourage the use of public lands for community gardens	High	NCES CC SD19 City OC	Medium
	11 Integrate with Emergency Preparedness Planning (for example, encourage households to keep a 3 day supply of food set aside for emergencies)	Medium	ESS	Low
	12 Map available community food sources	Low	NCES	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, particularly in the winter months.
- 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, IH 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 (EmbraceBC).
  - In February 2011, “Welcome to Revelstoke – A Guide for Newcomers” will be published and distributed throughout the community.
  - In March 2011, a website for newcomers to Revelstoke will be online and linked to other local websites.
- A collaboration of community organizations celebrates “The Carousel of Nations” each year at the community centre, and has just re-created a local Multicultural Society.
- Parks Canada has taken the lead to celebrate and enhance the meaning of important, local historical events like the 1910 Avalanche at the Rogers Pass and the driving of the Last Spike at Craigellachie. An important aspect of these community-wide events was the multicultural dimension of Revelstoke’s history.
- A ‘Heritage Conservation Area’ in the downtown core has been identified and preserved through a specific bylaw. This bylaw recognizes the value of ‘built form’ and ‘streetscape’ in preserving community character.



## 6.1 Community Character

### Community goal

Retain the friendly, beautiful, safe, clean small-town community character in this distinct, diverse community where residents, families and visitors feel welcome, respected, and enjoy 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 Zoning to limit vacation rental properties within residential neighbourhoods. (duplicated in Housing section)	Highest	City Plan	Lowest
	2 Expand Heritage Conservation Areas in the central areas of Revelstoke	High	City	Low
	3 Continue community (neighbourhood) groups	High	City Plan	Lowest
	4 Develop public participation master plan to track initiatives and leverage involvement	Medium	City Plan	Medium
B	5 Encourage citizens to welcome new residents, and promote the benefits of having new people in the community	Highest	All	Lowest
	6 Regularly distribute the "Welcome to Revelstoke – A Guide for Newcomers" describing services and small-town customs; update as needed	Highest	OC City CED	Medium
	7 Translate the "Welcome to Revelstoke – A Guide for Newcomers" into multiple languages, publish & distribute as needed	Highest	OC	Medium
	8 Develop a newcomer's website for Revelstoke and area	Highest	OC	Medium
	9 Continue the "Carousel of Nations" event each year	Highest	OC Museum etc	Low
	10 Support and develop the newly re-formed Multicultural society	High	All	Lowest
	11 Ensure the new City of Revelstoke website is user-friendly, welcoming and acts as a portal or links to other community organizations and services	High	City	Medium
	12 Continue to build on community partnerships and collaborative actions	High	All	Low
	13 Host community events to welcome new residents	Medium	CC City	Low
	14 Familiarization (Fam) tours offered to new residents, hosted by long-time residents	Medium	Museum CoC	Low

## 6.2 Sense of Belonging

### Community goal

Foster a strong sense of place consistent with historical and cultural values.

### Objective:

- A. Continue opportunities for community input in planning and decision processes.
- B. Continue the high level of participation, volunteerism, collaboration and involvement of citizens in community activities and expand when necessary.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	15 Continue the City services website survey	Medium	City	Lowest
	16 Continue the community groups in all neighbourhoods	Medium	City Plan	Lowest
	17 Continue to seek community input to community and sector strategic plans and development plans	High	City	Medium
	18 Involve, engage, and encourage youth to provide meaningful input; ensure services are 'youth-friendly' to encourage a sense of belonging	Highest	All	Low
B	19 Support the new theatre/performing arts venue to become a cultural centre or 'hub' for the community through a high level of coordination/collaboration of user groups, community participation and promotion of events	Highest	City SD19 Theatre Group	Low
	20 Continue to plan for opportunities for community use of surplus school facilities	High	SD19 City	Low
	21 Provide opportunities to welcome newcomers to become part of the community (immigrants, persons with disabilities, persons whose first language is not English)	High	OC RMS WW City	Low
	22 Continue the Volunteer Revelstoke Committee	High	CFDC	Lowest
	23 Install and maintain a central bulletin board at the community centre for organizations needing volunteers, and residents who would like to volunteer	High	CFDC City P&R	Lowest
	24 Create an easily accessible volunteer 'portal' on the City of Revelstoke website as a key point of contact so groups/organizations can post requests for volunteers and potential volunteers can advertise their wish to do so	Medium	City CFDC	Low
	25 Continue to explore and implement new opportunities for volunteer recognition	Medium	CFCD all	Low
	26 Continue to ensure a list of community groups/organizations is kept up to date at the community centre and on the Volunteer Revelstoke page of the CFDC website	Medium	City P&R CFDC	Lowest
	27 Continue the new resident survey	Medium	CFDC	Low

## 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.
  - 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.
  - 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 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.
- BC Stats data indicates that the average total serious crime rate in 2006-2008 is about half provincial averages, and has decreased since 2003-2005 measurements. Violent, property, motor vehicle thefts, and juvenile non-cannabis drug crimes are all lower than provincial averages. The only exception is adult non-cannabis drug offenses, which are slightly higher than provincial averages. Local RCMP data reports a decrease in the total number of files (offenses) between 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 reporting periods.
- From April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 the Women's Shelter provided 1,432 bednights to 94 women and 33 children. Shelter staff responded to 376 calls on our crisis line and facilitated 205 outreach appointments. It is important to note that the shelter was over capacity on 103 nights in this fiscal year. The greatest hardship for clients leaving the shelter is securing safe affordable housing.
- The Community Response Network is an organization that trains and supports citizens to identify adult abuse. Interior Health is the designated agency to respond to reports and incidents. There continues to be regular referrals to address cases of adult abuse and neglect in Revelstoke – an average of 2 to 3 per month – with the most predominant cases being self-neglect or financial abuse. However, the complexity of each case and amount of time needed to resolve issues are increasing. CLBC is the designated agency to respond to issues of abuse and neglect for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Wildfires adjacent to Revelstoke in recent years have heightened concerns about risks to the community.
- The annual call volume for paramedics is now over 1200, up from around 600 in 2000. About 30% of these call-outs are for trauma, with a good portion being motor vehicle accident related.

#### 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 seven auxiliaries. As well, the province funds three Integrated Road Safety Unit officers, two Forensic Identification officers, and two General Duty officers. Generally, member recruitment is challenging due to the perceived cost of housing; new members tend to be younger and new to the force.
  - The branch is working towards utilizing one full time officer as a plain-clothes unit. Off-duty members regularly patrol Revelstoke Mountain Resort on a volunteer basis.
  - In 2010, the local RCMP established a Community Consultative Group (CCG) that meets 4 times/year.
- The Revelstoke Fire Rescue Services has eight paid members and 33 volunteers and provides service within the City. As well, the fire department is involved in community education and provides a base for the local Highway Rescue Society. Staff and volunteers have been trained to deliver the First Responder Program, as well as to

operations level in confined space rescue. In 2011, the department purchased a new fire engine and intends to train members in 'Haz Mat' (hazardous materials); the old fire truck is situated at the Revelstoke Airport.

- In 2006 the City commissioned a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and have since created a Community Wildfire Committee to support implementation of the plan. The Fire Department continues to implement fuel management demonstration areas.
- The Revelstoke branch of the BC Ambulance Service strives to have four paramedic staff on call 24 hours per day. There are 10 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. In 2010, a new ambulance station was constructed. The regional Multi-casualty Unit (MCU) has been updated and is now housed at the Revelstoke Ambulance Station.
- 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 Society provides expertise, training and manpower for all-season backcountry rescues. In the past few years, Search and Rescue has expanded to meet new demand, including recruiting a number of new volunteers, purchasing new equipment, and increasing training and expertise.
- In partnership with the province, the City funds Police-Based 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 counselling for children and families experiencing violence.

### Community goal

Retain a strong sense of community safety with low crimes rates by continuing to address conditions that lead to violence and crime, providing emergency services and support for victims.

### Objectives:

- A. Maintain public safety systems for policing, fire protection, search & rescue and ambulance, with expansion as needed
- B. Expand emergency preparedness and wildfire protection activities
- C. Reduce family, spousal and relationship violence and abuse

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Continue policing, fire protection, ambulance, highway rescue and backcountry search and rescue services to meet expanding community needs	Highest	City RFRS RCMP S&R	Highest
	2 Increase highway patrol capacity to Mica Creek for the duration of BC Hydro's Turbine 5 & 6 project	Medium	BC Hydro RCMP	Medium
	3 Establish a plain-clothes policing unit that has the time and expertise to focus on major crimes (e.g. drug trafficking, armed robbery, missing persons)	High	RCMP City	High
	4 Encourage a wide range of policing options including, bike patrols, storefront policing and neighbourhood policing in all parts of the community, and a 'Citizens on Patrol/Blockwatch program	High	RCMP City	Medium
	5 Monitor population growth, visitor levels, and related incidents in cooperation with all levels of government to identify and secure additional resources for needed service expansion as population and visitations grow	High	City RMR	Highest
	6 Continue to facilitate cooperation amongst policing, search and rescue, the Canadian Avalanche Centre, Parks Canada, RMR, CPR Police and community organizations to enhance safety in the backcountry and achieve efficient rescue response	Highest	City RCMP S&R	Medium

	7	Stabilize paramedic staffing	High	Prov gov'	High
	8	Continue to conduct a fire prevention inventory and risk analysis in conformance with the Fire and BC Building Codes	High	RFRS	Medium
	9	Establish additional fire protection services for the resort area	Medium	RFRS RMR	Medium
	10	Establish a police front office at the resort base	Medium	RCMP RMR	High
<b>B</b>	11	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 - Continuing to evaluate potential effectiveness of the plan - Encouraging households to practice emergency preparedness	High	RFRS PEP ESS City	High
	12	Enhance wildfire protection, including fire rescue response, consistent with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan	High	RFRS	High
<b>C</b>	13		Highest	CC SSA	Medium
	14	Continue Police-based Victim Support Services	Highest	City	Medium
	15	Support the completion and distribution of a community-wide sexual assault protocol	Highest	WSS	High
	16	Support the completion and distribution of CRN protocols for service providers, medical professionals, and the community at large	Highest	WSS IH	Low
	17	Support initiatives to reduce violence and abuse including: - Support the delivery of a dating anti-violence program - Explore approaches for violence prevention for men and women	Highest	RSS CC WSS MCFD	Low

## 13. Health and Wellness

### 13.1 Meeting Basic Needs

#### What We Know About our Community

- 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 4<sup>th</sup> highest priority. Child poverty was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - 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.
- The expense of meeting basic needs continues to increase. Key elements of the ‘market basket’ - food, clothing and footwear, shelter, and transportation – have risen. Two primary factors include implementation of the HST tax in July 2010 and the local cost of market rental housing, which has remained relatively high.
- 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. Community Connections has witnessed an increasing number of clients who are going into debt in order to pay rent.
- 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.

- Revelstoke has no emergency shelter, and no subsidized rental housing for individuals under 55 or families.
- Community Connections Homeless Outreach Program reports that:
  - From February 2009 to January 2011, the Homeless Outreach Worker served 124 separate clients.
  - 62 clients had either admitted or suspected mental health, acquired brain injury, or significant substance use problems, and approximately 11 were attached to a family with children.
  - Many clients who require ongoing support.
  - Since January 2009 a total of 28 individuals or couples, and 2 families, have had to leave the community because the supports they needed were not available. In the majority of these cases, the individuals and families were not “transient” and had made significant attempts to establish themselves as part of the community prior to their decision to move.
  - Two individuals have died in the past year, because the supports they needed were not available. Both of these individuals were residents of Revelstoke for most of their lives.
- Service providers report that affordable, suitable housing continues to be the most significant social issue in Revelstoke.
- It is important to note that Statistics Canada low income measurement for 2006 are \$15,179 for a single person, and \$30,358 for a family with two adults and two children. BC Income Assistance rates vary but on average provide a single person with an annual income of \$7,320, and for a family of four \$13,212. A single person with a disability can receive \$10,920 annually while a family of four with one disabled parent can receive \$17,928 – all rates are well below low income ‘cut off’ rates.
- In 2007, compared to 2004 data the number of low income families decreased by 30 families and the median incomes increased somewhat. 2007 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 \$19,370
  - 50 couples with 80 children and median income of \$23,810.
  - 390 lone parents with 990 children (aged 0 – 17) and median income for two children of \$40,240.
  - 340 individuals with median income of \$11,060.
- In 2007 186 residents were receiving provincial disability pensions. Many of these individuals live in poverty, particularly recently as housing costs have increased.
- Between Nov 08 and Jan 09 the unemployment rate increased from 4.8% to 7%. Generally, the number of local EI recipients decreases in the summer months (July 2008 – 160, July 2009 – 350, July 2010 – 208), compared to winter months (2008 peak – 490, 2009 peak – 470). This mirrors overall BC trends. It is important to note this data does not reflect residents who do not qualify for EI.
- Accessing income supplements is a difficult process. Community Connections Social Justice Advocate reports a dramatic increase in the time it takes to assist each client with applications, as well as an increase in application denials. Income supplements are well below the cost of meeting basic needs. For example, the maximum shelter allowance for a single person with a disability and ‘multiple barriers’ to employment is \$375.00 per month.
- Eligibility requirements for income assistance and employment insurance are consistently changing, and there continues to be a concern among social service providers that people are ‘falling through the cracks’. Service providers report that there are a growing number of people who do not qualify for subsidies and therefore have no income.
- Recent food bank client information provides more insights into who is struggling to make ends meet in the community:
  - 53% of food bank users are single people, 22% couples with no children, 13% lone-parent families with children and 12% two-parent families with children.
  - Income sources for food bank clients are 28% disability support, 23% income assistance, 17% employment income, 15% pension income and 12% employment insurance.
  - 75% of food bank clients live in private rental housing, 18% own their own homes, 5% live in social housing, 1% are homeless, and 1% are living in temporary situations. Most people pay more than 50% of their income on shelter.



- 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.
- In 2010, changes to Community Living BC resulted in the loss of a local representative for adults with developmental disabilities.

---

## **What We Are Doing**

---

- Since the closure of the Ministry of Human Resources office in 2001, some services have developed in the community for people facing emergency financial or housing situations – in particular, Community Connections provides advocacy through the Social Justice Advocate, Homeless Outreach Worker and Tenant Support Worker positions.
- Community Connections Outreach Program runs the food bank, food share program, a community garden and community kitchen, provides baby bundles and promotes other community activities to support families living in poverty.
- The NCES has made food security in Revelstoke a priority for action, and developed a community garden in partnership with the United Church.
- Some schools provide occasional lunches to children.
- 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 – the Seniors Helping Hands (grocery shopping & delivery for homebound residents), the Good Morning Program (telephone call support), and Volunteer Transportation Program (both in-town and out-of-town transportation to medical appointments).
- The City of Revelstoke, in partnership with Community Connections, subsidizes the cost of city-run programs and aquatic centre passes for low-income individuals and families.
- 2 local Thrift Stores provide the community with a continual supply of low cost clothing, footwear and other household goods.
- There are a number of subsidized rental housing units for seniors over 55 years and disabled in Revelstoke, including Monashee Court (45 units), Mt. Begbie Manor (41 units, including 16 new), Moberly Manor (8 new units). There is no subsidized rental housing for families or individuals under 55 years who are not disabled.

<h2><b>Community goal</b></h2>
--------------------------------

<p>All citizens must have equal access to resources, employment, services, housing and opportunities they need to meet their basic needs.</p>
---

## **Objectives:**

- A. Support the construction of affordable housing to meet the shelter needs of our most marginalized citizens
- B. Support all citizens to access healthy foods
- C. Support all citizens to have equal access to income security, healthy lifestyle choices and specialized supports as needed
- D. Citizens have at least one source of family, friend or professional support in the community

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Continue discussion around the need for an emergency shelter in Revelstoke and identify key organization who will take the lead in developing an emergency and transitional shelters for those struggling to meet their housing needs	Highest	RCHS	Highest
	2 Identify the lead organization to provide supportive services for emergency and transitional shelters	Highest	RCHS CC	High
	3 Support the development and construction of subsidized housing for low income families	Highest	RCHS CC	Highest
B	4 Continue to encourage community support for the community food bank	High	CC	High
	5 Continue and encourage further church sponsored soup/lunch programs	Medium	Churches	Low
	6 Continue to recruit volunteers for Meals on Wheels program and Seniors Helping Hands programs	Medium	IH SCA	Medium
	7 Expand school breakfast/lunch and emergency food stores programs to all schools	Medium	SD19	Medium
C	8 Develop a community-wide Poverty Reduction Strategy	Highest	City SD CC	Low
	9 Continue the Social Justice Advocate as a key point of contact to assist citizens to access government subsidies; and the Homeless Outreach Worker & Tenant Support Worker as critical housing support workers for marginalized and low income residents	Highest	CC	Medium
	10 Continue to provide low income individuals and families with subsidies to City of Revelstoke recreation programs and aquatic centre passes	Highest	City P&R CC	Low
	11 Continue programs and services for developmentally disabled citizens	High	CC CLBC MCFD	Highest
	12 Work with all levels of government to ensure all citizens (including our seniors) maintain incomes above the Poverty Line	High	All	Low
	13 Identify shortcomings and address issues of accessibility and inclusiveness for residents and visitors with disabilities	Medium	City Plan	Medium
	14 Work with Service Canada to provide remote access services in Revelstoke	Medium	City CC RESC	Low
D	15 Support men's basic needs such as emergency shelter, and mental & emotional health	High	MCFD CC	High

Note: The Housing and Transportation sections also 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.
  - 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.
- Between 2003-07, the incidence of low birth weights for infants, which increases the risks of morbidity and premature death, were lower than both the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Area and the provincial rates,
- 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. By 2008-09, the hospitalization rate for children 0-14 years decreased to below provincial averages for respiratory diseases, but increased for injury & poisoning. In 2004-06 the number of teen pregnancies for 15-17 year old women was less than provincial averages. However, by 2005-07 the teen pregnancy rate had increased.
- From 2003-2007 there were slightly more deaths from arteries/arterioles & capillaries than expected. Diseases of the circulatory system were the leading cause of death and accounted for about 30% of total deaths. Cigarette smoking is the primary risk factor for the top three causes of death in Canada: diseases of the circulatory system, cancers and respiratory diseases.
- The life expectancy of residents has increased over the past 20 years.
- Using a variety of indicators and compared to the rest of the province, Revelstoke is ranked the 8th best place to live in BC. The two areas that fall short are Health Problems (life expectancy, infant mortality, potential years of life lost due to natural and accidental causes, alcohol sales) and Children at Risk (income assistance, health, crime, children in care, teen pregnancies).

### 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, counselling and nutrition advice.
- Approximately every second year the community holds a Seniors Health Fair. In 2010, over 500 people attended the Seniors Health Fair.
- 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 to a great degree and eliminated all non-healthy choices in vending machines. The Parks and Recreation Department has a healthy food policy for vending machines in the Community Centre.

### Community goal

Promote and encourage healthy lifestyles choices for all residents.

### Objective:

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

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	16 Continue to promote alternative family activities to 'screen time'	Highest	RSSC	Low
	17 Develop a community awareness project about the highest preventable sources of mortality (currently circulatory) and prevention options (e.g. health fair)	Highest	IH	Low
	18 Continue the Seniors Health Fair annually or bi-annually	Highest	SCA IH	Low
	19 Continue to support universal accessibility to city-run recreation facilities and programs	High	City P&R	Low
	20 Promote alternative transportation methods to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles, including continuing to implement community-based 'healthy lifestyle' days, e.g. Bike and walk to work days	Medium	City P&R NCES	Lowest
	21 Explore options to combine informal education with healthy outdoor activities	Medium	SD19 PC	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 counselling 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.
- In 2010, the City of Revelstoke Social Development completed the 'Revelstoke Community Substance Use Strategy' (visit [www.revelstokesocialdevelopment.org](http://www.revelstokesocialdevelopment.org) to download the document). The strategy is based on a comprehensive community health-based approach and includes:
  - A data-based statistical profile
  - National, provincial, regional, educational, and local contextual analysis
  - Youth Drug Survey & Key Stakeholder Survey results (collected October 2009)
  - A synopsis of risk and protective factors, harms, what we are doing, and recommendations for children (0-12 years), youth (12-19 years), young adults (19-30 years), and adults (30+ years)
  - Visitors – special considerations
  - Substances – special considerations
  - Guiding principles and overall community goal
  - Implementation summary – specific community goals and recommended actions
  - Local community resource inventory (a detailed synopsis of 'What we are doing')

#### What We Are Doing

- To date, implementation of recommended actions from the Revelstoke Community Substance Use Strategy include:

- Formation of the Revelstoke Youth Initiative Committee; a one-day Youth Engagement Workshop outlining meaningful youth engagement processes; and initiation of a Youth Action Plan by Okanagan College (to be completed June 2011).
- The School District has initiated activity to review existing policies, investigate new programs, and enhance community partnerships to address substance use prevention and intervention, and proactively support students.
- Providing training to service providers on delivering services to clients with mental health and/or problem substance use issues (May 2011).
- Support for public health harm reduction strategies through developing a plan to address proper disposal of used needles, including provision of sharps containers in convenient settings and education on proper disposal of used needles.
- Initiation of a 'Safe Bar Program' (in progress).
- Community Connections Youth Coordinator developed and initiated a Youth Mentoring Program.
- RCMP-led Community Consultative Group formation. The RCMP is also working towards the formation of a specialized, dedicated unit within the detachment with the education, training, experience and time to work on major crimes.

## 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 partnerships and collaboration to ensure implementation of the community goals and recommended actions in the Revelstoke Community Substance Use Strategy.
- Review the status of community goals and recommendations in the substance use strategy and update the plan when appropriate.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A 22	Implement priority actions, particularly around community and parent education, prevention supports for youth, and reducing alcohol-related harms in the community	Highest	City SD	Low
23	Continue the substance use strategy steering committee to oversee implementation	High	City SD	Low
B 24	Administer the Youth Drug Survey in the high school within 3 – 5 years and do comparative analysis	High	City SD	Low

## 13.4 Health Care Services

### What We Know About our Community

- The 2007 community survey showed that satisfaction with health care services improved from 2000, when citizens were least satisfied with health care services of all community services. There was 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.

- Currently, there is no trained Sexual Health Educator in Revelstoke to do community outreach and sexual health education in schools; in 2010, IH cut the School-based Prevention position that historically delivered the majority of substance use prevention education in schools.
- Access to services not available in Revelstoke continues to be an issue for some given the geographic location of the community.
- The Emergency Department Patient Experience Survey at Queen Victoria Hospital reveals evidence of increased satisfaction with health services: Overall Quality of ED Care % of satisfaction has increased from 93.2% in 2007 to 96.8% in 2010.

---

## What We Are Doing

---

- 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.
- In May 2009, Interior Health took the lead to convene a committee to aid communication between Interior Health, RMR, and BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) in terms of flow of patients from the ski hill and to provide a forum for timely discussion regarding developments to the ski hill that would impact healthcare services so that appropriate planning can take place. The Committee consists of Acute Health Services Manager, Nursing Coordinator, Chief of Medical Staff, Physician, Chief Paramedic, VP COO RMR, Ski Patrol Lead RMR, and Operations Mgr RMR. As well, QVH tracks the number of patients admitted to Emergency Services and Radiology that come directly from RMR.
- In 2010, IH restructured service delivery management. Community programs like public health, community care and mental health along with aboriginal health and primary health care are now together in one portfolio called Community Integration Health services. Revelstoke Health Services already function in an integrated manner in many ways, with the on-site Acute Health Services Manager acting as the key contact for the community as well as serving an internal liaison function.
- In response to a shortage of home care aid workers, IH recruited residential care casual care aids to do home care aid orientations. The dual role of casual care aids ensures they are offered more work which has improved staff retention for these positions.
- In November 2010, IH launched a High Acuity Response Team (HART) in Kamloops to streamline critical care transport from rural sites. This team consists of highly trained critical care nurses responding with a BC Ambulance Services [BCAS] basic life support ambulance team to provide ground transport for acutely ill patients from outlying rural and remote health sites to higher levels of care. In more complex cases, a respiratory therapist will be called in to assist. The goal is to increase the resources available for transferring acute patients throughout the area.

**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, and public health nurses. 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 IH through staff from outside the community.

**Mental Health and Substance Use Services** – Provides counselling and life skills support through one part-time counsellor, one full time community mental health nurse, a psychiatrist and one part-time life skills worker. Substance use counselling is provided with one full-time staff.

Public health services, laboratory services and the mental health and substance use services are all located at the hospital. The benefits to co-location include inter-linking communication and patient care between departments as well as cost efficiency. When health care services were initially amalgamated at the hospital there were 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 mental health waiting room. Now patients seem used to the public health location as on-site clinics are well attended, and mental health has a small waiting area closer to the clinical offices. However, the number of 'drop in' patients has never returned to former levels when the public health clinic was located downtown, and transportation to the hospital location remains an issue for some residents.

As well, Public health actively partners with other organizations to provide services in various locations throughout the community. For example, pharmacies also distribute harm reduction kits, vaccinations are provided in all schools, flu shots at the community centre, an active presence in elementary schools with 'Ready, Set, Learn' for 3 year olds, and the 'Breastfeeding Challenge' at Community Connections.

In the Province's first, purpose build Neighbourhood Learning Centre at the high school, space has been developed to support youth, drug and alcohol, mental health and community support agency program delivery on-site. This site is due to open in late 2011.

**Selkirk Medical Group (SMG)** – The sole medical clinic in Revelstoke for over 30 years currently houses nine full time, full spectrum Rural Family Doctors and a complement of nursing staff, and operates 5 days a week including an Urgent Care Clinic during regular office hours accepting patients as walk-ins and urgent requests. SMG Physicians:

- Staff the QVH emergency room, provide anaesthesia for both regular & emergency procedures, cover QVH GP surgical operative support for Obstetrics, Trauma, and some General Surgery as well as do elective procedures including planned c-sections, tubal ligations, vasectomies, tonsillectomies, etc.
  - Provide Obstetrical care with an emphasis on delivering their own patients weekdays and guaranteed 24/7 weekend coverage by the group, and medical care and support to the Mount Cartier Court Long Term Care Facility as well as for the Community Care Nurses. Community support includes home visits for community-based clients that are shut in on an as needed basis.
  - Actively recruit and support visiting Specialist Physicians, including providing office space for those that are not hospital-based.
  - Participate in the education of medical students and post-graduate medical residents, and have been a long time Rural Teaching Site for second year UBC Family Practice Residents.
  - Routinely sit on regional committees so Revelstoke has a voice within the Health Authority, and recently invested in an Electronic Medical Record System for better patient care and communication.
- Independent health care providers include three dentists, two chiropractors, one optometrist, a part-time hearing specialist, six part-time physiotherapists, ten registered massage therapists, three acupuncturists, a nutritionist and a midwife. The midwife is a member of the Local Medical Advisory Committee, which meets monthly as well as being a member of the hospital's Obstetrical Committee.
  - 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 counselling. Numerous volunteer support groups bring people with specific health challenges or experiencing bereavement together, including a new Palliative Care Committee.

- The Health Connections Bus continues to transport patients as far as Kamloops and Kelowna for out of town medical appointments. This is supplemented by the Volunteer Transportation program, set up in 2010 and managed by the Volunteer Coordinator at the Seniors Centre. The Volunteer Coordinator also manages the 'Good Morning' program, volunteer phone calls for isolated residents.
- In 2009, the Social Development Committee published a local Seniors Resource Guide, and facilitated numerous health-related information sessions at the Seniors Centre including Falls Prevention, and Pharmaceutical Use & Misuse.

## Community goal

Meet the needs of a growing and changing population with appropriate outreach and emergency supports and health and wellness facilities and services, including access to out-of-town health care.

### Objective:

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

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	25 Continue the Health Care Advisory Committee in partnership with Interior Health	Highest	City IH	Lowest
	26 Continue the committee to aid communication between Interior Health, RMR, and BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) to provide a forum for timely discussion regarding developments to the ski hill that would impact healthcare services so that appropriate planning can take place	Highest	IH RMR BCAS	Lowest
	27 Continue the out-of-town medical bus service and volunteer transportation program	Highest	IH, City SD, SCA	Medium
	28 Continue to advocate for hospital heli-pad	Highest	IH	High
	29 Advocate for expanded hours to Selkirk Medical Clinic to include after business hours and Saturdays to ensure access to non-emergency medical care	Highest	City, IH Selkirk Medical	Medium
	30 Create and distribute health literacy posters and pamphlets throughout the community	High	CBAL	Low
	31 Implement supportive end-of-life training for all hospital and residential care staff	High	IH	Low
	32 Support end-of-life education for families and the general public	High	Palliative Care Comm.	Low
	33 Continue community awareness of services available for people with mental health challenges and advocate for improved accessibility	High		High
	34 Continue to facilitate health-related information sessions at the Seniors Centre	High	SCA, City SD	Lowest
35 Continue access to the medical equipment/aids Red Cross Loans Cupboard	High	Red Cross	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

- 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.
  - 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.
- 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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>100%</b>

- In 2007 about 30% of the population – 2,380 young people were between 0 and 24 years old. 1,110 were aged 15 to 24.
- Child Care choices in Revelstoke are extensive including Registered License Not Required; Licensed Family; Licensed Group facilities; and Preschools. Demand for child care fluctuates throughout the year and the Child Care Resource and Referral works to respond to the various needs of families. The Child Care Resource and Referral also has a mandate to support parents to access Child Care Subsidy resulting in more families with an income threshold of \$38,000 accessing this 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 13<sup>th</sup> best area of 77 Local Health Areas in the province – down from 5<sup>th</sup> best in 2007.

### 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 alongside 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; counselling

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; 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 infants and toddlers, 3 to 5 years olds, and school-aged 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. CRRR 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. A variety of family services will be co-located for young children with the opening of the Province's first, purpose built Neighbourhood Learning Center at the new elementary school in September 2012. In addition, space at the new Revelstoke Secondary School has been developed to support youth, drug and alcohol, mental health and community support agency program delivery.
- **City of Revelstoke** – Runs a licensed preschool and supports many activities centered around families and children, including partnering to support the family friendly community initiative.
- **Okanagan College** – Provides a prenatal training program and all emergency first aid related to caring for children for parents, child care providers, and babysitters.
- **S.A.F.E.R. clinic** (Sexual Awareness for Everyone in Revelstoke) - Provides sexual health counselling for people of all ages, with a particular focus on 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 is 'family friendly' and actively supports our children, youth, and families.

## 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
<b>A</b>	1 Maintain a full complement of child care options within the community, including for infants	Highest	RCCS	Medium
	2 Continue to work towards enhancing resources and existing support services for all families, including recreation, programming, prevention, counselling and crisis support needs	Highest	CC, ECD MCFD IH, RCCS CBAL SD19	Highest
<b>B</b>	3 Continue approaches to make recreational programs and facilities accessible to all families (e.g. City of Revelstoke Aquatic Centre, Recreation & Program subsidies)	High	City, CC ECD	Low
	4 Act on opportunities to expand recreational activities, physical activity and entertainment options for youth and families	High	ECD RCCS CC CBAL City	Low
	5 Implement the development of 'safe routes to schools'	Highest	CECE&P W	High
	6 Develop safe bike paths connecting throughout the community	High	City Plan CE, PW	High
	7 Continue and expand the Youth Program Coordinator and all related activities and programs	Highest	CC	Medium
	8 Continue the Revelstoke Youth Initiative Committee	Highest	City & partners	Low
	9 Support implementation of the recommendations involving youth in the Substance Use Strategy (2010)	Highest	City & partners	Medium
<b>C</b>	10 Once completed, support implementation of recommendations in the Youth Action Plan (2011)	Highest	OC City & Partners	Medium
	11 Continue the S.A.F.E.R. program (walk-in sexual health clinic)	Highest	SAFER Society	Medium
	12 Involve teens and youth in community processes through meaningful engagement	High	All	Low
	13 Establish a youth centre in the community that provides both space and a centre for activities (card table, pool table, climbing wall etc)	Medium	City & Partners	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. In 2011, 24 new subsidized rental housing units will be completed for low income seniors and people with disabilities. However, there are still very limited rental, ownership or supported housing options for older residents who are not low income and need 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 Hands (grocery shopping for those unable to leave home), a computer lab, guest speakers, choir, and the monthly birthday party, among others. In 2010, funding was obtained through UBCM's Age-Friendly Projects Initiative to hire a volunteer coordinator at the Seniors Centre to deliver 3 programs: a volunteer transportation program for in-town rides and out-of-town medical appointments, 'Good Morning' phone calls to isolated residents, and computer classes.
- The office for the volunteer senior's counsellor, 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.
- In 2009, the Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee identified planning for seniors as a high priority and completed an ‘Age-friendly’ plan for Revelstoke and Area. As well, funding was obtained to support seniors through the implementation of a number of initiatives, including a Seniors Resource Guide, informative workshops at the Seniors Centre, Computer Lab upgrades, a Volunteer Coordinator at the Seniors Centre, and a Grit Box Pilot Project.

## Community goal

Support senior residents to enjoy a high quality of life and live out their lives 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 Ensure implementation of recommendations in the Age-Friendly Plan	Highest	City SD	Medium
	2 Continue and expand seniors programs and services, and support increased levels of participation	Highest	SCA OC RLAC	Medium
	3 Encourage Interior Health to increase the number of assisted living and residential care beds in the community	Highest	City HCA	High
	4 Establish suitable locations for seniors’ residential developments and include adaptability standards for existing developments	Highest	City Plan	Low
	5 Maintain and expand Home and Community Care services as needed	Highest	IH Private sector	Low
	6 Ensure adequate medical care for aging individuals with developmental disabilities	Highest	IH CC CLBC	Medium
	7 Continue to provide ongoing learning opportunities for seniors (falls prevention, internet safety, abuse prevention, computer literacy etc)	Highest	SCA City SD	Lowest
	8 Support inter-generational educational and social activities			
	9 Develop supports for seniors to purchase medical supplies and services at a lower cost when necessary, including personal emergency alert devices	High	CC SCA	Medium
	10 Expand snow removal, yard and handyman services	High	CFDC	Lowest
	11 Continue pharmacist support to help sort-out and dispose of old medications	High	Pharmacist SCA	Lowest
	12 Implement workshops on seniors issues for the community at large	High	SCA	Lowest
	13 Encourage employers to provide retirement planning at the workplace	Medium	Employers	Lowest

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 and trails.

### What We Know About our 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.
- Public recreation facilities include:
  - A full service community center with Okanagan Regional Library, an attached Seniors Center, aquatic centre, dance studio 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 a wading pool, 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.
  - The Illecillewaet Greenbelt and River Trail offers riverside walking, biking, interpretive panels, and bird watching.
  - All neighbourhood elementary school playgrounds and playing fields are open to the public.
  - Undeveloped parks (e.g. east Williamson's Lake).
- Some community facilities need upgrades, such as the Revelstoke Forum.
- 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 sporting events and other special events.
- Private businesses operate one gym, a bowling alley, and yoga studios. Squash courts are operated by a non-profit society.
- Revelstoke Mountain Resort offers downhill, heli- and cat-skiing. The Nordic Ski Club manages Macpherson cross-country ski area.
- 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.

---

### What We Are Doing

---

- The City's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department manages community recreation facilities and hosts programs. CSRD has a cost sharing arrangement with the City for recreation services (including the aquatic centre).
- 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 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 of Revelstoke, in partnership with Community Connections, has implemented a subsidy program for low-income residents and families for all city-run programs and the aquatic centre.
- A new gymnastics facility is under construction as part of the Neighbourhood Learning Centre at the new elementary school downtown. It is slated to open in 2012.

- City parks and playgrounds are upgraded on a regular basis in partnership with other organizations and as funding allows. Recently, the City completed upgrades to all soccer fields and replaced the public washrooms at Centennial Park. The Early Childhood Development Committee has partnered with the city and other organizations to upgrade playground equipment in Queen Elizabeth Park (3 times), Farwell Park, and Beruschi Park.
- In partnership with the CSRD, the City is in the process of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that encompasses parks, recreation facilities and trail networks.
- 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

Maintain, develop and manage a well-integrated and linked system of parks, trails, and recreational facilities serving the needs of residents and visitors that is accessible for all citizens.

### Objective:

- Develop partnerships and collaboration to work towards implementation of the community goals and recommended actions in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, when completed.
- Ensure equipment and infrastructure in community parks and facilities is safe and accessible to support a full range of recreational pursuits.
- Ensure recreation facilities and activities are affordable for all residents.

Objective	Projects/Tasks	Priority	Leader	Cost
A	1 Ensure priorities for action are inclusive of the needs of <i>all</i> families, youth, seniors, and low income residents	Highest	City P&R	Highest
	2 Develop & implement arts & cultural recreational programming for all ages	Medium	City P&R	Low
B	3 Continue to upgrade community park and playground equipment	Highest	City P&R ECD	High
	4 Complete a feasibility study on affordable options to upgrade the Revelstoke Forum	Medium	City P&R	High
	5 Develop permanent bocce and lawn bowling facilities for use by seniors and others if needed	Low	City P&R	Medium
C	6 Continue to implement the subsidy program for low-income residents for the aquatic centre and all city-run recreational facilities and programs	Highest	City P&R	Medium
	7 Continue to offer indoor winter recreation opportunities for a variety of groups and residents	Medium	City P&R all	Medium

## Organization Abbreviations

AG	Ministry of the Attorney General
AQC	Air Quality Committee
CC	Community Connections
CDC	Conservation Data Centre
CoC	Chamber of Commerce
CFDC	Revelstoke Community Futures Development Corporation
City CED	City Community Economic Development Department
CE&PW	City Engineering and Public Works Department
City HCA	City Health Care Advisory Committee
City P&R	City Parks and Recreation Department
City Plan	City Planning Department
City SD	City Social Development Committee
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railway
CSC	Carshare Coop
CSRD	Columbia Shuswap Regional District
ECD	Early Childhood Development Committee
IH	Interior Health
MCFD	Ministry of 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
RFRS	Revelstoke Fire Rescue Services
RCCS	Revelstoke Child Care Society
RCFC	Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
RCHS	Revelstoke Community Housing Society
RESC	Revelstoke Employment Services Centre
RMR	Revelstoke Mountain Resort
RMS	Revelstoke Multicultural Society
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
WW	Welcome Wagon

## Cost Categories

**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, (2009), Local Health Area 19 Revelstoke, Statistical Profile

City of Revelstoke

- Official Community Plan (July 6, 2009)
- DRAFT Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (January 2011)
- DRAFT Transportation Master Plan, prepared by Boulevard Transportation Group Ltd (November 2010)

Gibbs Planning Group, Inc. (August 2010), Revelstoke Residential Market Analysis

Interior Health, (March 2010), Local Health Area Profile

Penfold, George (2008), Revelstoke Housing Stats, [http://selkirk.ca/research/ric/housing\\_resources.html](http://selkirk.ca/research/ric/housing_resources.html)

Statistics Canada, Small Area and Administrative Data Division, (June 2010), 2007 Taxfiler data