



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
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NEWS RELEASE

April 26, 2012

The Affordability Crunch: Growing prosperity is a tough challenge in the Capital Region

Victoria - A large number of residents of the Capital Region continue to face the challenges of having a low income according to a new report published by the Community Social Planning Council on behalf of a consortium of local government and non-profit organizations. The report, *Growing Prosperity in the Capital Region*, analyses 1996 and 2006 Census data, and other socio-economic data, for the region and its municipalities.

A team of representatives examined key trends facing the region. They found that poverty is a persistent reality for many residents with only a 2% decrease in the poverty rate between 1996 and 2006, leaving over 43,000 residents living below the poverty line. The depth of poverty, the scale of income inequality, and the numbers of people vulnerable to being in poverty have largely remained the same.

Commenting on the report, the Council's Executive Director, Rupert Downing, said *"Stagnant or declining household incomes in the region will have negative consequences for prosperity in the whole economy. A locally driven strategy is needed for poverty reduction and prevention, including community economic development initiatives to promote local jobs, businesses, and community investment."*

Click here to see this news release in PDF form:

http://www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/GPP_News_Release_April2012.pdf

Click here to see the full report:

http://www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/GPPSummaryReport_FINAL_March2012.pdf

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End of News Release.
Supporting material follows.



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SUPPORTING MATERIAL

News Release: The Affordability Crunch: Growing prosperity a tough challenge in the Capital Region

April 26, 2012 | Victoria, BC

Discussion material – some interesting findings

- Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 continue to have the highest incidence of poverty (20%)
- Those in the 45 to 64 age range, saw a 4% increase in their poverty rate
- Women have higher rates of poverty than men; with the poverty rate of women over age 75 nearly six times that of men in the same age group
- The report suggests that the 2008/09 recession has reversed a general trend in improved income levels, and resulted in a 3% increase in unemployment in 2009
- Victoria, Esquimalt, the Southern Gulf Islands and Sooke have the highest poverty rates in the region
- Low income workers consistently represent one in ten of the regional labour force

The report points to the Community Social Planning Council's own annual calculation of the Living Wage required for a family of four to meet their basic costs. Since 2006 the Living Wage has increased by 15.5 %.

These reports are part of a two-year project involving representatives from local governments, community organizations, and other stakeholder groups, called the Growing Prosperity Consortium. The Census data was purchased by a group of Consortium members, Capital Regional District, Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria, and the City of Victoria, through an initiative of the Canadian Council on Social Development and Statistics Canada called the Community Social Data Strategy.

Additional resources:

Community Action Plan on Poverty | http://www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/2012_DIBT_CAPP.pdf

2011 Affordability Index (with the Living Wage calculation) | http://www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/2011_CSPC_AI_backgrounder.pdf

Community Social Planning Council logo | http://www.communitycouncil.ca/images/CSPC_Logo_print_col.png

Community Social Planning Council Executive Director photo | <http://www.communitycouncil.ca/images/Port-RD-1.png>

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