



2018 The Alberni Valley's
VitalSigns[®]



*The Alberni Valley
Community Foundation*

Message from the Board Chair

Once again, I am proud to serve on the board of the Alberni Valley Community Foundation, and proud to share our 2018 Vital Signs® report with the community. In the three years since we released our first report, we have seen significant changes within the Alberni Valley. Issues that are impacting larger urban centres have cropped up here, too – indeed, the opioid crisis, the need for adequate and affordable housing for all, and increased crime have all made themselves known in the Alberni Valley. At the same time, important work has been done in the arenas of poverty reduction, reconciliation, and sustainability.

It can be difficult to make sense of the changes in our community and in our world. Much of how we perceive the world is informed by the way an issue affects us or our loved ones, or what we read on social media. Vital Signs® presents an alternative. Alongside community perceptions and opinions are indicators – discrete data points that allow us to track change over time. We hope that the information in this report adds to your knowledge about the Alberni Valley, and we hope that the data are used to inform planning and decision making in our community.

Hugh Grist, Board Chair

Alberni Valley Community Foundation

Vital Signs team

Alberni Valley Community Foundation board members:



Hugh Grist
Chair



John Mayba



Olga Tardif
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Peggy Hartman
Treasurer



Gillian Trumper



Ken Watson



Dave Jarrett



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The Alberni Valley Community Foundation would like to acknowledge that the geographical scope of this report is within the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Hupacasath and Tseshah people.

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About The VitalSigns® Program

Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada. It measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. For more information, please visit www.communityfoundations.ca/vitalsigns.

Why a VitalSigns® report?

By compiling local information and tracking it over time, we will deepen our community knowledge and provide a valuable tool for our foundation, residents, elected officials, and other community groups, giving us a basis from which to develop innovative ideas that build a stronger Alberni Valley.

How is the report organized?

The Vital Signs® report examines quality of life through a number of different lenses, or issue areas. In addition to the twelve issue areas we reported on in 2015, we have added two more: Food and Recreation. We are committed to monitoring and reporting on issues that impact life for all in our community. In each issue area, several indicators are presented. Indicators act as measurement tools, demonstrating how the Alberni Valley has changed over time. Where possible, we have offered comparisons to historical data, other communities, and provincial and/or national statistics.

What is the Alberni Valley?

For the purposes of this report, the Alberni Valley is defined as the City of Port Alberni, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District electoral areas B (Beaufort), D (Sproat Lake), E (Beaver Creek), and F (Cherry Creek), and the Tsahaheh 1, Ahahswinis 1, Alberni 1, and Klehkoot 2 reservations. All efforts have been made to obtain data for this geographic area, but occasionally different geographic areas are measured. This will be noted.

Community Foundations of Canada

The Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) oversees the development of all 191 community foundations across Canada. CFC also coordinates the Vital Signs® program, and provides some of the data included in this report.

Data and Indicators

Data

Some of the data within this report was collected by CFCs data partner, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). Where possible, it has been verified by local experts in each issue area. Additional information was provided by local agencies and organizations. All data sources are listed on page 22.

Note: Due to data limitations, some indicators included in the 2015 report have not been updated in the 2018 report.

Indicator Selection

Indicators were selected and prioritized based on the following guidelines:

Indicator Characteristics

- Perceived public interest (informed by community survey and consultations)
- Indicator's ability to inspire action
- Indicator reports on an issue or trend that community members can do something about
- Indicator reveals a strength or weakness of the Alberni Valley

Data Selection

- Understandable
- Measureable
- Ease of collection
- Currency
- Frequency of collection in future

Community Survey

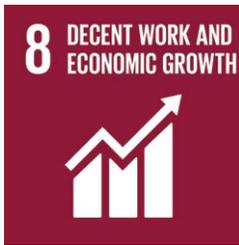
Throughout May, we ran a survey to better understand how local residents feel about the pressing issues in our community. In total, 498 community members participated in the survey. The demographics of survey respondents were closely aligned to the demographics of the Alberni Valley. The survey is statistically valid, but survey responses are presented under the heading "Community Voices" and not with the indicator data.

The AVCF and the Sustainable Development Goals

Like many community foundations, the Alberni Valley Community Foundation supports the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations. The Sustainable Development Goals, or Global Goals, were created and ratified by all United Nations member countries in 2015, with the intention of putting the world on a more resilient and sustainable path by 2030. More information about the goals is available at sustainabledevelopment.un.org.



The grants that we give in the Alberni Valley support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Three recent projects are highlighted below.



In 2018, our grant contributed to the purchase of a pump for the Hupacasath First Nation community farm. The community farm not only grows produce, but supports the development of life and employment skills. SDG 2, Zero Hunger, and SDG 8, Decent Work, are both impacted by this project.



In 2017, we supported the Alberni Valley Community Stakeholders Initiative to End Homelessness in implementing their strategic plan, "Still At Home in the Alberni Valley." The plan is in favour of appropriate and affordable housing for all. This work is linked to SDGs 10 and 11, Reduced Inequalities and Sustainable Cities and Communities.



In 2016, a grant to the Bread of Life helped the organization to renovate the kitchen. The work of the Bread of Life contributes to SDG 2, Zero Hunger.

Report Highlights

Our Valley - Page 5

While our total population is relatively unchanged, demographic shifts have taken place since 2015. Our Aboriginal population is young and growing, while our population as a whole is growing older. Our median age has risen by 5 years over the last decade.

Housing - Pages 14 & 15

Housing has emerged as a critical issue, with house prices rising quickly and half of renters paying so much for housing that they are at risk of homelessness.

Income Gap - Page 16

Poverty remains an issue, as the Alberni Valley experiences a higher rate of poverty than the provincial average. Child poverty is an especially prominent concern.

Belonging & Leadership - Page 7

Our community demonstrates its heart through civic engagement – voting, donating, volunteering, and supporting the many non-profits that make the Alberni Valley such a caring community.

Our Valley

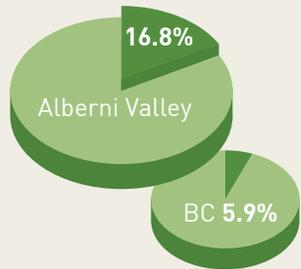
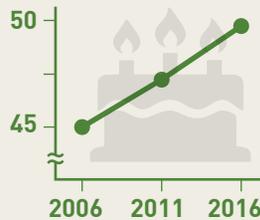


25,112 Population

The population of the Alberni Valley was nearly unchanged between 2011 and 2016. Census data shows a population of **25,112** people. Neighbouring regional districts including Nanaimo Regional District and the Comox Valley Regional District grew by **6.2%** and **4.7%**, respectively, while the provincial population increased by **5.6%**.^{1,2}

49.6 Median age

The median age in the Alberni Valley continues to rise, up from **45** in 2006, to **47.3** in 2011, and to **49.6** in 2016. Our community is older than the provincial median (**43.0**) and the national median (**41.2**).^{1,2}

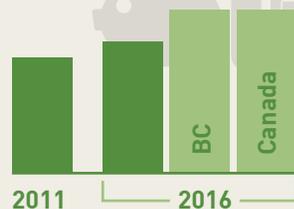


16.8% Aboriginal identity

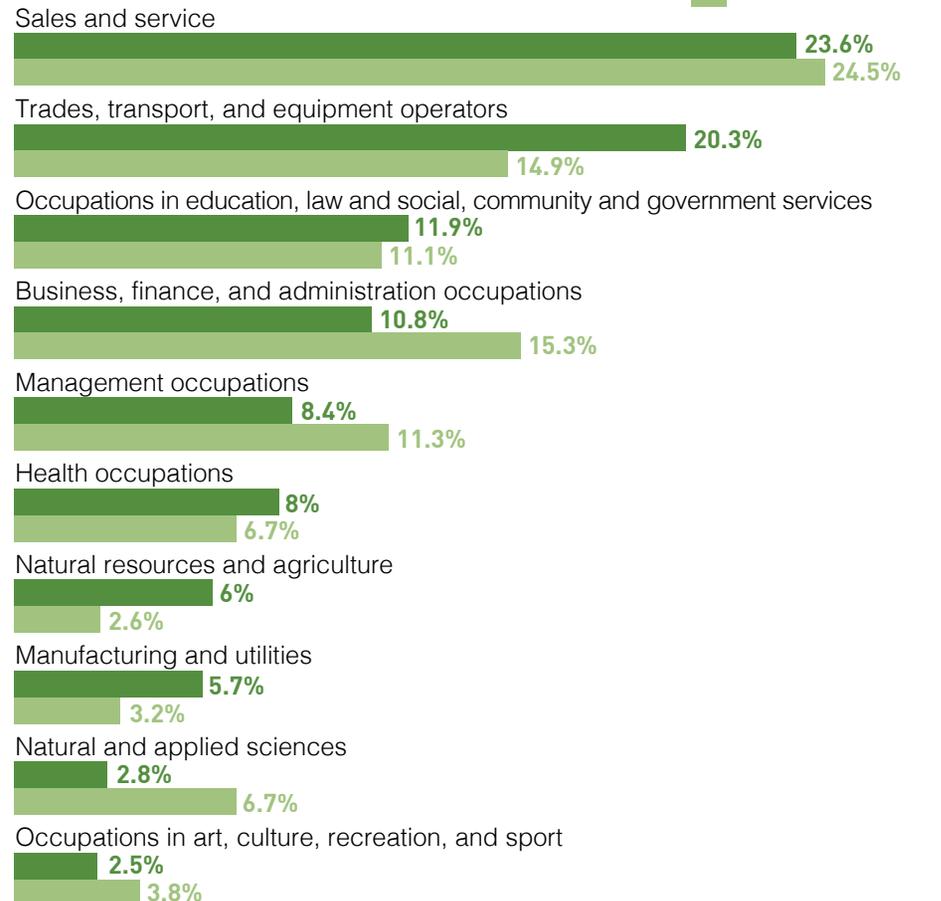
More than **4000** Alberni Valley residents, or **16.8%** of the total population, identify as Aboriginal (First Nations, Metis, or Inuit). This is an increase of **3.5** percentage points since 2011, indicating that the Aboriginal population is young and growing. In British Columbia, **5.9%** of the population identifies as Aboriginal.^{1,2}

\$49,609 Median income of household, after tax

In 2016, Alberni Valley households reported a median income of **\$49,609**, after taxes were deducted. This is an increase over 2011 (**\$43,619**). In both instances, the Alberni Valley lags behind the province – in 2016, the provincial median was **\$61,280**. Nationally, households reported an after-tax income of **\$61,348**.^{1,2}



Employment – top industries¹





Arts & Culture

1.3%

Education in the arts

Just over one in one hundred adults ages 25-64 in the Alberni Valley have post-secondary training in the arts (visual or performing). Across the province, **2.1%** of people ages 25-64 have an arts education.¹

2.5%

Employment in cultural occupations

The proportion of residents working in arts, culture, recreation, and sports has not changed since 2015. This is lower than the provincial rate of **3.8%** and the national rate of **3.1%**.¹

7,506 Registered library borrowers

A total of **7,506** people, or **29.9%** of the population in the Alberni Valley, have a library card. In 2017, **102,108** visits to the Port Alberni branch were recorded, or an average of **4** visits per resident.⁴

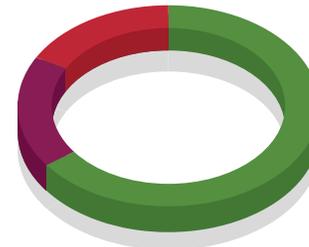


\$30,000 Canada Council for the Arts grants

National arts and council grants are awarded each year to support local arts initiatives. In 2017, Alberni Valley artists were awarded two grants. Prior to this, no Canada Council for the Arts grants have been awarded in Alberni since 2012.⁵

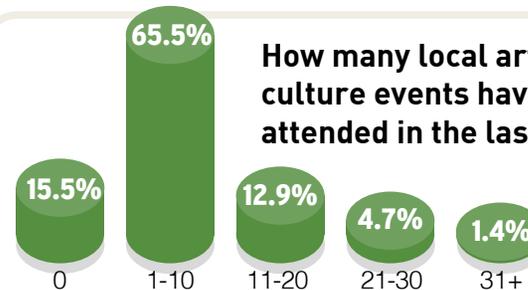


Community Voices³



I can afford to participate in local arts and culture events.

- 65.1%** Strongly agree and agree
- 17.7%** Neutral
- 17.2%** Disagree and strongly disagree



How many local arts and culture events have you attended in the last 12 months?





Belonging & Leadership

71.7%

Sense of community belonging

Nearly three-quarters of Central Vancouver Island residents, which includes the Alberni Valley, reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2015-2016, a decrease of slightly more than seven percentage points since 2013-2014. Provincially, **71.6%** of residents feel they belong, compared to **68.4%** nationally.⁶

16.6%

Percentage of tax filers making charitable donations



Tax filer data from 2016 indicates that **16.6%** of Alberni Valley residents made a charitable donation. This compares to **19.5%** of British Columbia residents and **20.5%** of all Canadians. In the Alberni Valley, the median amount donated was **\$270**.⁸

65.1%

Voter turnout – provincial

The 2017 provincial election saw increased voter turnout over the 2013 election. Provincially, **61%** of registered voters took to the polls in 2017, compared to **57%** in 2013. The Mid-Island Pacific Rim riding, of which the Alberni Valley is a part, had a higher than average turnout of **65.1%**.⁹

80 Number of registered non-profits

There are **80** registered non-profits in the Alberni Valley, or roughly one charitable organization per **314** residents. In 2015, there were **79** registered non-profits.⁷

76.6%

Voter turnout – federal

At **76.6%** voter turnout in the 2015 federal election, the Courtenay-Alberni riding had one of the highest rates in the province. Nationally, **68.5%** of eligible voters turned up at the polls. In 2011, **61.1%** of eligible voters cast their ballot.¹⁰



Power of people

100+ Women Who Care Alberni

The Alberni Valley has a long reputation as the “community with a heart,” and the local chapter of the 100 Women Who Care initiative cements that status. Communities across North America have created 100 Women Who Care groups, asking 100 women to gather quarterly to award \$100 each — or \$10,000 total – to a worthy local non-profit. This allows for charitably-minded women to gather, quickly learn about local charities in the Alberni Valley, and make a big impact with their combined donation. But they haven’t stopped at 100 – at last count, the 100+ Women That Care Alberni was just over 200 members. For more information, visit www.100womenalberni.com.

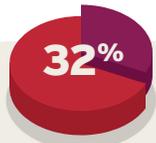




Children & Youth

5,095 Number of children and youth

There are more than 5000 children and youth 19 years and younger in the Alberni Valley. Children and youth comprise **20.3%** of the population. Provincially, **20.4%** of residents are under 19 years of age. Across Canada, **22.4%** of the population is under 19 years old.¹



Vulnerability rate

The latest Early Development Instrument (EDI) data intimates that the vulnerability rate has increased, from **30%** in 2011-2013 to **32%** in 2013-2016. An examination of a child's first five years across five domains (physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognition, and communication) demonstrates that, without additional support, **32%** of our youngest children may experience further challenges in both education and society.¹²



Adults in the community

The Middle Years Development Instrument asks students in Grade 4 and Grade 7 to reflect on their experiences at school, at home, and in the community. One of the questions queries connectedness, and asks Grade 4 and 7 students to assess the quality of the relationships they have with adults in their neighbourhood or community. On this scale, **69%** of Grade 4 students are thriving, or experiencing high well-being, and **62%** of Grade 7 students are as well. Both responses exceed the provincial average.¹³



Child poverty rate

In the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, which includes the Alberni Valley, **29.5%** of children and youth ages 0-17 years old live in a low-income family. Within city limits, **33.7%** of children and youth live in a low-income family. This is the highest municipal child poverty rate in the province. In British Columbia, one in five, or **20%** of children and youth live in poverty.¹¹



Youth self-rated mental health

When asked to rate their mental health, **81.3%** of youth in Central Vancouver Island, which includes the Alberni Valley, chose "very good" or "excellent," a slight increase over the provincial average of **79.1%** and the national average of **77.6%**.⁶



Power of Philanthropy

STARS Program

"Skills That Achieve Readiness for School," or STARS, is a program developed by Outreach Therapy. Outreach Therapy has long provided group intervention services to young children, but needed a way to reach more children to share foundational fine and gross motor, cognitive, sensory, social and emotional skills to support school readiness. Thus, STARS was born! The STARS curriculum is now offered in preschools and childcare centres throughout the Valley and on the west coast. Through play, children's coordination is developed, alongside their social skills and self-confidence. This program is made possible thanks to a number of funders, and the Alberni Valley Community Foundation is proud to support it.



Environment

9.9ug/m³ Air quality

One measure for air quality is concentration of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). Fine particulate matter is a public health risk, causing lung and heart problems. Canada's Ambient Air Quality annual standard for PM2.5 is 10.0ug/m³, or 10.0 micrograms per cubic metre. In 2017, the Alberni Valley's annual average was **9.9ug/m³**, as measured at the Alberni Elementary weather station.¹⁴

530L Daily water consumption per capita

Metered water usage in the Alberni Valley is provided by the City of Port Alberni, Beaver Creek Water System, and the Cherry Creek Waterworks District. Daily average water consumption per capita was **530** litres in 2017, an increase over 2014's daily per capita average of **449.7** litres.^{15,16,17}

75.7kg Household recycling

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District collects household recycling from residents living in the City of Port Alberni, Beaver Creek, Tseshaht, and Hupacasath. In 2014, each household in these communities averaged **81kg** of recycling per year. In 2017, the household average decreased to **75.7kg** per household.¹⁶

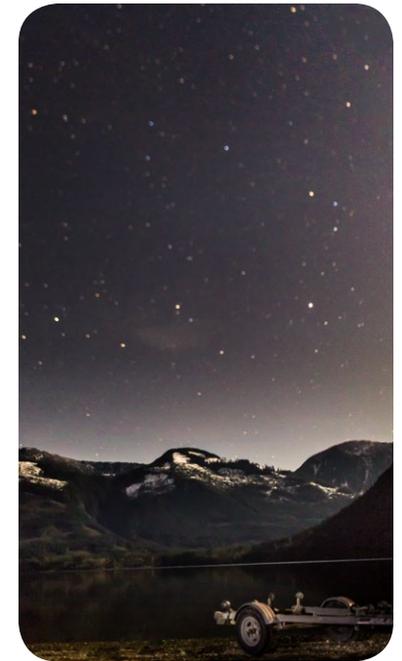
2,069mm Average annual precipitation

In 2016, the most recent year with comprehensive weather reports, **2,069mm** of precipitation fell in the Alberni Valley. This was an increase over 2014 (**1,781mm**), and higher than the 10 year average of **1,796.3mm**.¹⁴

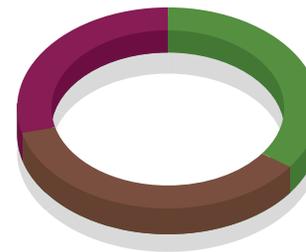
Power of people

Cycling to School

Many local organizations came together to secure funding to purchase a fleet of bikes that are used to teach Wood Elementary School students cycling skills that may support them in cycling for health and leisure and, as they get older, to support bicycle commuting. 125 students participated in the Bike to School program, cycling 1-2 times per week for 6 weeks. In total, 200 students participated in some sort of cycling program. Teachers reported that students who participated in the cycling program had increased attention in class, and demonstrated strong communication and collaboration skills. Cycling also supports mental and physical health.

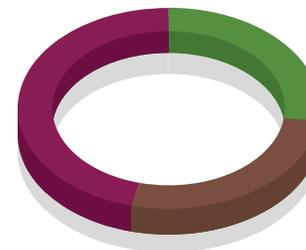


Community Voices³



The Alberni Valley has adequate options for getting around, including public transportation and active transportation.

34.8% Strongly agree and agree
35.6% Neutral
29.6% Disagree and strongly disagree



Our natural resources (air, water sources, forests) are well managed.

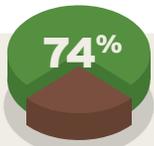
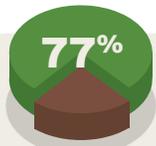
26.7% Strongly agree and agree
26.7% Neutral
46.6% Disagree and strongly disagree



Food

\$1029 Cost of healthy eating

The Provincial Health Services Authority monitors the monthly cost of healthy eating for a family of four in BC. Their most recent report shows that a family living in Central Vancouver Island pays **\$1029** to eat healthy meals each month. This is an increase over 2015, when Central Vancouver Island families paid **\$983** each month. Similarly, the provincial cost of healthy eating has risen from **\$974** in 2015 to **\$1019** in 2017.¹⁸



Meals with adults at home

77% of Grade 4 students and **74%** of Grade 7 students in the Alberni Valley eat meals with their parents or adult family members 5 or more times per week. **15%** of Grade 4 students and **14%** of Grade 7 students eat 2 or fewer meals with parents or adult family members each week.¹⁹

Power of Philanthropy

An innovative grant from Community Foundations of Canada and administered by the Alberni Valley Community Foundation is bringing greater coordination to the delivery of non-profit food services in the Alberni Valley. Through the Alberni Valley Transition Town Food Group, stakeholders will be brought together to develop a more cohesive method of food provision and distribution. Given the number of charitable organizations providing groceries or meals to those in need, identifying and creating efficiencies is essential. By supporting greater alignment in service delivery, we hope that our caring non-profits will have more time and energy to focus on the many other needs that they serve.

36 Number of farms producing and selling food

There are **36** food producing farms in the Alberni Valley producing fruits and vegetables, meat, eggs, grains, and more. Of these, **30** sell their goods on-site, by appointment, and/or with set hours.²⁰

Free and subsidized meals consumed, 2017²¹

ADSS Breakfast Club [2017-2018 school year]*	72,000
Alberni Valley Community School Lunch Program**	42,625
Alberni Valley Neighbourlink Society Read & Feed	25,862
Bread of Life	33,000
Canadian Mental Health Association, Port Alberni branch	16,000
EJ Dunn Backpack Program [2017-2018 school year]***	1,368
Grace Point Church Downtown Hope	4,160
Island Health Lunch Club Program	1,800
Jericho Road Mobile Outreach	1,600
KUU-US Crisis Line Society****	4,076
Port Alberni Friendship Centre	23,250
Port Alberni Shelter Society	30,631
Salvation Army*****	11,896
Vincent de Paul***	639
TOTAL	268,907

*With breakfast served for an hour before classes start and bagels, fruit and granola bars available at "grab 'n go" stations throughout the school, ADSS students accessed food approximately 72,000 times in the 2017 – 2018 school year.

** There is a cost per meal and families are encouraged to pay what they feel they can afford.

*** This is the number of food hampers/ grocery bags provided, not the total number of people fed by this program.

****Includes 1,074 meals and 3,002 food hampers provided during weekend outreach.

***** Includes 574 Christmas food hampers and 40 recipients of the baby formula program.

Note: Canadian Mental Health Association also provides small food hampers to people in need, but a database error made 2017 statistics unavailable.

Our apologies if we have missed any of the free or subsidized food programs in the Valley. Every effort was made to be thorough.



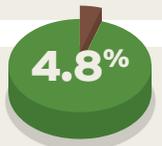
Getting Started in Our Community

345 Net migration

Between 2015 and 2016, **345** more people moved to the Alberni Valley than left the Valley. These newcomers comprise **1.4%** of the total population. When we last looked at this indicator, net migration was negative.¹

38 Languages spoken

In addition to English and French, Alberni Valley residents speak **36** languages at home. The most frequently spoken non-official languages are Punjabi, German, Dutch, Italian, and Spanish.¹

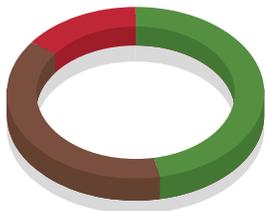


Visible minority

The proportion of residents that belong to a visible minority has increased from **3.5%** in 2015 to **4.8%** today. The largest visible minority groups in the Alberni Valley are South Asian and Chinese. Provincially, **30.3%** of residents belong to a visible minority, up from **27.3%** in 2014.¹

Note: Visible minority data does not include Aboriginal people.

Community Voices³

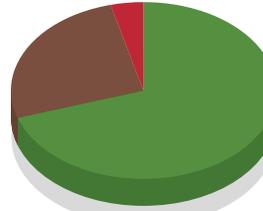


If someone new moves onto my street, they are welcomed into the neighbourhood.

47% Strongly agree and agree
37.5% Neutral
15.5% Disagree and strongly disagree

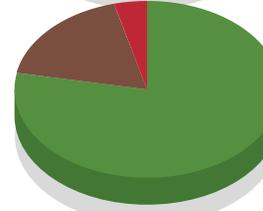


New residents¹



New residents, 2015

70% From within the province
25% From another Canadian province
4% From outside of Canada



New residents, 2010 – 2014

78% From within the province
17.6% From another Canadian province
4.4% From outside of Canada



Power of people

The Alberni Valley has welcomed many newcomers in the last few years – mostly from within the province, but from across the country and internationally as well. A net increase in migration coupled with a significant increase in the visible minority population makes us ask: How can we welcome new residents to our community?

- Deepen personal connections by getting to know newcomer neighbours
- Share helpful hints with new residents on your street, such as information about local services like the post office, recreation facilities, hospital, and library
- Ensure that new residents to the community know about local celebrations and events



Health & Wellness

79.02 Life expectancy

Life expectancy, or the number of years a person can expect to live, is a key measure of wellness. Someone born in Local Health Area 70 (Alberni) in 2016 can reasonably expect to live to **79.02** years old. This is lower than the provincial life expectancy of **82.6** years, but an increase over 2014's life expectancy of **78.67**.²⁴

10.1 Birth rate

This is slightly higher than both the Island Health birth rate (**8.4** per 100,000) and the provincial birth rate (**9.6** per 100,000).²⁵

65.4%

Breastfeeding rate

At West Coast General Hospital, **65.4%** of the 247 babies born in 2015/2016 were fed breast milk exclusively while in hospital. This is a decrease from 2013/2014, when **73.2%** of babies born at WCGH were breastfed.²²



26 Number of general practitioners

There are **26** general practitioners serving the Alberni Valley, working from one of the medical, community, or walk-in clinics. This is a net positive increase of **4** physicians since 2014. Additionally, there are **10** specialist practitioners serving the area. Across Central Vancouver Island, which includes the Alberni Valley, **10.9%** of the population was without a medical doctor in 2016, an increase over 2014's **5.9%**.^{26,6}

Note: Central Vancouver Island includes Nanaimo, Oceanside, the Alberni Valley, and the West Coast.

10 of 11 Chronic disease prevalence rate, higher than provincial average

Rates of chronic prevalent disease in Local Health Area 70 (Alberni) are higher than the provincial average in **10** categories: heart failure, chronic kidney disease, Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), osteoarthritis, asthma, hypertension, depression, and mood and anxiety disorders. The only disease that appears less frequently in Alberni than in the province is ischemic heart disease.²⁵

300.7 Mood and anxiety disorders

In Local Health Area 70 (Alberni), **300.7** per 1,000 residents have a diagnosed mood or anxiety disorder. This is lower than the Island Health rate of **302.4** per 1,000 residents, and higher than the provincial rate of **267.0** per 1,000 residents.²⁵

14.4L Average annual alcohol sales

Residents of Local Health Area 70 (Alberni) ages 19 years and older consume **14.4** litres of alcohol, or **835** standard drinks, per year. This is higher than both the Island Health consumption (**10.9** litres, or **632** standard drinks) and provincial consumption (**9.0** litres, or **522** standard drinks).²³



18.2%

Perceived life stress

In 2016, **18.2%** of Central Vancouver Island residents, which includes the Alberni Valley, reported perceiving that most days in their life were quite a bit or extremely stressful. This is a decrease from 2014, when **22.6%** reported the same. Provincially, **19.7%** of British Columbians report quite a bit or extremely stressful days.⁶

14.8%

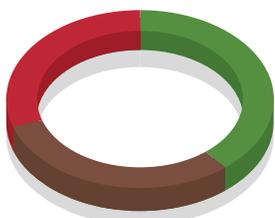
Smoking rate

The smoking rate for the population 12 years and older in Central Vancouver Island has decreased every year since 2007-2008. The most recent rate, from 2015-2016, is **14.8%**. Provincially, the rate is **14.1%** and nationally it is **17.4%**.⁶

18 Overdose deaths

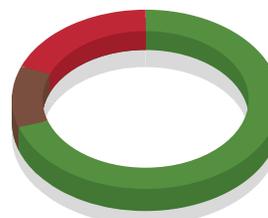
In 2016 and 2017, there were **18** overdose deaths in the Alberni Valley. In 2017, British Columbia saw **1,450** overdose deaths. Illicit fentanyl was detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) in **84%** of overdose deaths in the province.^{27, 28}

Community Voices³



In the Alberni Valley, there are adequate supports in place for promoting wellness.

38.9% Strongly agree and agree
31.4% Neutral
29.7% Disagree and strongly disagree



I have the financial resources necessary to meet my current health care needs.

70.0% Strongly agree and agree
11.3% Neutral
18.7% Disagree and strongly disagree

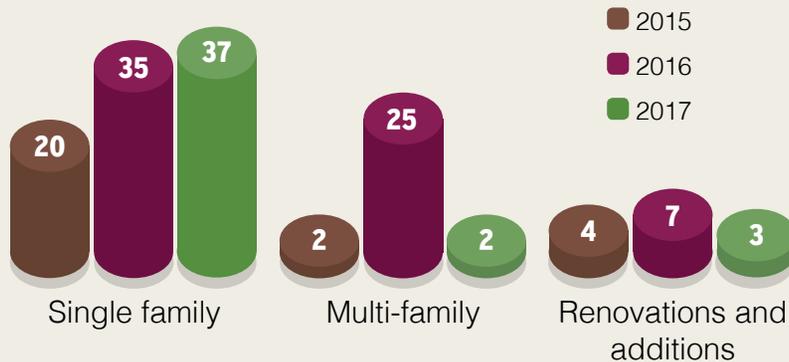


Housing

\$294,900 Benchmark home price

The benchmark sale price of a single-family home in summer 2018 in the Alberni Valley was **\$294,900** – still the most affordable city on Vancouver Island, but **\$100,000** more than in summer 2015. On Vancouver Island, the average single-family home increased from **\$338,700** in summer 2015 to **\$507,700** in summer 2018.²⁹

109 New housing units by dwelling type¹⁵



26.7%

Renter households

Of the 11,360 households in the Alberni Valley, **3,030** or **26.7%** are renter households. This is a negligible increase, from **26.6%** in 2011. The remainder are owned. Provincially, **31.8%** of households are renter households.¹

\$701, \$749 Median monthly shelter costs

Median monthly shelter costs include mortgage or rent payments, electricity, heat, water, and other municipal services. In the Alberni Valley, homeowners pay a median monthly shelter cost of **\$701**, while renters pay **\$749**.¹

9.0%

Proportion of units requiring major repair

Between 2011 and 2016, the proportion of Alberni Valley housing units requiring major repair decreased from **11.9%** to **9.0%**. Across the province, there has also been a decrease, from **7.2%** in 2011 to **6.3%** in 2016.¹

13.1%

Proportion of homeowners spending more than 30% of their income on housing

Households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing are at risk of homelessness. In the Alberni Valley, **13.1%** of homeowners spend more than 30% of their income on housing, compared to **20.7%** of homeowners in BC and **16.6%** across Canada.¹



50.4% Proportion of renters spending more than 30% of their income on housing

Households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing are at risk of homelessness. Half of the rental households in the Alberni Valley spend more than 30% of their income on housing, compared to **43.4%** of homeowners in BC and **40.0%** across Canada.¹

12 Number of beds in emergency shelter

The Port Alberni Shelter Society operates the emergency shelter in the Alberni Valley. It has **12** beds year-round, and may offer **15** additional beds during periods of extreme weather (November 1 – March 31 of each year).³²

147 Homeless count

The Alberni Valley's homeless population was counted in April 2018. Preliminary results demonstrate that there are at least **147** homeless people in the valley. Because the 2018 methodology differed from the methodology used in the November 2016 homeless count, the results are not directly comparable.³¹

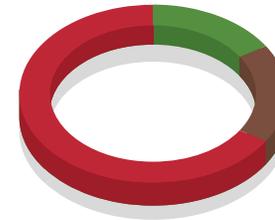


1.7% Rental vacancy rate

The rental vacancy rate in the Alberni Valley has decreased every year since 2011. It is currently **1.7%**. British Columbia's rental vacancy rate is **1.3%**, while Canada's is **3.0%**.³⁰

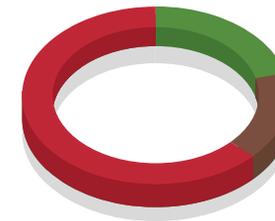


Community Voices³



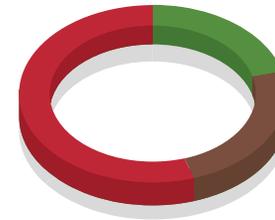
There is affordable housing for all income levels in the Alberni Valley.

16.1% Strongly agree and agree
18.4% Neutral
65.5% Disagree and strongly disagree



The Alberni Valley has a variety of housing options to meet community needs.

21.4% Strongly agree and agree
15.7% Neutral
62.9% Disagree and strongly disagree



Homelessness is taken seriously in the Alberni Valley.

21.1% Strongly agree and agree
23.7% Neutral
55.2% Disagree and strongly disagree

Power of Policy

The Alberni Valley will be the recipient of one of many housing investments currently being made across the province, as 30 units of supported housing and 5 shelter units (that can house up to 4 individuals each) are constructed on 8th Avenue, near the existing Port Alberni Shelter Society site. Supported housing units offer 24/7 supports to residents, including life and employment skills training and health and wellness services.



Income Gap

20.3%

Overall poverty rate

Using the low-income measure, after-tax, **20.3%** of Alberni Valley residents live in poverty. This is an increase of two percentage points since 2013. In British Columbia, the overall poverty rate is **15.5%**, and in Canada, **14.2%**. The national and provincial poverty rates have not changed significantly since 2013.¹

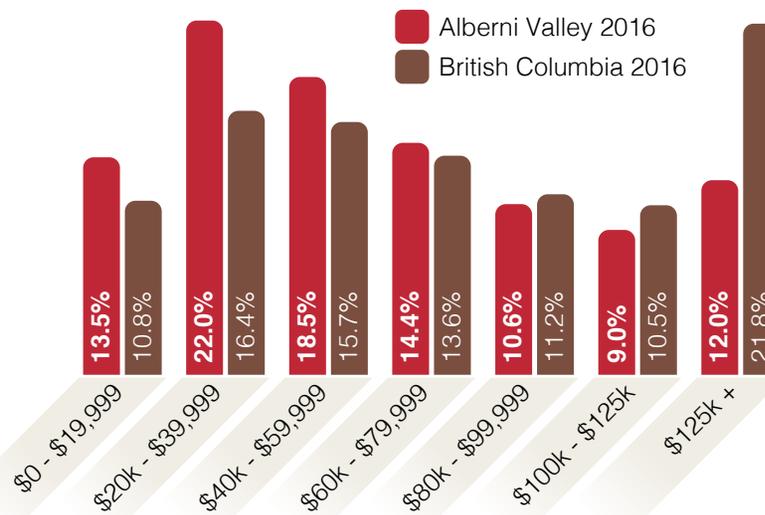
\$37,632 Median income of lone parent families, after tax

The median income of Alberni Valley lone parent families has increased since 2014, when it was **\$30,400**. The province's median income of lone parent families (after tax) is **\$46,668** and the country's is **\$48,856**.¹

Income Sources for Population Aged 15 Years and Older¹

Market income	65.7%	Employment income
	28.5%	Investment income
	24.0%	Private retirement income
Government transfers	26.5%	Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement
	35.5%	Canada Pension Plan and/or Quebec Pension Plan
	10.0%	Employment Insurance (EI) benefits
	21.1%	Child Benefits

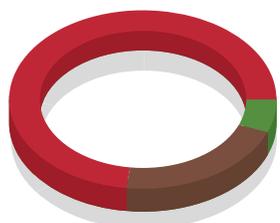
After-tax income of households, by decile¹



\$17.56 Living wage

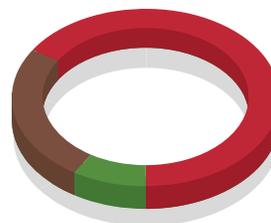
The living wage in the Alberni Valley has increased from **\$17.22** per hour in 2014 to **\$17.56** per hour in 2018. The living wage is the amount of money a family of two parents and two children needs to earn to provide for a bare bones quality of life. For comparison, the 2018 living wage in the Comox Valley is **\$16.59** and the Cowichan Valley is **\$19.05**.^{33,34}

Community Voices³



The gap between the rich and poor is closing in the Alberni Valley

5.7% Strongly agree and agree
 21.4% Neutral
 72.9% Disagree and strongly disagree



As a community, we are generating local solutions to ensure that residents have suitable work.

8.7% Strongly agree and agree
 25.3% Neutral
 66.0% Disagree and strongly disagree



Learning

74.0%

High school completion rate

Data from the British Columbia Ministry of Education demonstrates that the six-year high school completion rate has remained nearly unchanged, from **74.3%** in 2013-2014 to **74.0%** in 2016-2017. This compares to **84.0%** provincially.³⁵

56.0%

Aboriginal high school completion rate

The six-year high school completion rate for Aboriginal students has increased, from **41.7%** in 2013-2014 to **56.0%** in 2016-2017. This compares to **66.0%** provincially.³⁵

60.9%

Transition to post-secondary

The post-secondary transition rate provides the proportion of high school graduates that transition to a post-secondary institute within three years of graduation. **60.9%** of School District #70 students who graduated in 2011/2012 transition to post-secondary, compared to **59.9%** provincially.³⁵

13.2%

Education in the trades

In the Alberni Valley, **13.2%** of the population ages 15 and over has an education in the trades. This is significantly higher than the province, at **8.8%**, and the country, at **9.8%**.¹

44.7%

Percentage of population with post-secondary

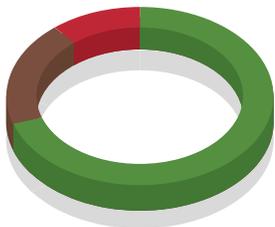
In the Alberni Valley, **44.7%** of the population 15 years and older has post-secondary education. This is an increase from 2015's rate of **43.9%**. This indicator has been increasing every year since 2001. Provincially, **55.0%** of the population 15 years and older has post-secondary.¹

\$4261

Average annual cost of undergraduate university tuition

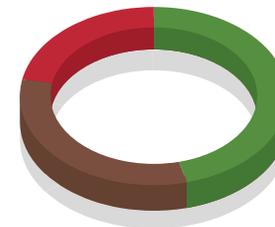
Vancouver Island University is the closest public university. Tuition has increased since our last report: it was **\$4095** in 2014-2015, and was **\$4261** for the 2017-2018 academic year.³⁶

Community Voices³



In the past year, I have increased my own well-being and life satisfaction by learning

70.1% Strongly agree and agree
19.3% Neutral
10.6% Disagree and strongly disagree



There are adequate opportunities for learning in the Alberni Valley

45.6% Strongly agree and agree
32.0% Neutral
22.4% Disagree and strongly disagree



Recreation

85,341

Admissions to recreation facilities

In 2017, **85,341** visits to recreation facilities were recorded by the City of Port Alberni. That's **3.4** visits per person in the Alberni Valley. In 2014, City recreation facilities saw **94,592** visits.³⁷

140+ Trail, in km

There are at least **140km** of trail in the Alberni Valley. Trails have been built on land owned by the City of Port Alberni, the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, and on private and industrial land.³⁸

52 Sunshine Club activities offered

The Sunshine Club is a social club for people 50 years and greater. Members, who pay an annual due of **\$70**, can participate in any of the **52** activities that are regularly scheduled.³⁷

5 Number of registered non-profits dedicated to recreation

There are **5** registered non-profits in the Alberni Valley that focus on recreation, including the Alberni Athletic Association, the Port Alberni Gymnasium Association, and the Port Alberni Youth Centre Society.⁷



Community Voices³

We asked Alberni Valley residents how they use their leisure time. In the last 12 months...

85.4%

Visited a park or recreation centre

67.8%

Visited a farmer's market

66.5%

Donated to a cause

60.5%

Provided unpaid help to a non-family member

55.8%

Volunteered time to an organization

53.7%

Visited the library

52.8%

Visited a heritage site

48.1%

Participated in a sports or hobby group

41.6%

Signed a petition

37.8%

Attended a cultural or ethnic event put on by a different cultural or ethnic group than their own



Safety

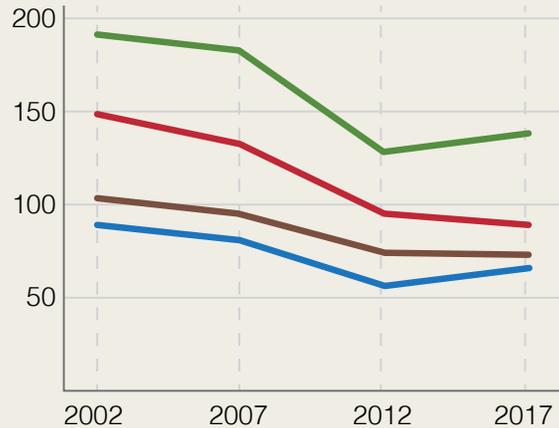
Overall crime rate, per 100,000 population³⁹



■ British Columbia ■ Canada ■ Port Alberni - municipal ■ Port Alberni - Rural

Crime severity index, per 100,000 population

The crime severity rate reflects both the number and relative seriousness of crimes reported to the police.³⁹



6,009.8 Property crime rate, per 100,000 population

Property crime rates in the Alberni Valley have been increasing since 2014, when it was **4,844**. In 2017, the Port Alberni municipal property crime rate was **6,009.8** per 100,000 population, while Port Alberni rural was **2,030.5**. Across BC, the rate has stayed relatively stable since 2014, and in 2017 the provincial rate was **4,814.5**.³⁹

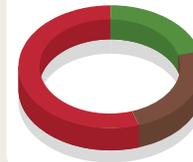
Community Voices³

The Alberni Valley is a safe community.



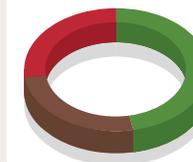
32.5% Strongly agree and agree
23.2% Neutral
44.3% Disagree and strongly disagree

There are adequate crime prevention measures in place here.



20.6% Strongly agree and agree
23.7% Neutral
55.7% Disagree and strongly disagree

The Alberni Valley is prepared for a large-scale emergency, such as an earthquake or a tsunami.



46.9% Strongly agree and agree
26.3% Neutral
26.8% Disagree and strongly disagree

115.5 Sexual assault rate, per 100,000 population

In 2017, the Alberni Valley's sexual assault rate was **115.5**, compared to **56.2** for British Columbia and **67.2** for Canada. Caution should be taken, though: the majority of sexual assaults are not reported, so obtaining an accurate number is difficult.³⁹

12 Number of beds in women's and children's transition house

There are **12** beds for women and children in the transition house operated by the Alberni Community and Women's Service's Society. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Transition House provided **1,737** nights of bed stays for women and children at risk of or fleeing domestic violence.⁴⁰



Seniors

24.1%

Senior population

Nearly one-quarter of the Alberni Valley's population, or **24.1%**, is comprised of seniors ages 65 years and greater. This is a significant increase from 2011, when **20.1%** of the population was 65 years and greater. Provincially, **18.3%** of the population is 65 years and greater.¹



2 Senior-specific physicians

There are **2** senior-specific physicians in the Alberni Valley: a gerontologist and a geropsychiatrist. This has not changed since 2015.⁴¹

197 Residential care beds

There are **197** residential care beds in the Alberni Valley, an increase of **5** beds since 2015. Residential care provides 24-hour professional supervision and care.⁴²

100% increase Senior population projection

Over the next 20 years, the population 75 years old and greater is predicted to double, from **2,505** to more than **5,000**.²⁵

27.4%

Percentage of senior population living alone

As in our 2015 report, **27.4%** of the senior population lives alone. Seniors who live alone often report higher rates of social isolation than seniors who live with someone else. Across BC, **25.7%** of seniors live alone.²⁵

13.9%

Senior poverty rate

Senior poverty rates are increasing across the province, and the Alberni Valley is no exception. Currently, **13.9%** of seniors have after-tax income below the low-income measure. Interestingly, **16.9%** of senior women live in poverty in the Alberni Valley, compared to **10.8%** of senior men. Across the province, **14.9%** of seniors live in poverty.¹

Note: This is not directly comparable to the data in our 2015 report, which uses a different measure of poverty. We have opted to use the low-income measure, after-tax, in all of our reporting about poverty



Power of People

Intergenerational programs are those that include children, youth, and seniors. These programs allow kids and seniors to develop fun, meaningful relationships. One such program is the Treasure Our Young Ones Childcare Centre (?iihmisuk taat'ha?is), run by the Port Alberni Friendship Centre. The program integrates two Elders into the childcare setting, and the Elders share their knowledge and teachings as well as the Nuuchah Nulth language. The program is beneficial for the children, who meet caring adults, and for the Elders, who are able to share their life experiences and language. Win-win!



Work & Economy

48.2%

10.2%

Employment and unemployment rates

There has been little change in employment or unemployment rates since 2011. Data from the 2016 census notes that the employment rate has risen from **46.0%** to **48.2%**, and unemployment has decreased from **10.4%** to **10.2%**. Provincially, the employment rate is **59.6%** and the unemployment rate is **6.7%**.¹

474 Annual average EI benefits beneficiaries

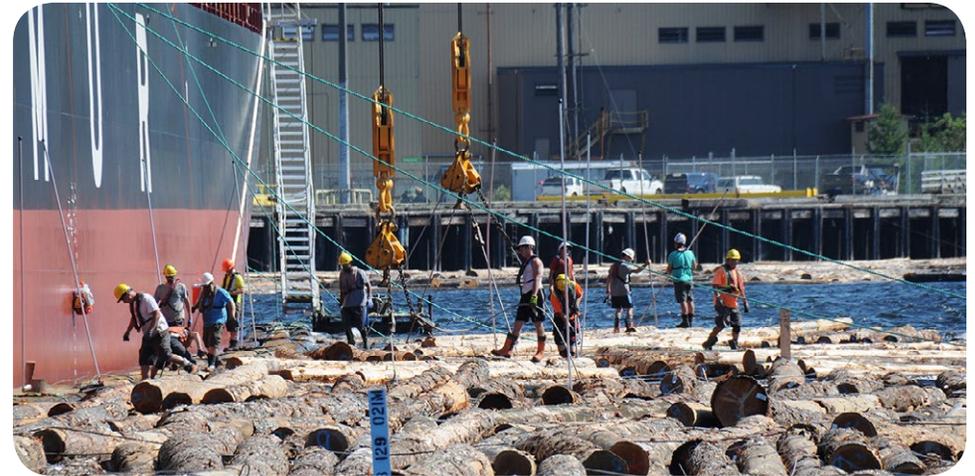
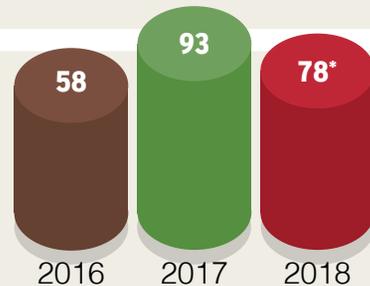
In the Alberni Valley, an average of **474** people received Employment Insurance (EI) benefits per month in 2017, a slight decrease from **480** in 2015. This represents **4.2%** of the labour force. In British Columbia, **2.1%** of the labour force also received EI benefits in 2017.⁴³

\$49,479 Median employment income

The median full-time, full-year employment income in the Alberni Valley is **\$49,479**, with men earning nearly \$10,000 more, at **\$58,340**, and women earning \$8000 less, at **41,310**. In British Columbia, the median employment income is **\$53,940**, or **\$61,004** for men and **\$47,039** for women.¹

Number of new business licenses⁴⁴

*2018 data is for January – June due to publication deadlines.

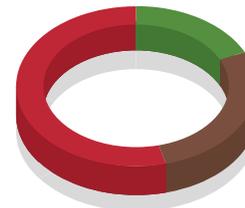


1,400 Number of self-employed individuals

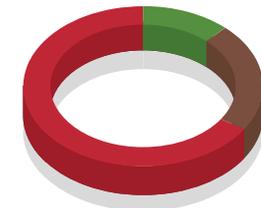
There are **1,400** self-employed individuals in the Alberni Valley, comprising **12.4%** of the labour force. Provincially **13.9%** of the labour force is self-employed, and **11.8%** of the national labour force is self-employed.¹

Community Voices³

Ample entry-level job opportunities exist in the Alberni Valley.



Ample professional job opportunities exist in the Alberni Valley.



17.6% Strongly agree and agree 12.0%

27.8% Neutral 22.1%

54.6% Disagree and strongly disagree 65.9%

Sources

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44. City of Port Alberni (Personal correspondence with Economic Development Assistant)

Photo sources

Cover: Charmead Schella

Pages 6, 12, 13, 21: Alberni Valley News

Pages 5, 7, 18: Erica Watson

Page 8: Alberni Valley Early Years Centre

Page 9: Tanner McIntyre

Page 11: Literacy Alberni Society

Pages 14, 15: Susie Quinn

All other images provided by the Alberni Valley Community Foundation.

About the Alberni Valley Community Foundation

Who

The Alberni Valley Community Foundation (AVCF) is one of 191 community foundations across Canada. Community foundations act as community bank accounts, investing donated funds, allowing the principal to grow in perpetuity, and donating the interest earned annually to the community. The AVCF is governed by a board of eight, who are appointed by a local committee representing municipal and First Nations government, education, business, and labour.

What

The Alberni Valley Community Foundation:

- Invests in the future of the community by creating and managing funds. All gifts from donors go into permanent endowments.
- Provides grants to local charities to improve our shared quality of life.
- Addresses community needs and opportunities.
- Ensures the integrity of funds and the wishes of donors are respected.

When

The Foundation was formed in 1995 with contributions from MacMillan Bloedel, the Vancouver Foundation, and local donors. In 1997, the first community grants were funded. In 2018, the Foundation holds approximately \$1,000,000. The income that this money generates is distributed to community charities annually. Please visit www.albernifoundation.ca for granting information.

Where

The AVCF serves the entirety of the Alberni Valley, including lands administered by the City of Port Alberni, the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, and First Nations.

Why

The AVCF exists to satisfy the community and our donors.

Community

Organizations apply for grants to help fund local projects. The Foundation has established broad and flexible criteria, enabling it to support a wide array of community needs.

Donors

People want to be sure that their dollars are used wisely, where they can do the most good. Donors may choose to support a favorite cause or they may ask the Foundation to distribute the income according to emerging needs.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the survey respondents, photo contest entrants, subject matter experts, and other individuals that contributed to this report. You are deeply appreciated.

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*The Alberni Valley
Community Foundation*

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