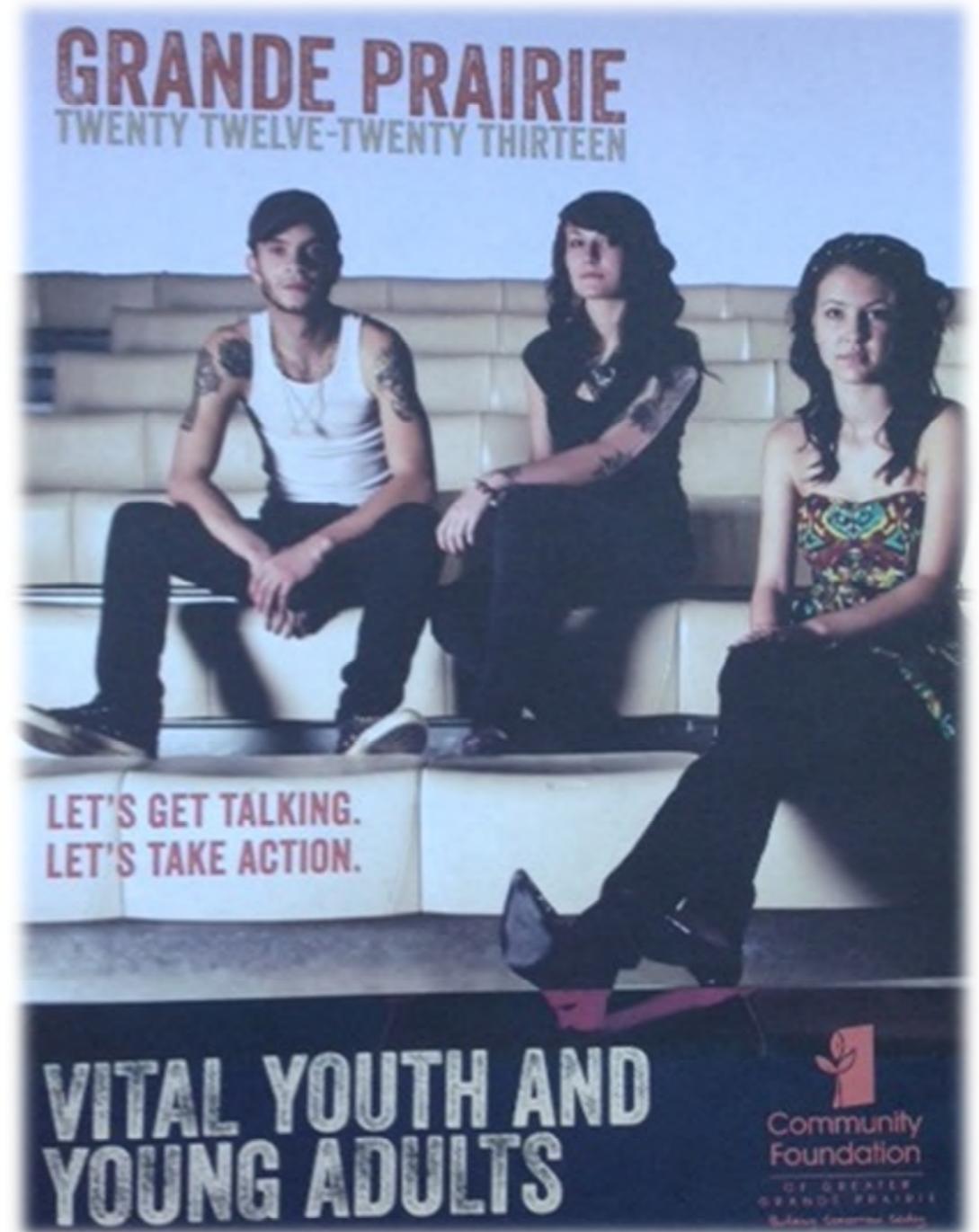


Grande Prairie Vital Youth & Young Adults Vital Café Conversation Summary, March 2013

Consultation Hosted By: Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta

Information Compiled By: Community Social Development – City of Grande Prairie



About the 2013 Grande Prairie Vital Youth & Young Adults Project

In 2012-13, the Community Foundation of Greater Grande Prairie (now the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta) conducted a Vital Youth & Young Adults Grande Prairie project in the City of Grande Prairie. Focus groups were held in the fall of 2012 followed by a public opinion survey that targeted 15-24-year-olds. The ***Vital Youth & Young Adults report*** was released in March 2013, which can be found at: www.buildingtomorrowtoday.com/vitalsigns. The report is a combination of relevant statistics on young people, as well as the results of the survey.

In response to the overwhelming response to the survey, and the survey comments that requested more opportunity for youth/young adults to voice their ideas and priorities, the Community Foundation hosted a ***Vital Café*** in March 2013. The Café brought together 84 participants for a day of dialogue around local issues/concerns impacting young people. The Vital Café was a highly-interactive, solutions-focused day where we moved beyond reporting on youth and young adult issues to engaging young people, community representatives and politicians in a creative, forward-thinking conversation.

This document highlights some of the conversation from that day and provides feedback on the priorities of the participants.

The project targeted 15 to 24-year-olds who live, work or go to school (secondary/post-secondary) in Grande Prairie. Grande Prairie is Canada's youngest city (population of over 10,000). Nearly 50% of our total population is under the age of 30, and almost 30% are between the ages of 15 to 29.

Because these young people are the future of our community, it is essential that they are engaged in decisions that impact their community and influence their lives and well-being. Creating a safe and caring community includes maximizing young people's skills, knowledge and contributions and increasing their sense of ownership.

Vital Signs[®] is a national initiative coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada. 2012-13 year marked the first time this youth project has been conducted in the Grande Prairie area.

Youth Top Indicators	
1) Getting Around Safely	
1.	Want fast, flexible and reliable transportation system that goes all around the city
2.	We need safer, cheaper and more accessible transportation
3.	Safer and accessible trails
4.	Walking bridge, over bypass near Peace Wapiti Academy and Composite High School
5.	Fix and expand the bike lanes
6.	Safer sidewalks
7.	Want more lights in the park
8.	Make downtown safer
9.	Traffic lights and intersection
2) Spaces for Youth & Young Adults	
1.	Fun, interactive space and no stigma
2.	Drop-in center
3.	A "cool" and non-judging place to hang out and be able to talk
4.	DJ-gathering
5.	Youth should have more accessible and affordable places to socialize, preferably with active security
6.	Bigger variety of places for youth
7.	Better promotion of youth events
3) Education and Training (Post-Secondary)	
1.	More secondary program, more career education, more trade and training initiatives, more career planning and better opportunities, more information for youth and cheaper tuition fee
2.	Help finding the money needed for education
3.	More reasonable class environment (class sizes)
4.	Training for teachers to help students deal with stress
4) Health & Wellness	
1.	Health representative in school
2.	Bullying and depression. Support what is needed to deal with these situations

Young Adults Top Indicators	
1) Health & Wellness	
1.	Recreational facilities
2.	Encourage people to get outside, to get around and to enjoy
3.	Space for young people to do free drop-in in sports and exercises
4.	Promote healthy lifestyle for youth and young adults. Help build success in life
5.	Access to services for mental health and resources
6.	Improve mental health wellness in neighborhood and hubs
2) Spaces for Youth & Young Adults	
1.	Places to meet new people with common interests in a safer environment
2.	Venues for youth to enjoy
3.	Activities outside the school
4.	"Safer" Clubs
5.	Affordable entertainment
3) Getting Around Safely	
1.	Making the city safer for walker/biker/runners etc. and pedestrian friendly zone
2.	More information and visibility for bus schedule, routes and bus stop
3.	Ensure safe forms of travel
4) Community Involvement/ Organizing	
1.	Make an easy access to know what's going on in town
2.	Education on how to get involved
3.	Display initiatives (community bulletin, info sharing/boards, etc.)
5) Culture, Identity & Belonging	
1.	Promote theatre
2.	Have a culture where it is seen as much as possible

Community Top Indicators	
1) Health & Wellness	
1.	Advocacy to government about mental health issues
2.	Information about services, there are many ways and organizations that are offering affordable recreation and social opportunities
3.	Professional services for youth needing mental health support service
4.	Availability of infrastructure and affordability of health care
5.	Foundation for everything
6.	Youth needs access to physical and mental health education and services that work
7.	Reduction in teen pregnancy
8.	Development of social emotional skills should be a larger focus
9.	Educating youth to recognize and cope with stress
10.	Easier access to consulting and support services
11.	We need to incorporate more education on self-care throughout all curriculum
2) Housing and Homelessness	
1.	Affordable housing is an issue contributing to homelessness and new resource should be applied to the issues
2.	Improve comfortable environment to help youth improve their life and create stable foundations to help them move forward
3.	Cheaper rent
4.	Youth feel the families pressure
5.	Affordable apartments
3) Green Scene- Environment	
1.	I agree with more trees but throw more responsibility on developers
2.	Foster community engagement
3.	Green spaces and safety

3. Provide more support toward teens
4. More sports and activities program for kids
5. Easier access to clinics and family physicians
6. More education on mental health wellness
7. More counseling and support to families with mental health and other issues to help prevent homelessness
5) Green Scene- Environment
1. More funds and different groups should be involved
2. Recycling and education on environmental issues
3. More Trees
4. Renewable Energy and Eco taxes
5. Less urban sprawl
6. Community garden
6) Housing and Homelessness
1. Less youth homelessness in Grande Prairie
2. There should be more long-term facilities to help youth become more self-sufficient
3. Affordable housing options for independent youth/young adults is needed
7) Arts Scene
1. Places for people with many types of performing arts and talents to showcase their abilities in Grande Prairie and program for elevation
2. Arts help youth express themselves and also help develop brain skills
3. More access to free, low cost arts events and increase awareness of current or ongoing events
8) Culture, Identity & Belonging
1. Making people more aware of their option in Grande Prairie
2. Increase cultural events

6) Green Scene- Environment
1. Awareness and action (plant more trees in the curbside and recycling)
2. Need better, more long term and holistic city planning and parks development and maintenance
7) Housing and Homelessness
1. Built with inhabitants rather than FOR
8) Arts Scene
1. We need to keep our artist, musicians and cultural go-getters (professionals)
9) Education and Training (Post-Secondary)
1. Current system does not effectively inspire, improve or measure knowledge

4. Recycling
5. Clean the city weekly. To remove garbage, gravel or sand
6. Beautify in residential areas too not just down town.
4) Getting Around Safely
1. Transportation safety issues needs to address by public and private operators
2. Improve commuter trails, bus services and bicycle, exchange in price of gas can lead in a better direction for health and environment
3. Make a better connected trails
4. give incentives for not driving
5. Build sidewalk that 2 people can walk abreast on and have trails connect resident areas and safety on them!
6. Build ring roads that move traffic double lanes
5) Spaces for Youth & Young Adults
1. Affordable safe spaces for youth to hangout that nurtures them in all areas of their well-being
2. Safe spaces! Provide safe, accessible and affordable space
3. Youth need safe and free space for youth to gather. Construct things for them to do and clean expertise for behaviors
4. Have a drop-in center
6) Education and Training (Post-Secondary)
1. Advocate for smaller classes
2. Encourage completion of high school
3. Drop-out rate needs to be addressed by provincial government
4. Development of life skills is lacking
7) Culture, Identity & Belonging
1. Create opportunities/places for expressing arts and culture
2. Youth needs volunteer opportunities that create relationships

3. Volunteer opportunities that offer meaningful experience
9) Youth and Young Adult Voice
1. Youth to be train to help peers with mental health and parents divorcing

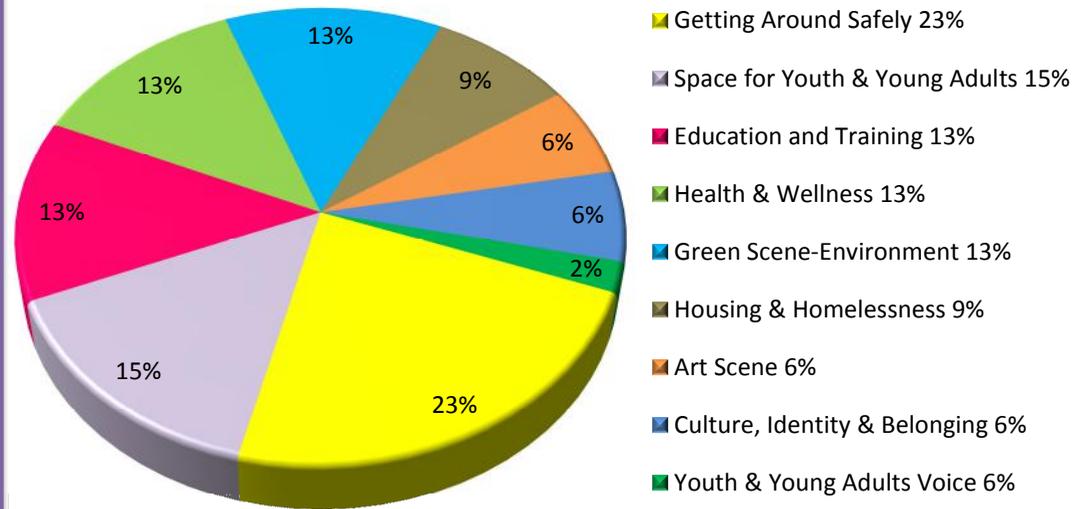
3. Roadmap to community services and pathway integration
8) Social Program & Community Engagement
1. Create or provide better method of putting youth information out there. Time management program offered at.... Use of radio, webs, social media and school prints
2. Anti-bullying program and initiatives to increase tolerance and acceptance of our differences –race-sexual orientation and faith
3. A physical place to connect with public and community
9) Youth and Young Adult Voice
1. More opportunities need to be available for youth to be part of the decision process.
2. Lowering voting age to 17

- Youth Top Indicators**
1. Getting Around Safely
 2. Spaces for Youth and Young Adults
 3. Education and Training
 4. Health and Wellness
 5. Green Scene-Environment
 6. Housing and Homelessness
 7. Arts Scene
 8. Culture, Identity and Belonging
 9. Youth and Young Adults Voice

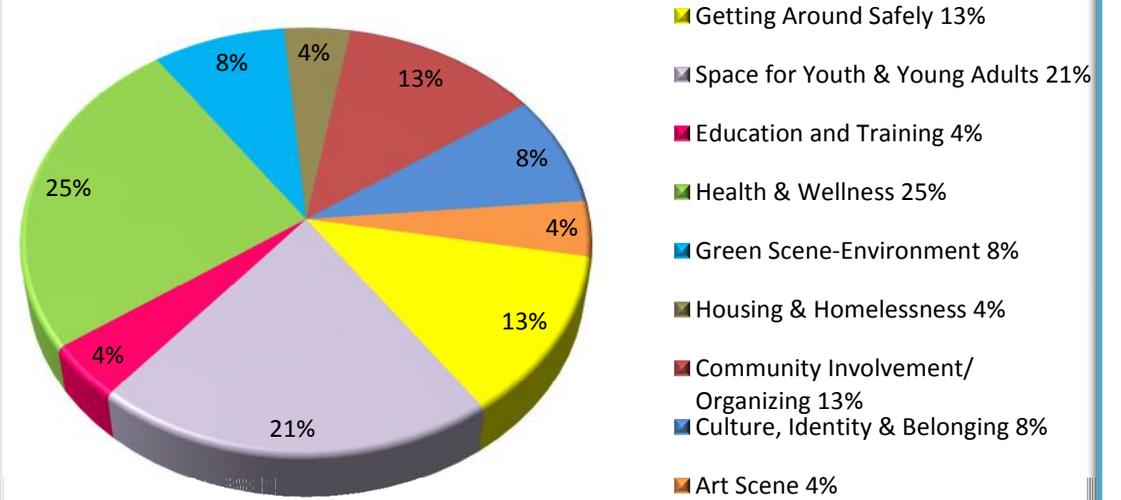
- Young Adults Top Indicators**
1. Health and Wellness
 2. Spaces for Youth and Young Adults
 3. Getting Around Safely
 4. Community Involvement
 5. Culture, Identity and Belonging
 6. Green Scene-Environment
 7. Housing and Homelessness
 8. Arts Scene
 9. Education and Training

- Community Top Indicators**
1. Health and Wellness
 2. Housing and Homelessness
 3. Green Scene-Environment
 4. Getting Around Safely
 5. Spaces for Youth and Young Adults
 6. Education and Training
 7. Culture, Identity and Belonging
 8. Social Program and Community Engagement
 9. Youth and Young Adults Voice

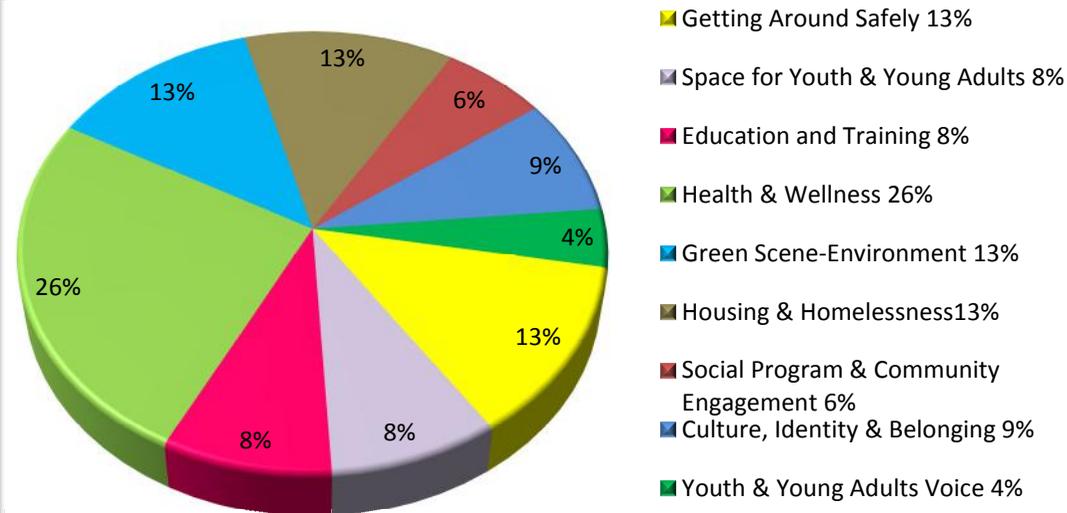
Youth (ages 15-17) Top Indicators



Young Adult (ages 18-25) Top Indicators



Community Top Indicators



Note: Each pie chart may not equal 100% as only the top 9 categories were selected for each age group.

Comments in Top Indicators

1) Education and Training (Post-Secondary)

Youth

1. To become successful this is an important topic to nurture and continue improving to help our next generation
2. More real life skills need to be taught. Should be more focus on students, good of the students than money/funds
3. Focus and flex blocks are very helpful
4. People need to learn about everything and not be given false information
5. No more cramming for pointless midterm

Young Adults

1. Cramming a textbook, does not measure or improve learning
2. Some are textbook wise other are creative thinkers

Community

1. Slowing the pace of life is difficult but through more effective use of technology in the classroom, youth may have a chance to be more engaged educationally, socially and philanthropically

2) Housing and Homelessness

Youth

1. GP has lots of opportunity and I believe that should be shared

Young Adults

1. Is a significant issue that takes more than government to solve

Community

3) Getting Around Safely

Youth

1. People should feel safe and secure in our city. They shouldn't be scared to go for a walk at night
2. We need to crack down on youth crime and make it safer
3. Transportation, walking (bus or car) Bus for me is inefficient

Young Adults

Community

1. Driving a vehicle is the main muscle of transport in the city. This is a culture!

4) Green Scene-Environment

Youth

1. I want us to take pride in our city and make it more beautiful and green place

Young Adults

1. Earth is the only planet; we need to take care of it
2. Before we live in Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada, North America we live on planet Earth. The earth is our home and she provides us with everything we need, so it is essential we show the same love and care

Community

5) Health & Wellness

Youth

1. Youth/school counselors should have recognizable qualifications in helping youth mental issues

Young Adults

Community

1. When a child has what we perceive to be emotional or mental issues we are quick to find the solution.

6) Space for Youth and Young Adults

Youth

1. I want to be able to feel safe in my city as well family and friends

Young Adults

1. Youth involvement
2. Opportunity to engage in activities/ sports
3. It is primary because everything else would be able to come from there
4. There is a common joke I've heard that in GP, you're either working or drinking. That doesn't leave many options, so there should be a space for people to meet each other and share common interest in a safe environment

Community

1. Safety needs fundamentally protect our youth and side benefits to protect people
2. If we want our youth to be more philanthropic and socially responsible and be normal people, we need to provide safe spaces for them where they can create a society different that the one they live in now

7) Young & Young Adult Voice

Youth

1. This program is awesome! It's great to know that my voice and opinion is important

Young Adults

Community

8) Employment

Youth

1. Employment is needed to sustain life. The more people working, the higher standard of living

Young Adults

Community

9) Arts Scene

Youth

Young Adults

1. Grande Prairie has a lot of creative people; artist, musicians, actors and what not, to have more support for these people and more places to exhibit their talents would help unify the artistic community and showcase the local talent

Community

10) Culture, Identity & Belonging

Youth

Young Adults

Community

1. I believe there is opportunity for students to have a time management seminar during the ½ day. PD days now occurring twice per month in city schools
2. I believe that if youth are involve in volunteering this leads to other engagement and belonging

After reviewing the results of the Vital Signs report Youth were surprised to learn

1. [Youth want more trees](#)
2. [Percentage of homeless youth](#)
3. [The importance of building relationship with RCMP](#)
4. [That we have 79km of trails](#)
5. [Greater awareness of GLBTQ](#)
6. [Lack of sidewalks in GP](#)
7. [That the busses weren't very reliable](#)
8. [Youth are concerned about meeting others](#)
9. [Availability of jobs that are meaningful](#)
10. [Arts scene is internationally known](#)
11. [More youth have more problems \(mental health\)](#)
12. [Youth wanting better social things](#)
13. [Safety is less of a problem](#)
14. Youth are taking action in a different sense
15. The amount of bicycle path in Grande Prairie
16. How many youth are staying at emergency shelters
17. Education: college tuition should be cheaper
18. Bus schedules
19. Grande Prairie has a Youth Council
20. I am part of a group percentage who doesn't have time

After reviewing the results of the Vital Signs report Young Adults were surprised to learn

1. [People want more trees](#)
2. [20% of homeless are under 17 years of age](#)
3. [Desire for cheaper gas price](#)
4. [People want more culturally diverse events](#)
5. [More people interested in green space](#)
6. [70% of youth and young adults feels connected to the community when they volunteer](#)
7. [Most people feel safe during the day](#)
8. More affordable gyms
9. A lot of my thoughts were common by others

Top 5 things that Youth, Young Adults and Community were commonly surprised about:

1. People want more trees
2. Percentage of youth homelessness
3. Police relationship
4. Gas price
5. Bus being not reliable and no service in some area

After reviewing the results of the Vital Signs report Community were surprised to learn

1. [How many young people want more trees](#)
2. [Number of homeless youth](#)
3. [Wants police presence](#)
4. [79km internal trails](#)
5. [GLBTQ issues](#)
6. [How much youth utilize walking sidewalks](#)
7. [No bus service in some area](#)
8. [Gasoline price](#)
9. [Youth engaged in arts and culture](#)
10. [Youth and young adults don't feel they have places to hangout except bars](#)
11. [Youth are concerned about environment](#)
12. [Access to and desire for meaningful work](#)
13. [Large support of youth in fine arts](#)
14. [Identify mental health issues in youth](#)
15. Concern regarding lower wages for youth
16. High percentage of English speaking homes
17. Number of homeless individuals in Grande Prairie
18. Number of people with empathy for other in related to mental health
19. People don't feel safe using taxis
20. Youth wanting a vehicle to express their opinion
21. Youth concern about class size
22. Increase voting by involvement in social activity
23. Youth want to be better helpers in identifying kids at risk

After reviewing the results of the Vital Signs report Youth were puzzled to learn

1. Bus availability and changing bus routes
2. Lack of youth spaces
3. RCMP relationship
4. People wanted more trees
5. What could we do to increase kid's time for community involvement
6. Availability of housing for youth
7. Changes in how youth are living
8. Couch surfing
9. Getting around doesn't seem like a prominent problem
10. Higher property tax-20% decrease in housing market
11. Snow removal, what is being done with tax dollars
12. Safety in Grande Prairie, underage drinking, drugs and transit nature of community
13. Too many bars to socialize not much for underage (youth spaces)
14. That so many people think, they need better jobs
15. Why there seems to be an issue with GLBTQ people
16. Are teens really that concerned with arts?
17. The crime rate being an issue
18. How are we able to lower the costs of recreation and health without lowering the quality
19. What are the ways to minimize class sizes in schools
20. Why it takes so long to clean our roads
21. What careers would be available once I've graduated

After reviewing the results of the Vital Signs report Young Adults were puzzled to learn

1. How to improve transportation
2. Lower cost for spot to hang-out
3. How to have positive police relationship
4. How to improve taxi safety
5. How to increase awareness of events around town
6. Where will the funds be generated to meet all these demands
7. How do we find a balance to meet the majority needs of youth, young adults and Grande Prairie
8. Where can I find the bike routes area
9. How to provide more social services for people to hang-out or meet other people
10. Why green space doesn't exist
11. Why youth are not connected with adults and elders
12. Why cultural hubs that exist have expensive rent
13. Why doesn't the city do more to engage its citizens in the first place

Top 3 common things that Youth, Young Adults and Community puzzled about are:

1. How to improve the transportation routes specially in the newer area of the city
2. How to creates more hang out spaces for youth
3. How to strengthen the positive relationship between Youth, Young Adults and the RCMP

After reviewing the results of the Vital Signs report Community Member were puzzled to learn

1. Bus routes in newer area
2. Spaces for youth to hangout and how it looks like
3. Why do youth wants more access to RCMP
4. Planting more trees
5. Why youth not volunteering and volunteering options
6. How to let youth feel they have a voice
7. Disconnect between needs and money streams: priorities-shifting
8. Taxi safety
9. Lack of sidewalks and narrow size in some areas
10. Handicap parking at health care facilities not enough
11. How do we get the information out in the public
12. How do we engage and communicate to the youth
13. How do we better communicate existing services
14. Lack of employment resources for youth
15. Why young people have "older people" illness
16. Youth homelessness vs. youth driving- why youth that are homeless are driving a car
17. How can we value our youth more
18. How can we transform to mental health supports
19. Tons of recreation barriers.. cost barriers
20. Haven't heard a lot about drugs today
21. Types of bullying are increasing
22. What type of activities motivate youth