

**Community Foundation of Greater Grande Prairie
Vital Youth & Young Adults Grande Prairie 2012-13
Indicators and Sources (see our printed report with survey results)**

Vital Youth & Young Adults
is a project of:

Thanks to our many supporters:



Employee Charitable Donations Fund
(a legacy Peace Country Health fund)

HOUSING

1. Grande Prairie Youth Emergency Shelter Society (Sunrise House)

Sunrise House provides emergency shelter for youth aged 12-17 who have become, or who are at risk of becoming homeless. From January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012, 130 youth received shelter and support at Sunrise House. The average length of stay was nine days. The top reasons for referral (including self-referral) were:

- Parent-teen conflict & family breakdown (37%)
- Transiency/social isolation (20%)
- Family violence (13%)
- Depression/Mental Health Disorders (9%)
- Substance Abuse (9%)
- Other (homeless) (5%)
- Parenting Skills (5%)

[Sunrise House](#)

2. Vacancy Rates

In 2012, the vacancy rate for a two-bedroom apartment in Grande Prairie CA was 1.8%, down from 4.9% in 2011 and 12.2% in 2010.

[Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Rental Market Report: Alberta Highlights Fall 2012.](#)

3. Monthly Rent

In 2012, the average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Grande Prairie CA was \$1004, up from \$891 in 2011 and \$843 in 2010.

[Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Rental Market Report: Alberta Highlights Fall 2012.](#)

5. Support Transitioning to Independent Living

The Supported Independent Living Program in Grande Prairie, operated by Mountain Plains Community Services, offers services to youth who are in the care of Children and Family Services Authority and require support and skill development in their transition to living independently. Youth are 16-18 years of age (some exceptions apply). In February 2013, approximately 18 youth were served by the program (a maximum of 22 can be served at a given time).

[Mountain Plains Community Services](#)

4. Odyssey House Emergency Women's Shelter

In 2011, 20% of admitted women were 18-24-years-old. 53% of admitted women were 24-40-years-old.
[Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association](#)

6. Cycle of Violence

Between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2012, 59 clients originally admitted to Odyssey House as children returned to the shelter as adults.

[Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association](#)

HEALTH & WELLNESS

1. Supporting Participation in Organized Sport

In 2011, 272 children and youth aged 18 and under received support from KidSport Grande Prairie & Area to participate in organized sport. Of those, 74 were 12-18-years-old.

[KidSport Grande Prairie & Area](#)

2. Youth Mental Disorders Second Highest Capital Expenditure in Canada

Surpassed by only injuries, mental disorders in youth are ranked as the second highest capital expenditure in Canada. Yet three out of four children and youth who need specialized treatment services do not receive them (CMHA says 4 out of 5). Adolescents with positive interpersonal relationships tend to fare better in terms of mental health.

Generation Flux, Community Foundations of Canada,

http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/files/vitalyouth/2012_VitalYouth%20Research%20Summary.pdf

3. City Supporting Access to Recreation

Now in its second year, the City of Grande Prairie Low Income Recreation Access program provides a \$100 credit per person for access to any City-operated recreational facility or program, and is available to any City resident who meets the low-income criteria. In 2012, 510 individuals received the credit. Of those, 16% were aged 12-17 and 11% were aged 19-30.

[City of Grande Prairie](#)

4. Peers Helping Peers

The Community Helpers Program identifies the "natural helpers" who youth already identify with when they have a mental health problem. Helpers receive training to improve their capacity to help others. In 2011-12, 44 youth and 5 adults were trained. In 2012-13, an estimated 120 youth and 15 adults will be trained.

Fiscal year April 1-March 31

[Suicide Prevention Resource Program](#)

5. Substance Abuse

- In 2010-11, one third (33%) of Canadian students in grades 7-12 reported binge drinking (i.e. five or more drinks on one occasion) in the past 12 months, a decrease from 2008-09 (39%).
- The Youth Smoking Survey 2010-11 collected data for the first time on the use of energy drinks, mixed or pre-mixed with alcohol. One in five grades 7-12 students (21%) reported drinking such a beverage in the past 12 months.
- Prevalence in Canada of current smokers in grades 6-9 decreased between 2008-09 (3%) and 2010-11 (2%). This is the lowest rate of current smokers recorded since 1994 (8%). Among Canadian youth in grades 10-12, 10% reported that they were current smokers, which is a decrease from 2008-09 (13%).

Youth Smoking Survey 2010-11, Health Canada, http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/research-recherche/stat/survey-sondage_2010-2011/result-eng.php

GETTING AROUND

1. Take the Bus

GP Transit (Grande Prairie Transit) provided a total of 613,502 rides in 2012, an increase from 585,926 in 2011.

| Transit Riders | 2012 # of riders | 2012 %age of riders | 2011 # of riders | 2011 %age of riders |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Adult riders (over 18 and under 65) | 345,941 | 56% | 317,336 | 54% |
| Students (including post-secondary) | 184,754 | 30% | 192,513 | 33% |
| Children | 51,619 | 9% | 46,901 | 8% |
| Seniors | 31,188 | 5% | 29,176 | 5% |

City of Grande Prairie

2. Graduated Driver's Licence Program

Since the implementation of the GDL program in 2004, there has been a significant reduction in collisions of young drivers. Over the period of 2004-2009:

| Drivers | Reduction of: |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Under 16 | 22% |
| 16 & 17 | 28% |
| 18 & 19 | 23% |
| 20-24 | 19% |

Office of Traffic Safety, Alberta Transportation

3. Alcohol Consumption and Male Drivers

Male drivers between ages 18 and 24 are more likely to have consumed alcohol prior to a casualty than any other age group.

Office of Traffic Safety, Alberta Transportation

4. Youth and Motor Vehicles

- From 2001–2010, motor vehicle-related injury was the leading cause of injury death of residents aged 1 to 30 and those 70 to 74 years.

Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research <http://acicr.ca/Upload/data/injury-data-reports/data-reports/alberta-injuries-2012/AlbertaInjuries2012.pdf> P. 23

- 20% of new drivers are involved in a collision during their first two years of driving.

Office of Traffic Safety, Alberta Transportation

5. Walking and Cycling Trails

The City of Grande Prairie has 79.2 km of trails (asphalt, gravel and natural surfaces). This is a 7 km increase since Fall 2011.

City of Grande Prairie

ARTS SCENE:

1. Teen Arts Programs and Shows

The Centre for Creative Arts offers two teen Arts and Crafts camps each summer, for youth aged 12-17. About 10 participants – the majority around 14-years-old – take part at each camp.

In the summer of 2014, the Centre for Creative Arts will feature a Teen and Youth Art Show inviting participants aged 5-18-years-old. The show's theme, still to be announced, will celebrate the City of Grande Prairie's 100 years as a municipality.

[Centre for Creative Arts](#)

2. Reel Shorts Film Festival Youth Filmmaking

In the 2012 *Youth Filmmaking Challenge* workshops, 43 junior and senior high school students created three short films under the guidance of an experienced team of 3 professionals.

In July 2012, *Shoot for Reel* offered a 2-week unpaid internship training program in collaboration with the Grande Prairie Regional College. Participating were 7 interns (16-23-years-old), 3 crew (under 20-years-old) and 9 actors (13-23-years-old) as well as a larger team, including 6 professionals.

Presented this year is the *Youth Film Mentorship Project*. This project will award a production package worth over \$10,000 to an Alberta Peace Region production team (writer, director, producer, cinematographer, and editor aged 13 to 25) to develop, shoot, and edit their own short film in or near Grande Prairie with mentorship from industry professionals. This is the only program of its kind in Alberta.

Reel Shorts Film Festival is a production of Grande Prairie Live Theatre, <http://reelshorts.ca/>

3. Music Festival

The number of entries in the Grande Prairie and District Encana Music Festival in 2012 was 1106, up from 1057 in 2011. The Festival provides participants, primarily children and youth from northwestern Alberta, an opportunity to perform for adjudication in disciplines such as strings, piano, guitar, woodwinds, voice, speech arts, orchestra, band, choir and musical theatre. The Festival runs for three weeks each spring in venues across Grande Prairie. Hundreds of volunteer hours and community support contribute to the Festival.

[Grande Prairie and District Encana Music Festival](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the age of 15 and 24 years.

1. Alberta Youth Unemployment

In January 2013, the unemployment rate for Alberta youth aged 15 - 24 was 7.8% — the lowest rate for this age group since November 2008. It also compares favourably with the national youth unemployment rate of 13.5% (adjusted for seasonality).

[ATB Financial, Daily Economic Comment, February 11, 2013](#)

2. Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth 2011

- Youth made up 15.2% of all Alberta employment in 2011.
- 63.6% of youth were employed in full-time positions.
- Almost half of all employed female youth worked part-time.

Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education, <http://eae.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LFP-profile-youth.pdf>

3. Apprentices in Alberta

While Alberta has about 11% of Canada's labour force, its employers hire and train more than 20% of the country's apprentices.

Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education, <http://eae.alberta.ca/media/343194/chp3.pdf> P. 29

4. Special Needs in Education

From 2007–08 to 2010–11, the number of students with disabilities seeking services and accommodations at postsecondary institutions increased by 41.9%, from 6,890 to 9,778. Students with disabilities represented about 3.6% of all headcount enrolments in the 2010–11 academic year.

Apprenticeship and Industry Training, Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education. <http://eae.alberta.ca/media/343194/chp3.pdf>.

5. What sectors are Alberta's Young People Working In?

Of employed Alberta youth (318,900) in 2011, 77.9% worked in the Services-Producing Sector. The three industries that employed the largest number of youth were:

- Retail Trade - 73,300
- Accommodation and Food Services - 49,300
- Construction - 32,000

Campus Alberta Planning Resource, <http://eae.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LFP-profile-youth.pdf>

6. Gender Differences in the Workplace

- In 2011, 81.8% of the youth employed in the Alberta Goods-Producing Sector were male.
- Of all employed Alberta male youth, 19.4% were employed in the Retail Trade industry, and 16.4% were in the Construction industry.
- Female youth comprised 54.6% of all youth employed in the Services-Producing Sector in 2011. Of female youth employed in that sector, just over half worked in two industries: 29.6% were employed in Retail Trade and 20.7% in Accommodation and Food Services.

Campus Alberta Planning Resource, <http://eae.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LFP-profile-youth.pdf>

- The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education than the wage paid to female youth in 2011.

Campus Alberta Planning Resource, <http://eae.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LFP-profile-youth.pdf>

CULTURE, IDENTITY AND BELONGING

1. Elder in Residence

Senator Miriam YoungChief has served as the Grande Prairie Regional College's first ever Elder in Residence for the past three years. She provides support, guidance and teachings about Aboriginal culture to youth in the community, at GPRC, and the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre. The program is a partnership of the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre and the College. GPRC is the first institute in Alberta to have an Elder living in the campus residence.

Grande Prairie Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College

2. How Safe Do GLBTQ Youth Feel?

In a national survey of high school students, more than 64% of students who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, Two Spirit, queer or questioning reported that they feel unsafe at school.

Taylor and Peter. Every class in every school: The first national climate survey on homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia in Canadian schools, 2011.

3. Local Support for our GLBTQ Youth & Young Adults

Project Engagement commenced in July 2012 and offers community education around homophobia and sexual/gender diversity, confidential support for youth and families, and gender and diversity. As well, a weekly drop in group for GLBTQ (Gay Lesbian BiSexual Transgender Queer) youth and young adults (12-25-year-old) is operated by HIV North, and runs out of St. Paul's United Church every Thursday evening.
[HIV North](#)

4. Values

More than 8 in 10 Canadian teens say trust and honesty are "very important" to them.
[Bibby, Reginald. \(2009\). Canada's Emerging Millennials in Transition, Vanier Institute of the Family, pp. 2-6.](#)

5. ESL Students in Grande Prairie Schools

Schools in Grande Prairie reported an increase in English Second Language (ESL) students – also referred to as ELL – in the 2012-13 year over the previous school year. The combined numbers of ESL students for the Grande Prairie Public School District, Grande Prairie Catholic School District, and Peace Wapiti School District (K-12 schools in Grande Prairie) are:

2012-13: 524

2011-12: 484

[Grande Prairie Public, Grande Prairie Catholic, and Peace Wapiti School Districts](#)

6. Reading Buddies

The Grande Prairie Public Library Reading Buddies program started in 2011. This program pairs teenage volunteers aged 12-18 with young children to practice reading over the summer. In 2012, the program had 30 youth volunteers, an increase from 20 in 2011.

[Grande Prairie Public Library](#)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1. GPRC Credit Student Snapshot 2011-12

- overall student enrolment at Grande Prairie Regional College decreased slightly from 2010-11 (3,800 students) to 2011-12 (3,795 students)
- full-time students decreased by 3.8%; part-time students increased by 13.9%
- average student age is 26-years-old
- a large portion of students have been out of secondary school for one or more years and were working while attending school

[Grande Prairie Regional College](#)

2. High School Graduates Going on to Post-Secondary

In June 2011, 1,079 students graduated in the Grande Prairie Region. Of those graduates, 324 (30.0% of all regional graduates)*, attended an Alberta post-secondary institution in Fall 2011. Of those attending post-secondary, 173 attended in the Grande Prairie region.

*This number may be understated.

[GPRC: High School Transition Fall 2011 prepared for Grande Prairie Region from Fall 2011 ASI Data and Education\ High School Graduates – Manual Data Pulls.](#)

3. Transition to Post-Secondary

How and when students transition from high school to postsecondary education plays an important role in addressing social and economic objectives and outcomes, including taking action on skill shortages in the labour market.

Albertans tend to delay transitioning from high school to post-secondary education. About 38.2% of Alberta high school students transition to post-secondary directly (within four years of entering Grade 10), with 58.4% doing so within six years of entering Grade 10.

Campus Alberta Planning Resource, Chapter 4 Student Flows, <http://eae.alberta.ca/post-secondary/policy/capr.aspx>

However, Alberta's level of educational attainment is on par with the Canadian average. Alberta's high level of educational attainment is due, in part, to the strong numbers of educated people moving to the province for work.

Campus Alberta Planning Resource, <http://eae.alberta.ca/post-secondary/policy/capr.aspx>

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT VOICE

1. Grande Prairie Youth Council

Since 2006, City of Grande Prairie Youth Council members aged 14 - 21 have helped enhance youth culture in our city and ensured that the voice of local youth is heard and represented. The Council provides youth members with a direct link to City Council and other key-decision makers, engages in and provides volunteer support for community events, promotes engagement in positive and constructive social activism, and raises awareness of youth contributions.

[City of Grande Prairie](#)

2. Grande Prairie Regional College Student Elections

In their 2012 executive elections, the Students' Association of GPRC (SAGPRC) had a voter turnout of 27%, the highest student voter turnout among all Alberta post-secondary institutions last year. In 2011, SAGPRC had a voter turnout of 17%, which was again the highest in Alberta. Voter turnout in 2010 was 9%.

[SAGPRC](#)

3. Federal Election

In the 2011 Federal Election, only 38.8% of eligible Canadian youth cast a vote, although that was up from 37.4% in 2008.

Elections Canada Online from Community Foundation of Canada, Generation Flux, p. 8.

http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/files/vitalyouth/2012_VitalYouth%20Research%20Summary.pdf

4. Donations

74% of Alberta youth (15-24) donated an average of \$172 during 2010, as compared to 73% of youth nationally who donated an average of \$143 in 2010.

Statistics Canada. Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians. 2010 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.

5. Expressing Passion and Politics Differently

In the past year, we have seen hundreds of thousands of Canadian youth join protests and demonstrations like Occupy, Kony and student marches. This clear interest in public policy through direct action is seen by youth as more likely to have an impact than joining a political party.

Generation Flux, Community Foundations of Canada,

http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/files/vitalyouth/2012_VitalYouth%20Research%20Summary.pdf

SAFETY

1. Child and Youth Intervention Program

Since 2009, 350 children and youth have been referred to the Child and Youth Intervention Program. In collaboration with the R.C.M.P. and agencies, the program refers families to agencies to help young people aged 8-17 change their behaviour and develop coping skills before becoming involved in the Youth Justice System. Common reasons for referral: shoplifting, theft, drug and/or alcohol use, behaviour issues, refusal to go to school and bullying.

[Grande Prairie Crime Prevention](#)

2. Criminal Code Offences

From January 1 to December 11, 2012, 181 youths were charged with Criminal Code Offences. This is an increase from 172 youths charged in 2011.

[Grande Prairie R.C.M.P.](#)

3. School Resource Officers

In 2012, 4 School Resource Officers with the Grande Prairie R.C.M.P., an increase from 3 in 2011, served 27 City schools in partnership with Grande Prairie Public, Grande Prairie Catholic and Peace Wapiti School Divisions. The School Resource Officer program allows for mentorship and positive police interaction.

[Grande Prairie R.C.M.P.](#)

4. Workplace Safety

Compared to older workers, young workers display a higher likelihood of getting injured. In 2010, young workers represented 15.6% of those employed in Alberta and accounted for 14.7% of lost-time claims and 17.9% of disabling injury claims. In contrast, workers aged 55 and older represented 15.9% of those employed, 15.7% of the total lost-time claims and 12.5% of disabling injury claims.

[Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta, Summer 2011](#)

5. Use of Cell Phones to Distribute Pornography

The Grande Prairie R.C.M.P. are seeing a significant increase in the number of young people taking and distributing pornography pictures, transmitting the photos via their cellular phones. School Resource Officers are working to educate young people on the legality of taking pictures of themselves and transmitting those to other people, especially when under the legal age.

[Grande Prairie R.C.M.P.](#)

6. Preventing Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program is a one school day program to bring awareness and education to grade nine students about making smart choices around risky behaviours (i.e. drinking and driving; getting in a vehicle with an intoxicated driver; drugs; what happens after a crash, etc.). The program includes a mock crash scenario and breakout sessions.

In 2012, 400 students from Grande Prairie schools in the Peace Wapiti, Grande Prairie Public and Grande Prairie Catholic School Districts participated in the Program. There were 450 Grande Prairie school participants in 2011 program.

[Alberta Health Services North Zone](#)

7. Childhood Sexual Abuse

In 2012, 227 individuals received treatment from PACE for sexual abuse. In 2011, PACE treated 244 individuals for sexual abuse. The decrease in individuals treated in 2012 was due to a combination of limited resources and the increasing complexity of cases, particularly for those clients with eating disorders.

In 2011 and 2012:

- about 85% of these adults and children were receiving treatment for childhood sexual abuse
- there was a wait list of approximately 50 adults and children

[Pace Sexual Assault Centre](#)

GREEN SCENE

1. Over 40 Years of Commitment to a Clean Community

In 2012, 280 students in grades 5 and 6 along with 115 volunteers participated in the Rotary Green-a-thon. The Green-a-thon, which started 40 years earlier, was spearheaded by the Grande Prairie Rotary Club and is now supported by Rotarians in all local clubs.

[Grande Prairie Rotary Club](#)

2. Community Garden

Since 2011, about 75 individuals have volunteered at the City of Grande Prairie's community garden, growing and harvesting vegetables for non-profit organizations such as Rotary House and the Friendship Centre. The site is also used for education on composting, gardening, and sustainable gardening.

[City of Grande Prairie](#)

3. School Blue Bag Recycling

Aquatera Utilities Inc. launched Blue Bag Recycling in 2012 at schools in Grande Prairie. The program collects blue bags from all schools at no cost to the school, and includes education programs for custodial staff, teachers, and students so that a new generation of recyclers is created.

[Aquatera Utilities Inc.](#)

4. Idle Reduction Zones

Twelve elementary schools in the City of Grande Prairie have idle reduction signs, encouraging drivers to turn off motors while waiting for their children. In 2010, GPRC partnered with the City of Grande Prairie to mark "Stop Idling Zones" in College parking lots.

[City of Grande Prairie](#)

5. Promoting Safety, Physical Activity & Environmentally Sustainable Transportation

Six of Grande Prairie's elementary schools are participating in the Safe Routes to Schools Program, which encourages children to walk to school, rather than ride in a vehicle.

[City of Grande Prairie](#)

6. Grande Prairie Youth Watershed Project

In 2012, 12 Aboriginal youth aged 10-18 participated in the Grande Prairie Youth Watershed project, accompanied by elders. The project, a partnership between the Alberta Land Stewardship Centre, Native Counselling Services of Alberta and Metis Local 1990, teaches the youth a greater awareness of hydrology, Aboriginal culture and the protection of water sources.

[Alberta Land Stewardship Centre](#)

SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

1. Grande Prairie Public Library Serving Teens

The Young Adult (YA) collection at the Grande Prairie Public Library contains teen materials, books, magazines, graphic novels, manga, audiobooks and DVDs, as well as online materials. The Library hosts the Young Author's Club (a writing group) and a Teen Advisory Board. Other programs offered have included a book club and movie nights.

| Year | # of Programs | # of Sessions | Participants (total) |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2010 | 4 | 31 | 100 |
| 2011 | 3 | 35 | 172 |
| 2012 | 3 | 42 | 132 |

[Grande Prairie Public Library](#)

2. New Playing Space for Cricket and Soccer

In 2013, the new Northridge Park#1 will open. This field will provide Grande Prairie with a cricket pitch, which can also serve as two junior soccer pitches. Northridge Park #1 will be home field for the Grande Prairie Cricket Association and provide new soccer pitches for the Grande Prairie Soccer Association. This will be the first official cricket pitch within Grande Prairie.

[City of Grande Prairie](#)

3. Regional Facilities

The Grande Prairie Region has two new facilities that serve people of all ages in the Peace Region.

Eastlink Centre

As Northern Alberta's largest aquatic and sports facility, Grande Prairie's Eastlink Centre, which opened in December 2011, offers aquatics, field sports, court sports, a workout facility, running track and more. It features one of only three FlowRiders in Canada. The Eastlink Centre is the 2012 recipient of the Canadian Paraplegic Association Percy Wickman Accessibility Award. In 2013, the facility anticipates 7000 members.

[Eastlink Centre](#)

County of Grande Prairie Sportsplex

The County of Grande Prairie Sportsplex opened January 2013 and, as a regional facility, serves people of all ages throughout the Peace Region. This facility offers twin ice rinks, an indoor soccer pitch (one of the largest in Alberta), a running track, workout facility and more.

[County of Grande Prairie Sportsplex](#)

4. Canada's Only On-Campus Friendship Centre

Grande Prairie Regional College has the only on-campus Friendship Centre in Canada.

[Grande Prairie Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College](#)