



Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

Central Okanagan Foundation

City of Kelowna

City of West Kelowna

District of Lake Country

Interior Health

Okanagan Indian Band

United Way Southern Interior BC

Westbank First Nation

District of Peachland

Suxkenxitelx kl cecamala

Central Okanagan Wellness Analysis

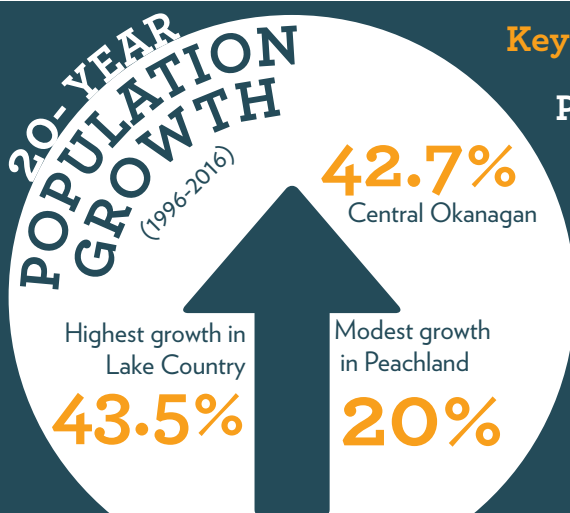
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Central Okanagan communities and organizations are preparing to develop a regionally focused wellness strategy to better facilitate and coordinate planning throughout the region. As part of the necessary steps to developing a strategy baseline data was needed to better understand wellness in the Central Okanagan while recognizing there are unique differences in each community. This Wellness Analysis captures important data and community insights to support the next step of developing a robust strategy that emphasises wellness for all.

Wellness Focus – TogetherBC's Guiding Principles for Poverty Reduction in BC

AFFORDABILITY – OPPORTUNITY – RECONCILIATION – SOCIAL INCLUSION

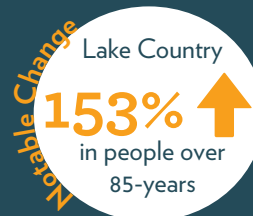
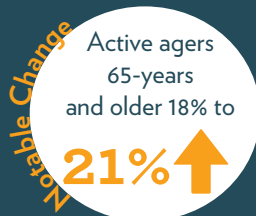
Communities In Focus



Key Highlights Include:

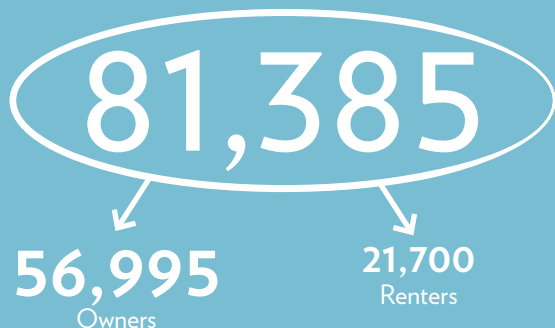
Population

2001-2006 Age Group Changes in the Central Okanagan



Affordability

Total Households in Central Okanagan



Proportion of households in core housing need



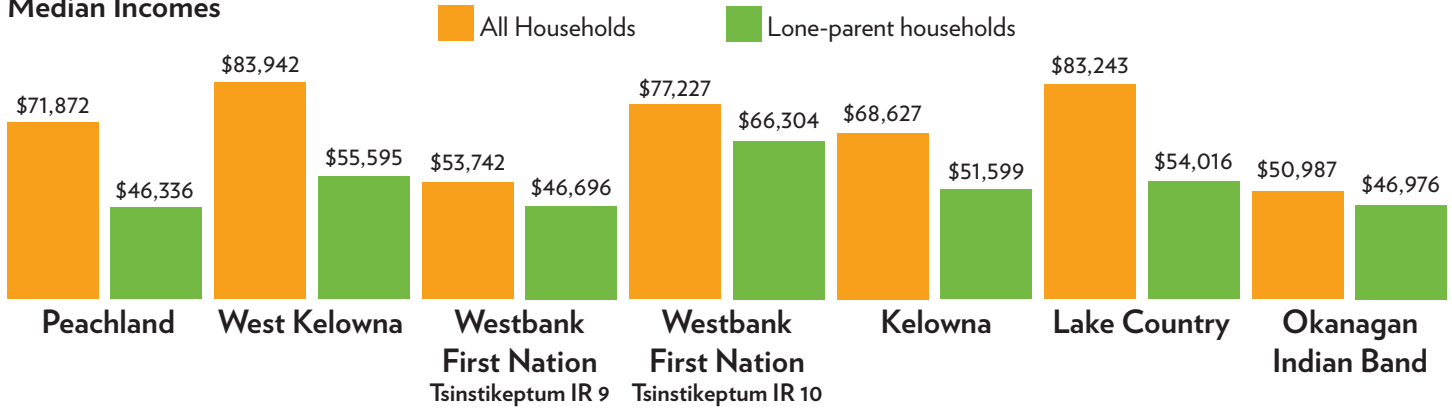
Core Housing Need of Renters by Community



**Okanagan Indian Band and Westbank First Nation do not have available data

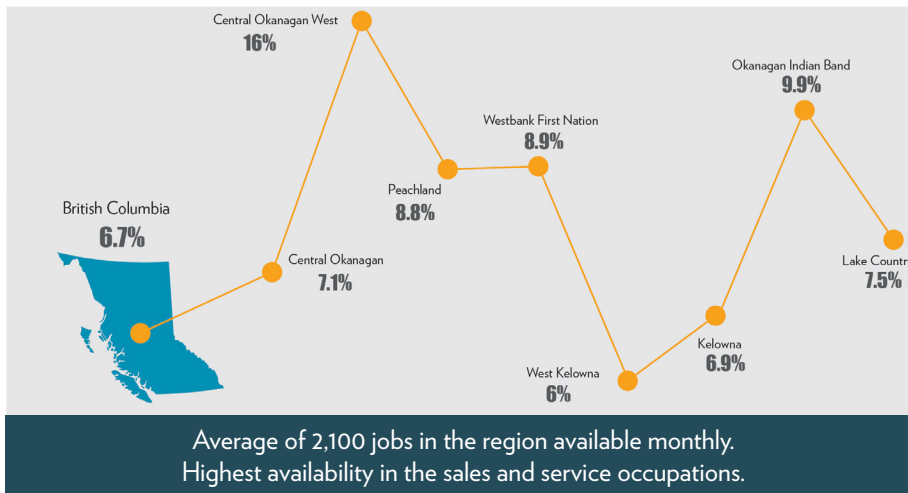
Availability and access to safe, secure, affordable housing most important indicators here. Housing is affordable when a household spends no more than 30% of their income toward housing.

Median Incomes



Unemployment Rates

Opportunity



Central Okanagan

Tech Start-Up Hub that generates

\$1.7 Billion
annually in economic impact

The four **industries** in which the largest shares of the Central Okanagan's workforce are employed include:



13.1%

Health Care and
Social Assistance



13.0%

Retail Trade



10.9%

Construction



9.4%

Accommodation
and Food Service

The four main **occupational categories** for the Central Okanagan workforce include:



26.2%

Sales and
Service



16.2%

Trades, transport, and
equipment operators and related



14.5%

Business, finance,
and administration



11.7%

Management

Reconciliation

The adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in November 2019 by the BC provincial government is a step forward in making a commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as an accepted framework toward truth and reconciliation in Canada.



Westbank First Nation experienced 28% growth in population between 2011 and 2016.

Youth have been the fastest growing population.

Okanagan Indian Band experienced a significant population decline of 13.2%

between 2011 and 2016.

5.5% of Kelowna's population identify as Indigenous.

Social Inclusion

Discrimination, isolation and lack of opportunity are considered biggest barriers to people feeling included and supported in the Central Okanagan.

“We don’t want your sympathy, just your empathy”

“We are brothers, sisters, sons and daughters”

“People in poverty are just like everybody else”

- Individuals with lived experience in poverty

Next Step – Develop a Central Okanagan Wellness Strategy

Key opportunities

1. The Strategy can become a catalyst for action instead of a drain on resources and energy.
2. Wellness Strategy can support an integrated, systems lens to wellness that reflects Indigenous world views and meaningfully embeds reconciliation.
3. Ensure the Wellness Strategy process meaningfully engages youth in the process supporting their knowledge and understanding to the issues they face.
4. Align priorities and actions on housing affordability, accessibility and homelessness within the region and share learning and resources across the region to effectively leverage and build on the assets that already exist.
5. Establish partnerships with transportation planning groups to align priorities and share knowledge related to the possibilities of alleviating poverty through access to public transportation options throughout the region.
6. Investigate the causes of social isolation in the region through community engagement to better understand the actions that can be taken to reduce the causes and support reducing stigma and discrimination experienced by people.
7. Align child development and care actions with the work of the Central Okanagan Child Care Action Planning Committee and strength the partnership to leverage regional funding to support the growth of child care in the region.