



## WHAT DOES COMMUNITY SAFETY LOOK AND FEEL LIKE?

Community safety is not only about crime prevention, it also considers how people feel while engaging in their community. Do community members have the freedom to make choices in their day-to-day lives or do they make decisions out of fear? Experiences of safety can be understood on a personal level, which is impacted by unique demographic realities. For example, a person living in Maple Bay may have different perceptions and feelings of the safety in their neighbourhood compared to someone living in Ladysmith or downtown Duncan. Experiences of safety are influenced by many conditions including history, living situations and socioeconomic status.

# SAFETY



# KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Report



## HOW SAFE DO WE FEEL?

71% of residents felt safe in their neighbourhoods 

3% reported feeling not very safe

2014 results based on Cowichan Community Health Survey of 578 responses<sup>1</sup>



Cowichan Neighbourhood House

## FOSTER CARE

Foster Care is a risk factor that influences how well a child will do in life. There are 3 local health area profiles (LHA) falling in the Cowichan Region. The Cowichan LHA has from double to four times the rate of children in care compared to BC. Over half the children in care in BC<sup>3</sup> are Aboriginal.

**CV North**<sup>2</sup>  
15.0 children  
per 1000<sup>5</sup>

**CV West**<sup>4</sup>  
28.2 children  
per 1000<sup>6</sup>

**CV South**<sup>7</sup>  
22.3 children<sup>8</sup>  
per 1000

**BC**  
7.6 children  
per 1000<sup>9</sup>



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Duncan has one of the highest rates per capita in BC for relationship violence. In response, a designated domestic violence court was established in 2009 and by 2013, 425 spousal assault charges were brought to the court. Domestic violence not only impacts policing and the court system, but also 80% of local MCFD child protection cases indicate relationship violence as one of the risk factors.<sup>10, 11</sup>



*Inspector Ray Carfantan reports on current policing trends to City of Duncan Council for Cowichan:*  
"Despite the decrease you see in crime stats, specific crimes or criminal offences being reported, the actual calls to the police office continue to be on the rise and have been on the rise since 2012. We deal with a lot of things outside of criminal responses, things like mental health issues, abandoned alarm calls, those sorts of things."  
(January 2016)<sup>12</sup>



# KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

## PUBLIC SAFETY<sup>13</sup>

- 21 Fire Stations
- 18 Volunteer Fire Stations
- 5 Ambulance Service Stations
- 4 RCMP Detachments
- 3 Hospitals and Health Care Centres

## SAFETY BY DESIGN<sup>14</sup>



A growing evidence base, grounded in research and community practice, describes the factors that affect the likelihood of violence. Neighbourhood characteristics such as high alcohol outlet density and community deterioration, for example, make violence more likely while factors such as community connectedness and meaningful opportunities for civic and social participation reduce its likelihood. Many of these factors are shaped by how land is used, by whom and for what purposes. Therefore, land use planning, decisions and policies have the potential to promote community safety.



### Report



## Take a look at Policing



Cowichan SAR, Cowichan Region

## DID YOU KNOW?<sup>15</sup>



The Public Safety Division of the CVRD is responsible for: regional emergency management, 6 rural volunteer fire departments, Central Island 911 Partnership, and radio communication infrastructure both commercial and amateur. This includes public education and training on emergency preparedness, emergency management, emergency communications policy, guidelines, network, training, operations, and interagency coordination.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS<sup>16</sup>



- The CVRD has an emergency alert system where residents can receive emergency alerts.
- The CV has 4 major reception areas and 16 secondary reception areas.
- Over 50,000 copies of CV Emergency Preparedness Workbook have been distributed.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE<sup>17, 18</sup>



The Ladysmith SAR & Cowichan SAR provides 24 hour 365 days per year service for people lost or injured in the woods or waterways. SAR members are volunteers who are highly trained in ground and water rescue. Members also provide education and awareness programs that encourage community members to get outdoors and how to enjoy nature in a safe way. SAR's are non profit societies and rely on government and private funding. They do not charge for the services they provide.



Cowichan Bay Fire Rescue