



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN**  
**REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY**  
*"One Region, One Future"*



# “What Future Would You Like to Create” North Okanagan Youth Survey

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3/22/2010

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional District of North Okanagan recognizes that young people are important and valued members of our communities. Their values, priorities and opinions will assist in the development of a Regional Growth Strategy that responds to community needs.

This report provides a valuable glimpse into what young people do, where they live, what they like, what they need, what concerns them and what they want for the future. It also provides an insight into some of the issues that young people find important, and some ideas on how the Regional Growth Strategy and the broader community might be able to respond to those issues.

It should be noted that for the purpose of this paper, ‘youth’ is defined as persons between the ages of 8 and 25 years.

The Regional District of North Okanagan received 85 survey submissions from between September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. These responses provided some context on the perspective of North Okanagan youth on the issues that face their communities and what they value within the Region. Within all responses, there were three clear themes:

- 1. Natural Amenities and Environmental Concerns:** Youth considered the natural beauty and environmental amenities the defining attribute of the North Okanagan. A strong environmental awareness appears to be present in the youth that commented, with a strong desire for the development of an eco-friendly community over the next 20 years.
- 2. More Youth Activities/Opportunities:** This was considered one of the most significant issues that must be addressed, although the Regional Growth Strategy has not dealt with youth amenities and opportunities directly.
- 3. Small, Friendly Compact, Complete Communities:** One of the most quoted attributes about the North Okanagan was the small size of the communities and friendly nature of the residents. Many respondents expressed a desire for the North Okanagan stay the same and retain the small town character.
- 4. Better Jobs and More Affordable Housing Options:** The lack of employment opportunities, the need for more transportation options and few affordable housing options relate to social issues that may limit the ability of youth to stay in the community.

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## “What Future Would You Like to Create” Youth Survey

### 1.0 BACKGROUND

The Regional District of North Okanagan is undertaking the development of a Regional Growth Strategy that will provide a vision for the Region until 2031. Community input is critically important in identifying and refining goals, strategies and outcomes that the community would like to see occur within the region in the future.

As an element of the Regional Growth Strategy Participation Plan, a Youth Engagement Strategy was created to focus specifically on youth consultation activities. Within the North Okanagan, youth (under 25) are considered an under-represented group during planning processes.

One of the most vital elements of this planning process is the involvement of the local community, those who will be directly affected by the implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy. The opinions of the community will be used to refine the desired outcomes and the actions needed to achieve them.

In order to develop an understanding of youth views and opinions it was decided to conduct a survey of the residents of North Okanagan that were under 25 years of age.

#### 1.1 Purpose

What empowers a community — where ordinary people create better places, transform their own and others' lives while solving the public problems of the day? In recent years, planning has made great strides in mobilizing broad participation, incorporating a diversity of interests and stakeholder groups of different cultural and economic backgrounds and ages.

Youth provide a unique and fresh voice to the dialogue. In a growing number of circumstances, children and youth are taking a more active role in shaping their communities.

Initiatives to encourage youth involvement are greatly served by recognizing the importance that interpersonal relationships play in enriching the lives of young people. The “What Future Would You Like to Create” Youth Survey is one of the initiatives that will provide youth a voice within the Regional Growth Strategy process.

Youth are active and contributing members of society now, not future citizens or leaders of tomorrow. Nationwide research funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (2000) revealed one of the most consistent concerns of youth is that their voices are not heard, respected, or taken seriously by adults. In a Health Canada Report, 51% of teenagers said they were rarely or never listened to.

The strong desire of youth to participate is the most compelling rationale for engaging youth in strategic planning. Other rationale includes:

- **Youth participation benefits communities.** Young people's energy, creativity, unique perspectives, and propensity for action lead to positive, beneficial change in organizations, and communities.
- **Youth participation benefits governments.** Municipal leaders regularly make decisions, shape policies and take action on issues that directly affect youth, i.e. public transport, parks and recreation, use of public spaces, education, housing, etc. Youth are the foremost experts on their experiences, needs, and interactions with local environments and their community. Engaging youth in decision-making processes helps governments make decisions that are more responsive and appropriate to youth needs and interests.

## 1.2 Participation

A total of 85 young people, between the ages of 8-25, participated in the 2009 survey which represented youth from across the North Okanagan. The Regional District of North Okanagan partnered with School Districts 22 and 83, the North Okanagan library system, the North Okanagan Boys and Girls Club, Okanagan College Student Council, various community organizations and our member municipalities in distributing and collecting youth surveys. A quarter page youth survey advertisement was placed in all local papers for 8 weeks between October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> 2009. The youth survey was covered by local media during the period and displays were set up throughout the Region. The youth survey closed on December 31, 2010.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Research Tool

The survey was developed by the Regional District of North Okanagan. The survey was designed to gather the opinions of youth living in the North Okanagan, related to their views on, and experiences of living within the Region and identifying the key issues that needed to be addressed in the Regional Growth Strategy. A copy of the survey has been appended to this report (**Appendix ‘A’**).

### 2.2 Research Methodology and Sampling

The surveys were distributed through the school system by the School Districts and copies of surveys were available at libraries, municipal offices, community centres, the Regional District office, Boys and Girls Clubs and community organizations, as well as online. Drop off boxes were available at all municipal office, the Regional District offices or collected by organizations and schools.

The survey was publicized through the local media and residents were made aware of the need for their participation – that the Regional Growth Strategy would be based partially on these survey results.

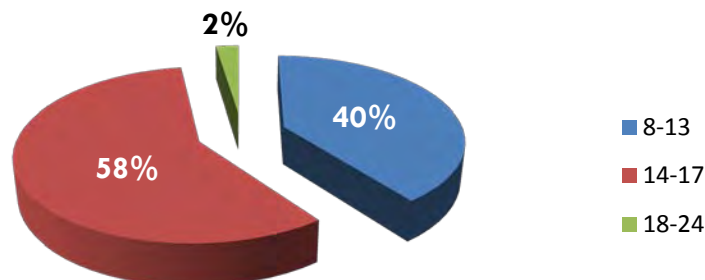
## 3.0 RESULTS

### 3.1 Profile of Respondents

**Age - your age in years?**

A total of 83 youths responded to this question, with the 8 to 13 year olds making up 39.8% of the total number of respondents, 57.8% were between 14 to 17 and 2.4% were between 18 and 24.

**Figure 3.1: The Percentage, Per Age Group, Participating in the Survey**



The group with the largest number of responses is the 15 year olds with 23 submissions. The average age of the respondents is 14. One participant didn’t respond to the question and 1 person (0.5%) indicated an age outside the target group (age 42).

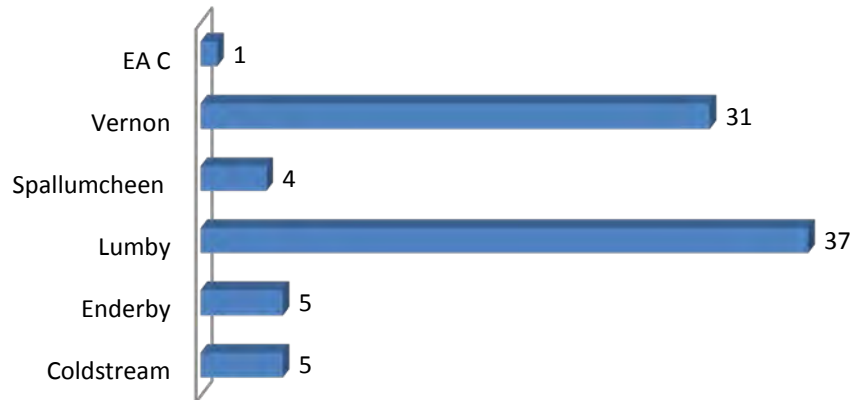
**Gender - Your gender Male/Female?**

A total of 83 participants (97.7%) responded to this question. Females make up less than half the total number of respondents with 45.8%. The males make up 54.2%.

**Jurisdiction – Where do you in live?**

A total of 83 or 97.7% responded to this question. The majority of the submissions were from the City of Vernon (37.35) and Village of Lumby (44.6%). District of Coldstream and City of Enderby youth contributed 5 surveys each, with the 4 surveys originating in the Township of Spallumcheen. It is unknown if surveys received from the youth in City of Armstrong or Electoral Areas B, D, E or F. It should be noted that residents may identify the largest centre instead of a rural area within questionnaires. An example would be identifying the Village of Lumby because the school is there, when you live within Areas ‘D’ or ‘E’. This is the same situation with Vernon, with some respondents living in Areas ‘B’ or ‘C’, and Enderby, with some respondents living in Area ‘F’.

**Figure 3.2: Number of Youth Survey Responses by Jurisdiction**



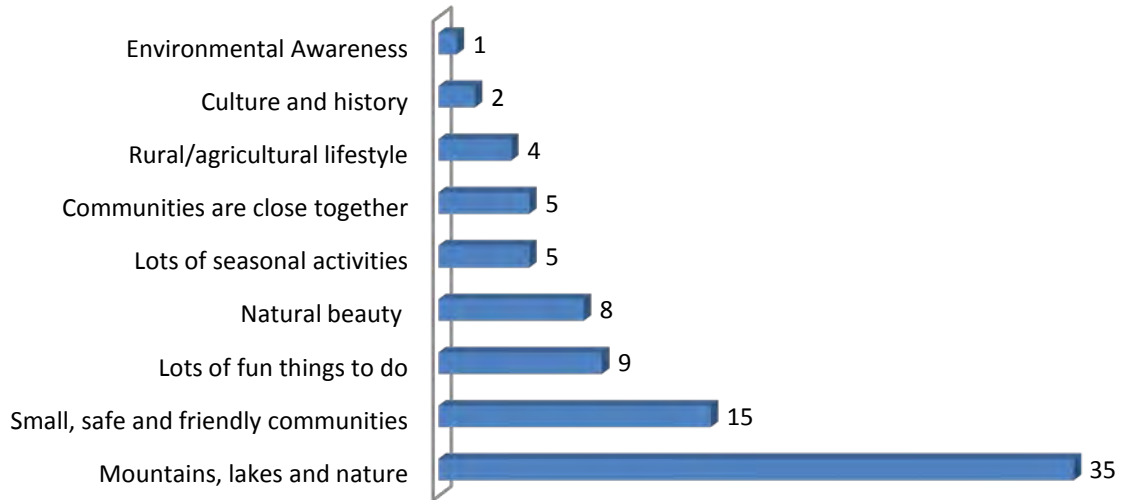
**3.2 Key Findings**

A summary of the responses and finding are below. Environmental issues, such as littering, preserving farmland and the environmental attributes of the North Okanagan and the move toward sustainability were expressed throughout the responses. As well, affordable housing and more employment options were considered very important to the youth of the region. The need for more youth –oriented opportunities, activities and facilities were expressed by respondents throughout the Region. A complete list of all survey responses is in **Appendix ‘B’**.

**3.2.1 What is the best thing about living in the North Okanagan**

Youth were asked to identify what they thought the best thing about living in the North Okanagan was. The majority of the participants (67.9%) expressed North Okanagan environmental attributes (mountains, forests, lakes, agricultural lands, nature and wildlife) as the value they associate with quality of life in the Region. The remainder (32.1%) associated with North Okanagan social attributes, most often expressed as small, safe and friendly communities. **Figure 3.3** provides an overview of the positive North Okanagan attributes that were expressed.

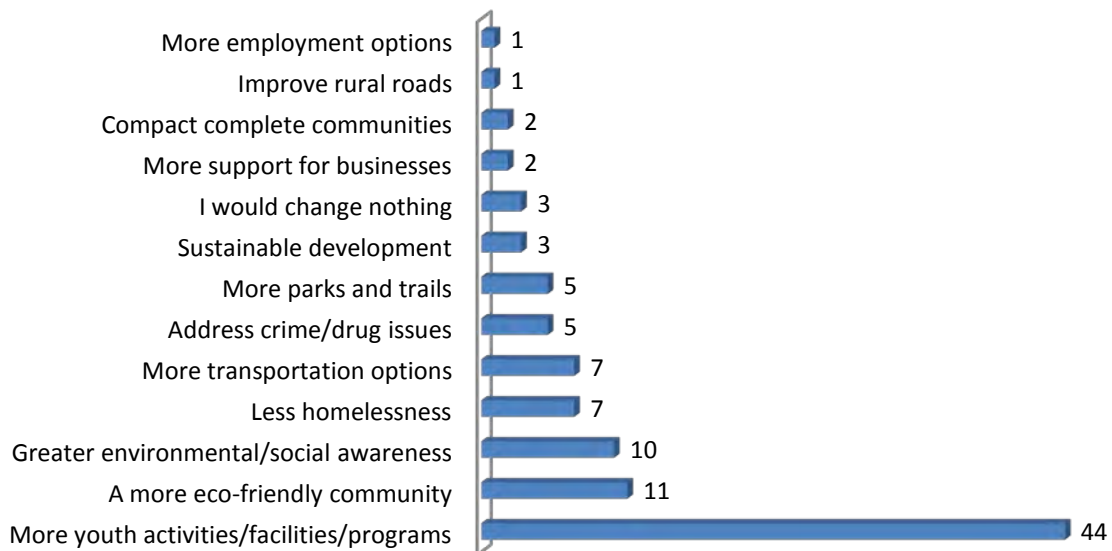
**Figure 3.3: What is the best thing about living in the North Okanagan?**



**3.2.2 Is there anything that you would change or improve?**

The second question asks what needs improvement in the North Okanagan from a youth perspective. There was an overwhelming desire for more youth-oriented activities, opportunities, spaces and access (43.6%) in all communities within the North Okanagan. A more ‘eco-friendly’ approach to community development and greater environmental/social awareness and responsibility were also desired (20.8%) in the future. Social issues (11.9%), such as homelessness and drug and crime problems, were considered important and should be addressed. More transportation options, more parks and trails, a sustainable development initiative and compact complete communities were considered important by a few respondents.

**Figure 3.4: Is there anything that you would change or improve?**



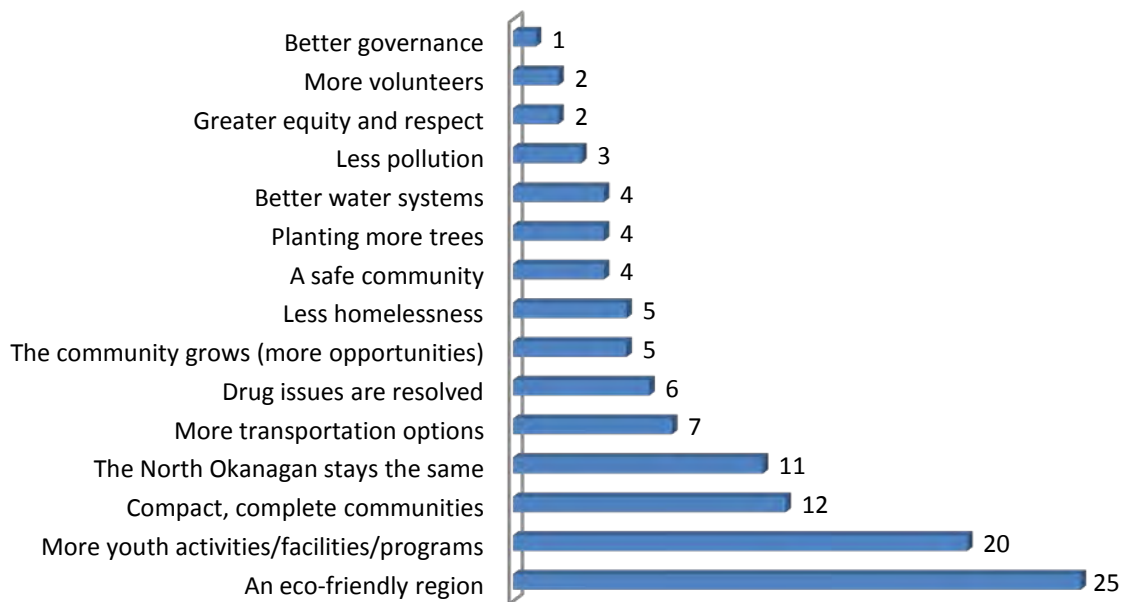
A few youth indicated that the North Okanagan is perfect the way it is and we should change nothing (3.0%). An economic focus was present in the responses (3.0%), although these can be

consider a component of youth access, opportunities and activities. **Figure 3.4** provides an overview of the youth responses.

**3.2.3 What hopes do you have for your community in 20 years?**

Youth were asked what they’re community would look like in 20 years, which is the time horizon of the Regional Growth Strategy. The responses were more diverse than the immediate issues that youth identified in the second question. By 2031, the vision of the North Okanagan was the development of an eco-friendly region (22.5%) that had more youth-oriented social, economic and environmental options, opportunities, activities and locations (18.0%) and retained the small community/rural lifestyle (9.9%) through the development of compact complete communities (10.8%). These four visions of the future were complementary and represented 61.2% of all responses. A summary of all the responses is in the figure below.

**Figure 3.5: What hopes do you have for your community in 20 years?**



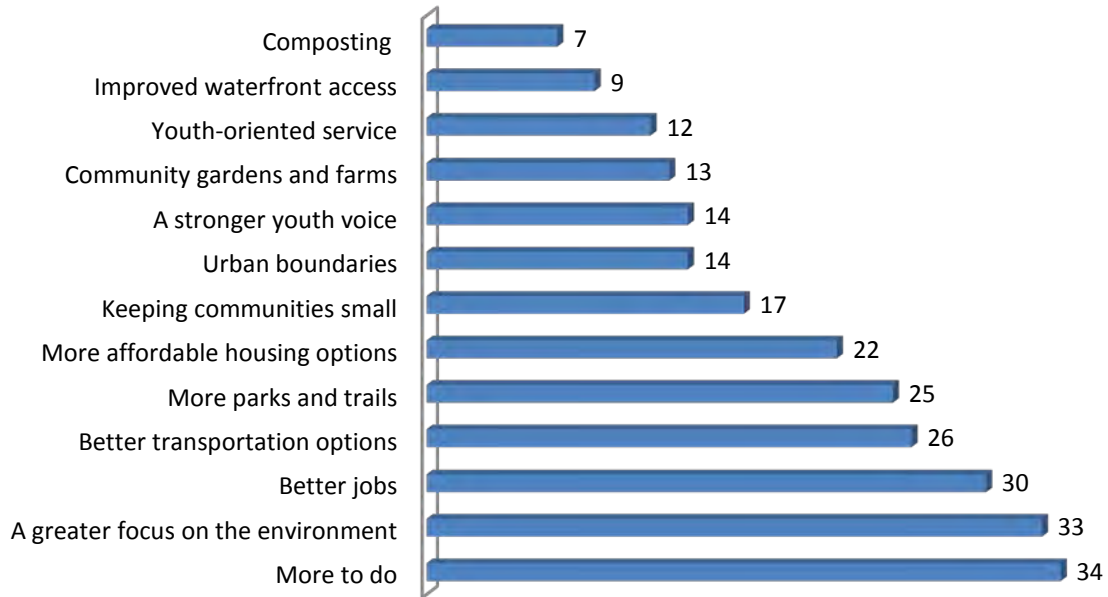
The rest of the comments (38.8%) indicated that social issues (homelessness, drug problems, community safety, greater equity and respect, more volunteerism and better governance) must be addressed. As well, a few specific environmental concerns, such as a better water system and the need for more trees, need some attention.

**3.2.4 What three things would improve the quality of life in the Region?**

Youth were asked, from a list of identified issues and concerns gathered from the public in Phase I of the Regional Growth Strategy process, which three areas should be considered a priority to improve the quality of the Region. This question was designed for youth to consider their previous answers and pick from a series of options that may not have been crossed their minds before. Several issues that had not been considered important, such as affordable housing, better employment opportunities and more transportation options, were given more weight. The two prominent issues that were raised before, more youth-oriented activities (13.3%) and becoming an eco-friendly region (12.9%) were still considered the most important concerns. The need for better economic opportunities was considered the third most import issue that needs to be addressed (11.7%).

The theme of keeping communities small and compact with firm boundaries continued with this question, with over 12% of the responses. More transportation options (10.2%), including walking, cycling and transit opportunities, was considered a priority, as well as developing a more comprehensive regional trail and park network (9.8%). Affordable housing was also identified as a major concern (8.6%), even by youth as young as 10 years of age. Most of the issues identified may act as barriers for youth and young adults to remain within the North Okanagan.

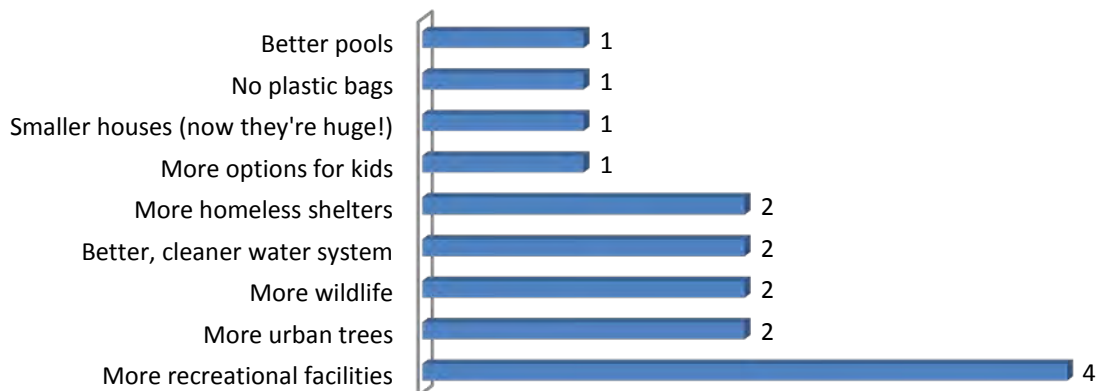
**Figure 3.6: What Three Things Would Improve the Quality of Life in the Region?**



The focus on social issues and youth access to activities, employment opportunities and housing was a surprise, considering that half of the respondents were less than 15 years of age.

In addition to the options that were provided, several other issues were brought forward by respondents. **Figure 3.7** provides an overview of the additional issues.

**Figure 3.7: Anything else you can think of?**

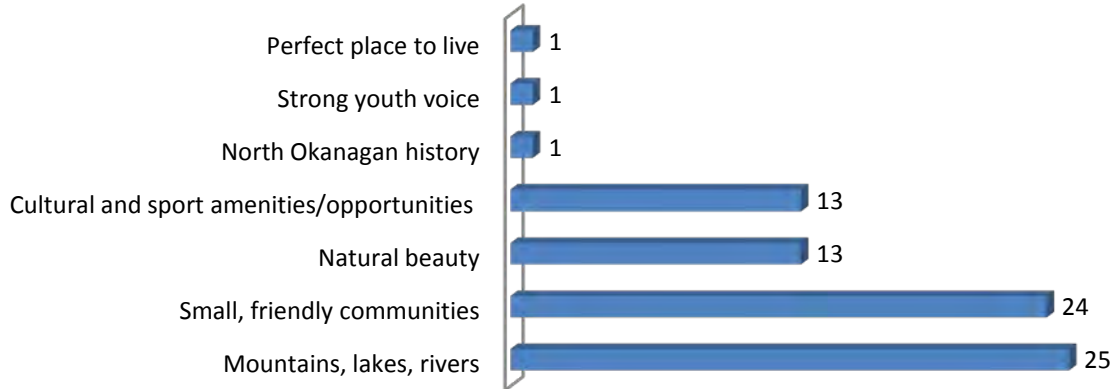


**3.2.5 Is there anything that makes your community or the North Okanagan one-of-a-kind?**

Youth were asked to identify the attributes that make the North Okanagan special. Almost half of the responses indicated that those natural amenities of the Region were what made this area one-

of a-kind. Our small, friendly communities were also considered our strongest asset by about 30% of respondents and 17% considered the diversity of our cultural and sports opportunities and institutions the attribute that stood out. **Figure 3.8** provides an overview of the responses.

**Figure 3.8: Is there anything that makes your community or the North Okanagan one-of-a kind?**

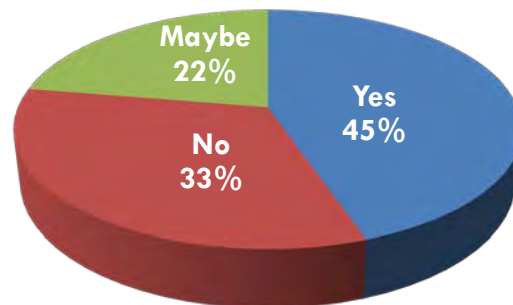


**3.2.6 Are you planning on living and working in the Region after school?**

Our youth are our greatest asset and will provide the basis for our economy, our communities and our success over the next 20 years. The percentage of North Okanagan residents that are over 65 years of age is expected to increase from 18.5% in 2006 to over one-third of the population by 2031. Residents between the ages of 25 and 45, which represent our young families and the prime employment years, made up 27.9% of the population in 2006 and the percentage is expected to drop under 22% by 2031.

Of the 76 youth that responded to this question, 34 planned on staying in the North Okanagan for post-secondary education or pursue employment here. A third of the respondents (25) expressed a desire to leave the North Okanagan after school for a variety of reasons, including lack of opportunities, limited post-secondary options and a desire to move to a larger centre. A complete list of positive and negative responses is provided in ‘**Appendix B**’.

**Figure 3.9: Percentage of youth that will stay in the North Okanagan**

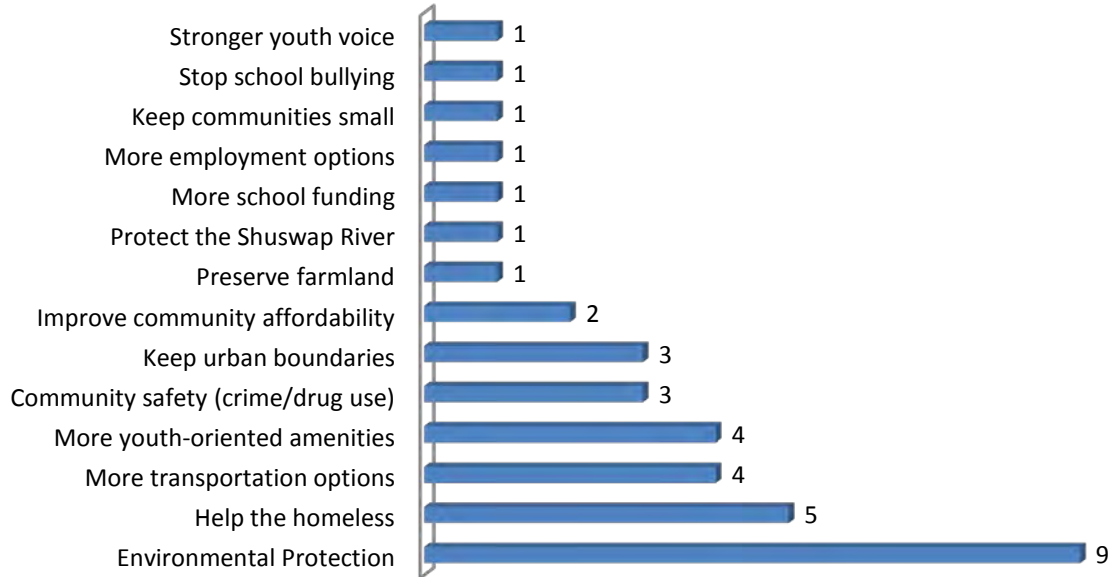


**3.2.7 Do you have any other comments?**

The final question was provided to allow youth a sounding board on any issues or concerns that had not been provided earlier or an opportunity to discuss something they felt very strongly

about. There were 36 responses. Many of the issues that were identified in earlier questions were discussed. **Figure 3.10** provided an overview of the comments received. **Appendix ‘B’** has a complete list of the comments.

**Figure 3.10: Additional comments**



**4.0 SUMMARY**

Although the number of responses was lower than expected, the 85 survey submissions did provide some context on the perspective of North Okanagan youth on the issues that face their communities and what they value within the Region. Within all responses, there were four clear themes:

- 1. Natural Amenities and Environmental Concerns:** Youth considered the natural beauty and environmental amenities the defining attribute of the North Okanagan. A strong environmental awareness appears to be present in the youth that commented, with a strong desire for the development of an eco-friendly community over the next 20 years.
- 2. More Youth Activities/Opportunities:** This was considered one of the most significant issues that must be addressed, although the Regional Growth Strategy has not dealt with youth amenities and opportunities directly. The concern appears to be the lack of access to youth events and activities, either due to the lack of transportation options or the affordability of the options that are available. A more youth-focused approach to events, activities and spaces has been a constant theme in the responses.
- 3. Small, Friendly Compact, Complete Communities:** One of the most quoted attributes about the North Okanagan was the small size of the communities and friendly nature of the residents. Many respondents expressed a desire for the North Okanagan stay the same and retain the small town character. Over several questions, the desire for compact complete communities with more to do without developing into the rural, farmland and natural areas. Many respondents referenced indirectly ‘Smart Growth’ principles.
- 4. Better Jobs and More Affordable Housing Options:** Although the affordability of the North Okanagan was not identified as a major issue within the first 4 questions, it became a major focus within the fifth question ‘What three things would you improve’. The lack of employment

opportunities (#3), the need for more transportation options (#4) and few affordable housing options (#6) relate to social issues that may limit the ability of youth to stay in the community. These same three issues have been considered critically important within all other surveys and public engagement activities.

Appendix ‘A’: The ‘What Future Would You Create” Youth Survey



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN  
REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY  
“One Region, One Future”

‘What Future Would YOU like to Create’  
Youth Survey



It's Your Region! Have a say in the future.

The Regional Growth Strategy is more than just lines on a map and some policies. It is our vision and road map of the future of the North Okanagan. You will be the ones inheriting this future and you should have your say. What does your ideal future look like and what are we missing?

The Regional District wants to develop a plan to make the North Okanagan a better place for everyone to live. Your views are important to us. **Everyone who completes the survey will be put into the Prize Draw for an iPod Nano!**

Your Info

What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a:  M  F

Where do you live?  Armstrong  Coldstream  Enderby  Lumby  Spallumcheen  
 Vernon  Electoral Area \_\_\_\_

Thinking about the Future!

What is the best thing about living in the North Okanagan?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything that you would like to change or improve?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What hopes do you have for your community in 20 years?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**What three things would improve the quality of life in the Region?**

- Better transportation options
- More to do
- A greater focus on environment
- Urban boundaries
- Youth-oriented services
- Keeping communities small
- Composting
- More affordable housing options
- More parks and trails
- Better jobs
- Improved waterfront access
- Community gardens and farms
- A stronger youth voice
- Anything else you can think of?

Is there anything that makes your community or the North Okanagan one-of-a-kind?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you planning on living and working in the Region after school?

- Yes  No

Why \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Do you have any other comments? Feel strongly about an issue? Let us know about it!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THANKS FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY!**

Your input is important to us and the future of the North Okanagan.

Do you want to be entered in the iPod Nano Draw?  Yes  No

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

Don't worry, we will keep your personal information confidential. If you win, we will contact you.

Please send the survey to:

**Anthony Kittel, RGS Coordinator**  
9848 Aberdeen Road  
Coldstream, BC V1B 2K9

[anthony.kittel@rdno.ca](mailto:anthony.kittel@rdno.ca)



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## Appendix ‘B’: Youth Survey Results

### 1. What is the best thing about living in the North Okanagan?

- It is very beautiful and its fun, there are lots of mountains that we can ski and snowboard on
- The beautiful, breathtaking scenery that no painter can ever match. It is so wonderful that everyone should see this sight
- The mountains, some nice cities, the rivers/lakes, the mountains and nice scenery
- The mountains, lakes and nature
- The country and all the wildlife
- The fresh clean air, the IPE, large fields, my small town and lots of area for horses and cows
- Open space in rural country
- The summer weather, mountains and lakes and the relaxed atmosphere
- There is a great amount of ecological diversity near and among us, which is under threat
- I love being close to nature, it's so beautiful here
- I love how many people are environmentally conscious and how much they seem to care
- The sense of community, the region is made up of small communities within reasonable distances of each other so you can find anything you need
- All the seasonal activities you can do here
- The seasonal change because so many sports are possible
- The recreational places we are surrounded by and the parks
- Hockey
- Able to go so many places without going far
- It is open and there is lots of fun things to do
- The weather is amazing; the sunny Okanagan is always beautiful and a great place to live
- Warm summers, cold winters, lots of lakes and nice people
- The beauty of the Valley
- It's a great community, lots of outdoors
- It's a great community and a safe place to live
- It's peaceful – no one cares about other people's business
- Nice people and awesome dirt-biking
- Nice and peaceful
- Best thing about living in the North Okanagan is it is gorgeous
- Beautiful mountains and valleys, country living
- I like the trees and mountains and stuff
- There are lots of parks and beaches accessible
- We are closer to nature and beautiful lakes
- Small towns, so there is more farmland to take advantage of
- It is very beautiful and a friendly community – great place to raise a family
- Beautiful water and great people
- The lakes and not that big of a city
- Lakes
- Lake and rivers are close to my community
- The outdoors
- The lakes and trees
- The ability to go hunting, fishing and shopping in a 10 minute drive

- The lakes, mountains, forests, ski hills and more
- The freedom and nature – all the sports and activities to do
- Wildlife, nature and animals
- Everything is close so you don't have to go far to have fun
- All the fresh air and having movies and malls close
- Beautiful trees, fresh air, and small community. I love it here
- Warm winters
- The murals
- The ski hill is close
- The nature around us – the lakes, rivers, mountains and forests
- The beautiful lakes
- The weather – mild winters and hot summers
- I like being able to walk a kilometer from my house and be in the woods with lots of fresh air
- All of the lakes and forests
- The weather is really sunny and when it snows, it snows
- Lakes and country
- It has great nature and environment, and is safe from war. It's beautiful here in Canada
- It is a safe and war-free environment
- Safe, clean area with more trees and lakes than buildings
- No one is friendlier than people from the Okanagan. We are minutes away from ski hills and lakes
- Having the opportunity to go places
- Close to ski hills, clean air and very safe
- Good view looking at mountain
- Our beaches and our safe, clean environment, knowing that we can step outside and be safe
- Lots to do, clean water, good food and it snows a lot
- We have lakes, fruit and choices where to go
- The trees, really nice lakes and beaches, Silverstar
- The opportunity to go places like the ski mountain or the beaches
- The nice sunny weather, the views of the environment is nice as well, the beaches, and you can see the trees and grasslands
- All the trees, lakes and we can step outside and know we are safe
- The nature and all the lakes
- The best thing about living in the beautiful North Okanagan is that it is pollution free and beautiful
- The lakes, wildlife and mountains are so beautiful
- Fruit and vegetables, warm environment and war-free zone
- The clean, fresh air
- North Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
- Hockey (2)
- Stores
- All the culture

**2. Is there anything that you would like to change or improve?**

- Less homeless and more camping areas
- More to do in town, like a new water park

- No, it is the greatest place on earth
- Yes, there are some communities that have bad drug problems
- More activities for minors
- Businesses need a better chance to survive
- More bike lanes and racks – make it easier to get around on foot or bike instead of by car (I go to school at Centre of Arts and Technology in Kelowna and there isn't even a bus option from Vernon)
- Make more trails and parks
- The rural roads need to be repaved
- I can't think of anything
- I would love for there to be more services within walking distance
- Bike lanes
- I would like a greater communal sense of awareness and responsibility toward environmental and social health
- More sustainable development, local food, celebration of diversity and ethical use of resources
- Tourist and visitor awareness of our environment
- More efficient public transit would improve things significantly – why don't we use the train tracks we have now
- The amount of pollution in our valley is unbelievable – we need to be more eco-friendly; garbage continues to grow
- Sprawling housing must be stopped
- I would get more people to recycle and compost more, have their own backyard garden to grow food.
- Decrease the crime and drug rates
- More trails in the valley between communities that are safe for hiking, biking and horseback riding
- More community youth services and buildings
- A midget representative team in Lumby
- Decrease the amount of waste and garbage in the streets
- Improve the safety of our streets by decreasing crime
- I would like youth activities to be affordable and accessible – youth are poor
- More hiking parks and better restaurants
- More events for youth (outdoors, indoors, cultural)
- More to do
- A SkyTrain
- I would like to improve the amount of retail stores, fast food restaurants and recreational buildings in my community
- Stop kids from partying
- More restaurants
- The community needs to grow in size and needs to be less boring –we need fast food restaurants
- Dirt bike lane on the side of the road
- Plant more trees and plants
- I would like to help animals and stop pollution
- More environmental control over logging
- Don't want to change anything
- I would like to make my community bigger so there was more to do

- More stores and larger malls, better recreational complexes
- More things to do like shopping and recreational facilities
- I would like all the commercial buildings in my community to be repainted to make my town look clean
- More money towards things like reviving our nature, planting trees, clean water
- More opportunities, shops and recreation
- Larger ice rink
- Having something fun for people to do
- Clean up the community and have more fast food chains
- Have more youth facilities and activates, fast food restaurants
- Clean up the community, more shopping opportunities, more youth activities and facilities
- Finish the mural project and have a place for youth to go
- More recreation centres and places for youth to go
- Better hockey rink and road to Silverstar
- I think the way the community is growing is unsustainable
- I would like to have more options for kids and have less garbage everywhere – a better school environment.
- I would like our community to be clean and for our school to have a say in the things we do
- We need to clean up the town (garbage), there needs to be more for people to do and there must be employment options
- More places for youth to go (3)
- Pick up the garbage
- A road to Silverstar, plant more trees and have more places for youth to go (2)
- Make my community Hockeyville
- More garbage cans to reduce littering
- There should be fun places that kids can go
- A safer environment, no pollution, more bike paths, more trees
- New recreational facilities
- More stuff to do and a better pool
- More trees and wildlife, more landscape for farming
- More parks and museums because we don't have enough parks Homeless people stay in those parks and it is really disturbing going on a hike and seeing them
- I would like to see a better shopping centre – it's too far to go to get the awesomest clothes (2)
- More services for those in need and homelessness reduced
- Better sports facilities (2)
- Better parks and museums
- I would like our community to go eco-friendly and have more parks, museum and a larger mall
- We need to help the homeless
- Safer environment, more for kids to do
- I think we should go green (start with baby steps)
- Sports complex with indoor soccer, rink, pool, gym (2)
- A bigger mall with better stores, a bigger better pool and a huge arcade (2)
- Probably a big sports centre with different activities
- I think that the homeless shelters and sports facilities could be improved, we need to help the homeless

- Less homeless
- Better shopping opportunities
- All the homeless people should not be at the parks and live where they have a good warm house
- Laser tag, sports facilities, play grounds
- There should be less cars on the road
- Raise the age limit
- Global warming

**3. What hopes do you have for your community in 20 years?**

- Less pollution from cars and buildings
- More places to swim and play that’s safe
- I would love for you to plant more trees
- In 20 years, I hope we can still maintain the eternal beauty and hospitality that our small towns contain, maybe even for 50 or 100 years
- The drug problems will be mostly fixed
- There will be more activities
- Businesses will be thriving
- More environmentally friendly things as well as composting
- I wish the development of all these stores would stop – I am part of a community, not a giant city
- That the Region stays the same
- That the community will be the same
- I hope nothing changes
- Greater equity and respect, less homelessness and unemployment, a stronger presence and cooperation with First Nations, more local and sustainable initiatives, less subdivisions, more trails and bike lanes, less drug and alcohol abuse, more transit throughout the region, more protected areas
- I hope my community will be just as genuine and authentic as it is now, remaining a small town, crime free and where everyone seems to know each other
- Our community prospering, with may eclectic stores, and a health community
- Somewhere I can be proud of without the drug and alcohol abuse
- My small community be beautiful and in 10 years I can see miles onto lovely forests, farms and fields
- I hope it will become more of a community – more community gardens, less lawn and more food being grown, stores buying fresh produce from local farmers instead of importing them.
- I hope there are plans to build more highways around Enderby
- Modern and up to date
- A new rink so hockey will still be here
- More volunteer workers
- I hope the community will be more environmentally friendly
- Better government, more money into what matters
- Not so many houses, it is getting crowded
- That the community does not grow – we want to keep it small, local and not turn it into a city
- A SkyTrain
- To have a new arena, as well as fast food restaurants
- Less drugs, friendly, give people more choices in life

- To have a Tim Hortons in town
- Less housing on the mountain
- I like it the ways it is
- All the bad things (harming animals, pollution) has stopped
- That it stays the same small town where everyone knows everyone
- I hope my community gets bigger so our children are not doing what we do with our lives
- Expand and improve the area
- Build and improve the area
- More recreational places for the town to enjoy
- For everyone to get more involved in making our world a safe place
- More growth in my community so there are more recreational and cultural opportunities exist
- I hope that the community does not grow, so we have wide open spaces
- To grow as a community so there are more opportunities
- Better buildings and less garbage
- To have things for kids to do and more employment opportunities
- There are still green trees and more work, more stuff you're my age group
- I would like to keep it small and beautiful
- Making a road from Lumby to Silverstar
- More people and less garbage
- I hope my community doesn't become a city
- Still green trees and a sustainable economy
- I hope there are trees on the mountains and that our drug issues have been solved.
- I hope our town is much more clean and fun, more beautiful and respectful than we are treating it now.
- To have the community stay the same
- I hope that the community does not get over-populated
- That the community has not changed and there is a road to Silverstar
- I hope my community is still small and that the surroundings are still green and full of animals
- I hope my community is the same but cleaner and with places youth can hang out
- That my community gets bigger so there are more people
- More kids for the elementary and high school so they both have the right grades in them
- Safer streets, cleaner water and less homeless
- Global awareness, clean town, more homeless shelters, more activities for kids
- An eco-friendly community
- I hope that the environment is better, less pollution from cars and a better water system
- I hope there will be more services for those in need and more stuff to do
- More wildlife reserves and safer, healthier water
- More things for children and teens to do, including stores
- More trees in the community
- I hope our community can get a recycling program that recycles more than just bottles, paper and juice boxes
- More bikes being use to go places
- Better water system so we no longer have boil water advisories
- More trees and water
- Help the homeless
- More options and opportunities for children

- To be eco-friendly with more gardens and parks
- More schools, more restaurant and more water parks
- That we are more eco-friendly
- Keep Vernon safe and drug-free
- A better recycling program and we can help with pollution by recycling
- I hope my community will be more environmentally friendly
- Safe, environmentally friendly community; no plastic bags, pollution free and safe to walk downtown without parents
- Plastic bag free, more homeless services for those in need
- To be completely eco-friendly
- Less pollution, better recreation, more ski hill runs
- Less homeless people
- More malls and pools like H2O in Kelowna
- A amusement park, a bigger and more fun pool like H2O in Kelowna
- More eco-friendly
- There will be less cars and more gardens for the community
- Build a new Boys and Girls Club
- Less of an environmental footprint

**4. What three things would improve the quality of life in the Region?**

- Better transportation options(26)
- More to do(34)
- A greater focus on environment(33)
- Urban boundaries(14)
- Youth-oriented services(12)
- Keeping communities small(17)
- Composting(7)
- More affordable housing options(22)
- More parks and trails (25)
- Better jobs(30)
- Improved waterfront access(9)
- Community gardens and farms(13)
- A stronger youth voice(14)

**ADDITIONAL**

- More recreational facilities (4)
- More urban trees (every 25 feet)(2)
- More wildlife and land for farming (2)
- Better, cleaner water system (2)
- More homeless shelters (2)
- More options for kids
- Smaller houses (now they are huge!)
- No plastic bags, only cloth bags
- Better pools

**5. Is there anything that makes your community or the North Okanagan one of a kind?**

- We have lots of shops and its kinda clear, it is nice
- Plenty; there is awesome scenery, kind and friendly residents, we are humble about the quality of the region

- The Shuswap river and Enderby Cliffs
- The mountains and lakes are great
- The IPE, rodeos and lots of sports opportunities
- The IPE and rodeos
- The geography and history are one-of-a-kind
- The community is home to the Okanagan Science Centre, ABNC, 2Ps Health Kitchen, etc.
- My community is a truly beautiful and unique place where people are friendly and bursting with local talent
- I think the North Okanagan is known for friendly locals and beautiful scenery
- The unique beauty and the kind, humble people that live in it
- The Shuswap River, because it is so useful in many ways – farmers use it to irrigate crops and others use it to cool off in the summer
- The lakes and parks
- We have a strong youth voice
- Our community is very small and close knit
- Lumby Days, fun and fitness activities
- Lumby is a good, beautiful community with lots of sights and trails
- Super hot summers, super cold winters
- Small, boring and pointless
- Has lots of mountains
- The mountains
- Safe, small, close community
- The mountains
- Parks and beaches
- The lakes and clean environment
- The lakes and mountain trails – great recreational opportunities
- How beautiful it is, close community
- North Okanagan is a perfect place to live, everything is available
- Close lakes and close dirt-biking trails
- Quite, not a lot of traffic
- The streams that run through town
- It is small and beautiful
- Lakes and mountains
- Very small and everyone knows everyone
- The natural beauty of my community is excellent
- It's small (3)
- Everyone knows each other and everyone is friendly (4)
- Lumby Days (2)
- We have the best fresh air in the world
- The lakes
- Low population with lots of family businesses
- People
- The community is very beautiful and full of wildlife and safe from war
- My house is the coolest and so is the landscape
- We have lots of mountains and lakes just 15 minutes away
- In the Okanagan there is so much to do – skiing, waterslides, beaches, library, soccer and beautiful parks and trails

- Small, friendly community
- We have access to beaches and ski hills
- Really nice people, lots of fun
- Our lakes are really nice, our orchards are beautiful, great community
- Our lakes and our awesome schools, all my friends are here
- There is a ski mountain, beaches and lakes
- The fact that when you look outside you see trees and land where in Vancouver you don't
- Trees and lakes, the community is not dirty
- We have both lakes and a ski hill not far away
- It's celebrations, like fireworks
- It is beautiful and very peaceful and has non-polluted air
- All the mountains and great places here
- More malls, more trees
- Lots of trees
- Free cookies at Superstore
- H2O Pool

**6. Are you planning on living and working in the Region after school?**

- Yes (34)
- No (25)
- Maybe (17)

**POSITIVE**

- Hopefully there will be less pollution and it will be safe
- I will be here for a very long time
- Everything I need is right here
- Because I like the country
- I love it here and don't like the big city
- This is my home and would be happy to raise my children here
- Because it is an awesome place to be
- I hope to be spending my first year at a local university
- I would love to stay in the Okanagan but I want to travel – maybe I will get a summer place
- Yes, because I would like to improve my community further
- I love it
- I want to have four years or more of police experience
- I grew up here and will inherit a nice farm
- The Okanagan is great and I couldn't imagine living somewhere else
- I probably will, it has nice seasonal changes
- Awesome dirtbiking
- My community is a friendly community with a clean environment
- My friends and family are here, all my goals are attainable in the Okanagan
- Because construction jobs are still OK
- Our youth drug problems should be handled
- University in Kelowna
- My friends are here and it is a nice environment
- Because this place is awesome
- I love UBC Okanagan
- Because it is a wonderful place to live

- I want to stay because I would miss my friends if I left
- Because I was born here and lived here all my life
- This is where my family lives
- I’m going to go to university in Kelowna (2)
- Because it has farmland and that’s where I want to live
- Because I don’t want to leave this beautiful place
- I hope it will be a better place

**NEGATIVE**

- I think Vernon is turning into Kelowna, I want to live somewhere peaceful and safe – more nature
- Need money to survive
- Not sure yet – I don’t know what I want to do with my life
- I have a life to get to
- Alberta’s better
- I’m going to Jamaica
- My community sucks
- Not many job opportunities or post-secondary options (9)
- I want to go somewhere warm and tropical
- I’d love to stay but not many options to pick from
- I’m going to live in Europe and travel the world
- I want to live lots of places
- I might move to Victoria with my family
- Planning to go to a big university

**7. Do you have any other comment? Feel strongly about an issue? Let us know about it.**

- I would like it if you people could help the homeless to have a better life
- I wish I felt safe here – I would love to jog in Polson Park or walk at night, but am scared because of all the homeless
- Preserve the farmland
- Keep urban boundaries
- I would like more transit routes to Kelowna and the Shuswap, including on weekends, which would really help the people of the region
- The amount of homelessness, drug dealing and crime that seems to keep growing
- The issue of the Shuswap River – the rules of no littering should be strongly enforced because people go tubing and boating in the river and leave their junk lying around. They don’t respect the river and it needs to be better protected.
- You guys could lower the price of food
- More sports related activities and more parks and hiking trails
- I want a subway in Lumby
- Not enough biking trails in the community
- Cutting down the forests
- Clean up the beaches and parks
- We need more funding for our schools – we have a very small budget
- Making things more affordable so in the future we actually have a chance for a good life
- We need more entertainment opportunities for youth
- I feel strongly about the job situation and how no one can get one – kids should also have more activities and support

- I hope my community will not turn into a city
- Bigger hockey rink
- Urban encroachment
- There’s too much garbage (2)
- I think that the community and the school should be more clean
- We need another library
- We need a no carbon emission transportation system
- I feel strongly about tearing down trees to build houses – the last trail they tore down was fun. It makes me angry about tearing down nature to build houses
- I love the environment
- There is a lot of drug use and if we don’t stop it, our future will not be drug free
- No more residential places, we are getting too much and it’s ruining Vernon, making it ugly
- Help the homeless and give them a home
- I want people to start a non-bullying club – stop school bullying
- All the poor animals at the SPCA that are not getting sold
- I think we should have more shelters for the homeless
- People under the age of 17 should have a stronger voice