



THE FEDERATION
of COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES of BC

Altogether better.



LIFE IN BC SNAPSHOT

The FCSSBC is a group of community-based social services organizations that influence decision-making to improve the wellbeing of communities.

We believe that:

- Healthy supported communities make good economic sense.
- For our families to succeed, all families must succeed.
- For jobs to be the answer to social inclusion other conditions must exist

We have scoured the literature and research to take a snapshot of Life in BC that captures some aspects of the economy that traditionally get overlooked and we will use these markers to determine how good life in BC *really* is. Below are some of the key facts that stood out for us.

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"Individuals may derive a sense of purpose and accomplishment from their work. At a societal level, the work of individuals generates efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness in the Canadian economy".¹

Jobs offer an opportunity for social and economic inclusion; however many community members face additional barriers to secure employment and may need support. Job creation is important but it is not the full answer to community well-being.

WHAT
WE
HAVE
TO
SAY

JOBS

CASE
STUDY



Chad is a single father of two children under the age of five. He is currently unemployed, but has just been offered a job that pays above minimum wage and has the potential to be long-time. After searching for months Chad is really excited to think about working again. He loves being with his kids but thinks they will also benefit from being with other kids during the day. He remembers growing up surrounded by his cousins and wants something similar for his boys. In order to accept the job Chad plans on walking his kids to daycare at 7:15 and then catching the bus to start work at 8:30. However, he is now struggling to find affordable daycare in his neighbourhood. With no extended family in the city, Chad may have to turn down the employment offer and remain on income assistance.

WHAT
WE
KNOW



BC has fewer permanent jobs today than before the 2008 recession.²

Most of the jobs created since 2010 have been seasonal, casual or part-time (almost two-thirds)³ This type of work is considered unstable; typically lower paying; and requires people to manage uncertain working hours into their daily lives.



Some British Columbians face additional barriers to participating in the workforce. For example, the lack of affordable and accessible childcare is a critical barrier to job and

career prosperity affecting mostly women and immigrant people find that their credentials are not recognized.⁶

Supportive programs can make a difference. For example, individualized support for people with serious mental health problems and illnesses increases their successful job search by three times that of those who did not receive support.⁷



Income gap between unstable and stable jobs is between \$11,600 and \$18,000.⁴

The Aboriginal unemployment rate still remains nearly double that of the non-Aboriginal population- 14.6 percent.⁵



¹ Employment and Social Development Canada website. Retrieved from <http://well-being.esdc.gc.ca/misme-iowb/d.4m.1.3n@-eng.jsp?did=3>.

^{2,3} Ivanova, Igluka. (2014) BC Jobs Plan Reality Check, The First Two Years, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Retrieved from: <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/2014/01/CCPA-BC-Jobs-Plan-Reality-Check.pdf>.

⁴ TD Bank. (2015) Precarious Employment in Canada: Does the evidence square with the antidotes? Retrieved from <http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/PrecariousEmployment.pdf>.

⁵ First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition. (2014) British Columbia Child Poverty Report Card. Retrieved from <http://stillin5.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/First-Call-Coalition-Report-Card-2014-FINAL-WEB.pdf>.

⁶ BC Stats Government of BC (2011) Recent Trends in the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Labour Force Participation. Retrieved from <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/AboriginalPeoples/LabourCharacteristics.aspx>.

⁷ Mental Health Commission of Canada. (Feb 2013) Making the Case for Investing in Mental Health in Canada: 1 in 5 people in Canada lives with a mental illness each year. Retrieved from http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/system/files/private/document/Investing_in_Mental_Health_FINAL_Version_ENG.pdf.

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION LET US KNOW;
WE HAVE LOTS OF READING MATERIAL*