

## Vital Signs Perception Survey - 09/07/2011

### Gap Between Rich & Poor

#### Affordable Housing

- A More affordable housing
- A more social housing
- A mixed housing in downtown, expand social programs, support to b&g club
- A Not enough concern for housing the poor.
- A additional low cost housing developments
- A cost of living is an issue housing is the worst here
- A Affordable housing or Attainable housing
- A Homeless and low income housing are issues
- A more seniors housing
- A More low income housing
- A affordable housing
- A Affordable housing/rental units - preferably in combination with retail, more loft-style apartments in raise min. wage province wide. Incorporate housing for the elderly in every new development.
- A Develop the downtown with funky lofts that would attract the downsizing middle class baby boomers
- A more affordable housing
- A Need more affordable housing
- A more affordable housing
- A more low cost housing for single families and the elderly
- A More affordable 'rent geared to income' housing for singles and for families.
- A More affordable housing options
- A More low income housing
- A seniors really need more \$ help for accommodation
- A Housing issues need to be addressed
- A More affordable housing
- A Support affordable housing initiatives
- A encourage Albertans who have summer property to year round rental
- A more affordable housing projects
- A Promote more affordable housing even for the elderly. There are none at all or very few new buildings being built (apt or condo) for anyone to rent even for affordable housing. The construction industry is not very visible in Vernon. Housing prices are through the roof in the city as well.
- A We need to have more affordable housing for families and the elderly.
- A increased social housing like Kekuli House, Abbeyfield
- A more affordable housing options for women with kids
- A Improve affordable housing availability
- A affordable housing
- A encourage low income housing being built
- A more municipal support for affordable housing

#### Create Jobs / Higher Wages

- B Give clean-up jobs to the street people.
- B create jobs - not hand out money to individuals
- B Create more jobs.
- B attraction of clean industry to create employment other than in the service hospitality sector
- B attract higher end business (high tech) with better wages
- B Bring in larger companies who will drive up the base wage levels
- B Living wages
- B creation of sustainable jobs at the local level

- B More light industry, better paying jobs. (less under-employment)
- B diversify vernon's economy
- B low income earners need better wages
- B Vernon appears to be a below average income area. It needs to attract more wealth.
- B Try to promote business that will pay a decent living wage and not be all part time work as well.
- B higher wages
- B Lower than average wages and high real estate and rental costs contribute to this; Not sure what the
- B raise the pay scale
- B Aggressively solicit clean industries
- B Provide better paying jobs, min. wage is not enough.
- B not enough well paying jobs with benefits
- B Encouragement of greater diversity of employers, as the job opportunities in and around Vernon is
- B need employment diversity, not more retired wealth on the hillsides that ruins our aesthetic appeal and
- B contributes little to the community, need entrepreneurs, investors in community, a theme like agri
- B start by bringing in more industry
- B we need to encourage new business (ie. employers)
- B Incourage new business to employee people
- B Bring industry, better paying jobs to Vernon
- B Better paying jobs

### High Cost of Living

- I believe it is growing. I can feel the gap more and more. I work for a non-profit organization and I feel the stress from low income families who are on assistance and my own personal strain with everyday
- C living. I have no money, to offer suggestions. I'd be willing to hear suggestions.
- C Find means of reducing food costs - on average they are much higher than Kelowna
- C Huge gap here in Vernon. Most average people have to work more than one job.
- People cannot live on the income assistance that is allocated by the provincial or federal gov't. No wonder there is so much apathy and depression amongst the poor. The rich are so afraid of losing their perks that they are stressed and depressed too. Politicians need to lobby governments to raise
- C the amount that a family receives on social assistance. I am sure no-one wants to live on this amount
- C Better support for food bank and other support systems for individuals in situations of economic
- It appalling to know that food banks have been in existance in anywhere in this country for 20 years
- C or more. There should be an objective in all jurisdiction to making them unnecessary!
- C Better support for elderly & family poverty levels
- C Somehow have the rich walk in the 'shoes' of the poor person for a day or two.
- C make individuals more accountable, and not so easy to get handouts.
- C cost of living is way too high for many
- C Cost of living very high in relation to job opportunities
- C more help for hungry children
- C continue to reduce welfare recipient qualification
- C To allow pregnant mom, access to the food bank once a month, if they needed it.
- C More community gardens.
- The huge gap between rich and poor is highly visible in schools and children can be very cruel to those that are different. Poverty makes people different and results in many other social challenges.
- C At this time of year families are struggling to buy school supplies. We have some agencies that help people who are trying to get off assistance do not penalize when they work and get assistance
- C untill they can make an level off income
- C Push for government support to increase wages
- C Food costs are higher than other areas of BC.
- C subsidize rents
- C poverty - elderly, children and their families
- C Income assistance, minimum wage needs reviewing more often with more realistic funding in place.

- C cost of living allowances for single parents living in an area with such high housing costs
- C employers need \$ help to provide benefits to part timers
- C more financial help for elderly
- C Support local food security initiatives

### Basic Living Programs / Health Programs

- D provincial funding to programs that support teaching persons simple basics like cooking, money  
I would like to see these homeless and self-medicating mental health people have a facility in the
- D area like a ranch or farm where they can get the treatment and support they need and not just rining
- D more early childhood support and interventions programs needed
- D deal with the addiction issues
- D Improved accessibility of services and outreach to the schools and community
- D To meet real needs of people struggling to make a living who are not abusing substances
- D Make services like assistance programs more readily available and easier to access.
- D increase of income assistance programs  
We need to have a large community garden where yooung and old people can participate together
- D and feel that they have a part to play and be useful.
- D recreation should be available for all, even those who cannot afford to pay - it is a health issue
- D I am a parish nurse and see huge and growing gaps, call me for more information 250-542-0650  
Provide affordable stress relief activities that are healthy for the working poor (recreation centre, yoga etc.)... I am a single working mom, for a non profit organization (\$15 per 26 hour work week) and I cannot afford, yoga or other recreational activities at the recreational centre anymore. Please note; I do not drink alcohol, smoke, I hardly eat out or eat junk food and I am now at once a week out to trea
- D do not drink alcohol, smoke, I hardly eat out or eat junk food and I am now at once a week out to trea
- D Not a lot of "rich" people in Vernon - more awareness of food bank year round would be helpful.
- D more of a social system covering healthcare and education  
In my experience as a community based artist though, planning events that include the whole
- D community, brinbgs people of all walks together in creating an event that is relevant and enjoyable for
- D I believe too much goes on for people abusing drugs and the system at the same time.
- D another soup kitchen. i'm sure you could find tons of volunteers. I would be willing.
- D Take people off assistance and put them to work doing anything usefull and pay them minimum
- D programs for at risk children & youth
- D More 'free' events (music, readings, etc.) to get people out and mingling together.
- D Monthly Food Bank provisions for pregnant families
- D more programs for hungry children
- D we still need to educate the public about poverty and challange old beliefs
- D more creative/cooperative solutions--- by priority when resources are slim

### City Services

- E better transit options
- E more access to recreation
- E more cycling lanes and cycle lockers, better sidewalks

### Education - Job Related

- F programs to empower people to have employability skills
- F development of work ethic enhancing programs

### Government

- G This is a bigger issue that Vernon cannot change. This deals with education, mental and physical
- G Local Governments need to come up with solutions, not just drive the homeless and streetworkers  
The attitude in Vernon seems to reflect the provincial and federal attitude that the rich are entitled to
- G more and the poor don't deserve even a warm dry bed and nutritious food.
- G I would like the city to become more financially involved with reducing poverty

- G We need to eliminate HST paid by the organizations providing these services
- G if need be the people that make the descion on how people live should have to live in their shoes for
- G at least a week at least 1/2 the council and mayor
- G more \$\$ to single families/women with children
- G Prov. Gov. should allow people to earn \$ to supplement welfare
- G close down meth programme in Vernon , attracts too many non working /assistant dependant people
- G we do a good job overall, I work in social work and Vernon has many good programs
- G more public discussion about local poverty
- G more united lobbying of higher level gov't
- G encourage a more diverse development pattern
- G better co-ordination amongst social services (no turf protecting)
- G This should be a federal interest based on income taxation
- G With a revitalized downtown, people start to rub shoulders with the down and out and are more likely
- G to involve themselves in volunteer activities.Downtown core needs to be populated with a diverse
- G lets tax the rich more and those that need it less or nothing
- G The closing of the Vernon Women's Centre should never have happened; the city should have
- G help getting prostitutes off the street
- G higher taxes if Vernon home is not principal dwelling