

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE VITAL SIGNS[®] Report 2008

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Fredericton Community Foundation, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Foundation's first *Vital Signs*[®] Report.

This document is meant to be an annual "report card" on the health and vibrancy of our City. It is not meant to break new statistical ground or provide answers to the problem areas identified in the Report, but is intended to illustrate how we citizens view ourselves. It is the Foundation's expectation that this Report will highlight issues facing our Community and spark dialogue and discussion on how we can best meet these challenges.

Vital Signs[®] is part of a national program in which a series of community foundations across Canada rate their respective towns and cities based on a number of enumerated indicators, covering multiple issues ranging from child poverty to arts & culture.

The Fredericton Community Foundation is proud to be part of this growing *Vital Signs*[®] initiative. Our participation has meant a lot of hard work and a significant learning curve for all involved. However, the Foundation felt it was important to examine all aspects of our growing community.

We could not have accomplished our goal of publishing this Report without the commitment and support of several organizations and individuals which have generously provided financial support and in-kind contributions. I wish to also acknowledge the various members of government, non-profit agencies and community leaders who assisted us with the grading of the eleven indicators. This was a "community effort" in the truest sense of those words and the Foundation greatly appreciates your interest and commitment to this endeavour.

We hope you enjoy reading Fredericton's inaugural *Vital Signs*[®] Report. We trust that it will spur you to action in helping our Foundation do everything possible to improve the quality of life for all those that reside in this great community.

Jamie Petrie
Chair of the Fredericton Community Foundation

INTRODUCTORY SECTION and NOTES

About Vital Signs

Vital Signs[®] is an annual community check-up of the vitality of Fredericton. It takes the pulse of our community by identifying areas of strength and areas we may need to work on. This is the Fredericton Community Foundation's first annual check-up reflecting the fabric of life in the city of Fredericton.

Fredericton Facts

The City of Fredericton (approximately 131 square kilometres) lies nestled along the majestic St. John River. The river flows through the city creating natural beauty and a focal point for locals and visitors alike. With numerous trails along the river, people have the opportunity to see our city from both sides. Fredericton is the capital city of New Brunswick and home to two adjoining universities – the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University – as well as several post-secondary colleges and training institutions, including the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design. It is home to the Boyce Market building, site of the Saturday Farmers' Market. In June 2006, it was named one of the top eight Farmers' Markets to visit in Canada by Harrowsmith Magazine.¹

Population Demographics

The population of the City of Fredericton was 50,535 in 2006, up 6.2 per cent from 47,580 in 2001. This compares favourably with the increase in the population of the province as a whole, which only increased by 0.1 per cent from 2001 to 2006. The population of the Fredericton Census Agglomeration (CA) was 85,688 in 2006. The median age was 38.4 years in 2006, younger than the median age in New Brunswick of 41.5. In 2006, 85.3 per cent of the population of Fredericton were aged 15 and over.²

Real GDP³ per worker in Fredericton CA was \$63,905 in 2007 (constant 2002 dollars), down 3.4 per cent from its 2006 level. Output per worker was 1.8 per cent

¹ <http://gremolata.com/fredericton.htm>

² Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Fredericton, New Brunswick (table). 2006 Community Profiles*. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Index.cfm?Lang=E>
(accessed July 25, 2008)

³ Gross domestic product (GDP): Statistics Canada defines GDP as one of the primary measures used by decision-makers, financial and other institutions to evaluate the health of the economy. An increase in real GDP is interpreted as a sign that the economy is doing well, while a decrease indicates that the economy is not working at its full capacity. Real GDP is linked to other macro economic variables such as employment, economic cycles, productivity and long-term economic growth.

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greater than the level of per-worker GDP in New Brunswick in 2007, and 17.7 per cent below the national level.⁴

The Fredericton Community Foundation

The Fredericton Community Foundation (FCF) has been improving life in Fredericton for over 50 years and has over \$8 million in assets, making it one of the largest private endowment funds in New Brunswick.

Through the use of over 40 different funds, the FCF has assisted over 200 non-profit organizations in the fields of education, sports, culture, health, and social programs, and is responsible for donating over \$1 million in grants in the greater Fredericton area over the past 5 years. We are that rare charity which actually gives back to other registered charities – one gift to the Fredericton Community Foundation can have a lasting impact on several worthy local charities at once.

As part of the Community Foundations of Canada organization, the FCF is one of 164 member organizations who try to provide leadership to the non-profit sector and enhance philanthropy to build stronger communities in Canada.

2008 marks the 52nd year of the Foundation in Fredericton and a milestone year as it is our first year to publish the Vital Signs report.

NOTE:

One of the challenges with being a smaller community is that it is often impossible to obtain quality data for the same defined region for all indicators. The information presented in this report may represent the City of Fredericton, the Fredericton Census Agglomeration, the Fredericton-Oromocto Economic Region, or Health Region 3. In presenting each indicator, the area represented is specified. If not otherwise specified, information is for the City of Fredericton.

The following indicates the area covered by these different descriptors:

Fredericton Census Agglomeration (CA) – Fredericton, Kingsclear, New Maryland, Lincoln, Devon, Maugerville, St. Mary's, Douglas and Bright

Fredericton Economic Region – Queens, Sunbury and York Counties

Fredericton Health Region 3 – Bath, Boisetown, Chipman, Doaktown, Fredericton, Fredericton Junction, Harvey, McAdam, Minto, Nackawic, Oromocto, Perth-Andover, Plaster Rock, Stanley and Woodstock

⁴ Source: Statistics Canada, special calculation provided by Community Foundations Canada.

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1) GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

By looking at poverty rates we can better understand the needs in our community in order to identify and take measures to address these needs.

The Low-Income Measure (LIM) is defined as 50 per cent of the median family income, adjusted for family size, and is a commonly used, if arbitrary, operational definition of relative poverty.

a) Child Poverty Rate (persons 17 and under)

In 2006, the before-tax child poverty rate in Fredericton Census Agglomeration (CA)⁵ (based on LIM) was 22.5 per cent, down 0.9 per cent from 2001. The 2006 figure was 11.4 per cent lower than the provincial average and 2.7 per cent lower than the national average.⁶

b) Elderly Poverty Rate (persons 65 and over)

In 2006, the before-tax elderly poverty rate in Fredericton CA (based on LIM) was 10.2 per cent, down 12.9 per cent from 2001. The 2006 figure was 42.7 per cent lower than the provincial average and 24.4 per cent lower than the national average.⁷

c) Overall Poverty Rate

In 2006, the before-tax overall poverty rate in Fredericton CA (based on LIM) was 20.5 per cent, down 0.1 per cent from 2001. The 2006 figure was 13.1 per cent lower than the provincial average and 3.9 per cent lower than the national average.⁸

Other indicators of the gap between rich and poor include the provision of groceries and meals to those in need in our community.

d) Use of Food Banks

Latest statistics from the Fredericton Food Bank⁹ indicate that approximately 700 families (approximately 1,700 individuals) are served each month. Families normally use the Food Bank once each month. Food bank users peaked at a

⁵ The Fredericton CA includes Fredericton, Kingsclear, New Maryland, Lincoln, Devon, Maugerville, St. Mary's, Douglas, and Bright

⁶ Source: [Pre-Tax Poverty Rate for Children \(0-17 years of age\) for Vital Signs Communities, \(LIM\), 2000-2006](#)

⁷ Source: [Pre-Tax Poverty Rate for Persons aged 65 and over for Vital Signs Communities, \(LIM\), 2000-2006](#); [Pre-tax Incidence of Poverty for the Elderly in Vital Signs Communities for 2000 and 2005, Per Cent](#)

⁸ Source: Statistics Canada. Small Area Administrative Data. Family characteristics, Low Income Measures (LIM), by family type and family type composition, annual. Cansim Table 111-0015. Cansim series: v21388890, v21388977, v21390276, v21390363, v21390507, v21390594, v21390738. CA data retrieved through Statistics Canada special request.

⁹ Source: Elizabeth Crawford Thurber, Executive Director, June 25, 2008

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monthly average of 777 in 2004 and have dropped each year since, with an average of 608 in 2007. It is projected that usage will increase in 2008 to a monthly average of 757. Food bank officials think the increase in monthly users is due to higher electric, gas, and food prices.

Note: some clients may fit into more than one category; children (through age 19) do not come alone

e) Other Providers

The Fredericton Community Kitchen¹⁰ provided 168 food boxes in March 2008. In addition, 166 meals were served.

In 2007, 110,000 meals were served on site, an increase of 13,058 over 2006. Food was also provided for 50,000 meals prepared in homes in 2007, an increase of 7,000 over 2006.

Meals on Wheels also provides food in our community. On average, 40,000 meals per year are provided to approximately 300 clients (including seniors, disabled individuals, and convalescent individuals).¹¹ In the past six years, the number of meals has doubled. In addition, the Meals to Wheels program serves lunch to about 65 seniors once a week from September to June.

f) Proportion of Economic Families¹² in Various Income Brackets

In 2005, 10.9 per cent of families in Fredericton CA had annual incomes lower than \$25,000, compared to 13.9 per cent in New Brunswick and 10.5 per cent in Canada. There was a 5.5 per cent fall in the proportion of families in Fredericton making less than \$25,000 (2005\$) between 2000 and 2005. In 2005, 22.2 per cent of families in Fredericton had annual incomes of over \$100,000, compared to 14.8 per cent in New Brunswick and 25.5 per cent in Canada. There was a 6.9 per cent increase in the proportion of families in Fredericton with incomes above \$100,000 between 2000 and 2005.¹³

2) SAFETY

Having a safe community is essential to a feeling of well-being. Although crimes against people and property are a reality everywhere, Fredericton is a relatively safe city. It is experiencing a stable crime rate.

¹⁰ Source: George Piers, Administrator, Fredericton Community Kitchen, June 25, 2008

¹¹ Source: Ann-Marie Hartford, outgoing Executive Director, Meals on Wheels.

¹² Note: family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption

¹³ Source: [Proportion of Economic Families in Income Brackets in Vital Signs Communities, 2005 Constant Dollars, 2000 and 2005](#)

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a) Criminal Code Traffic Crime Rate per 100,000 Population¹⁴

Note: The total traffic Criminal Code offences include impaired and dangerous operation of boats, aircraft and motor vehicles, driving a motor vehicle while prohibited, as well as failure to stop or remain at the scene following an accident.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002-2007 % change	6 year avg.
Fredericton CA	307	283	316	424	333	422	38%	350
New Brunswick	394	377	372	401	321	364	-8%	372
Canada	375	370	377	376	374	400	7%	378

For the City of Fredericton, figures are also available for the years 2002 through 2007¹⁵.

b) Police Officers per 100,000 Population¹⁶

At 195 police officers per 100,000 in 2007, the number of police officers in the Fredericton municipality was equal to the national average (195) and 10.2 per cent higher than the provincial average (177). The rate was up 6.6 per cent from 183 in 2006.

c) Property Crime Rate

The number of crimes against property in the City of Fredericton peaked in 2004 at 3,411 and went down to 2,757 for 2007¹⁷.

d) Motor Vehicle Theft Rate

Motor vehicle thefts in the Fredericton CA peaked at 302 per 100,000 persons in 1999 and went down to 130 in 2007. This is 70.7 per cent below the national average (443) and 27.4 per cent below the provincial average (179).¹⁸

¹⁴ Source: [Criminal Code Traffic Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population in Vital Signs Communities, 1991-2007](#) CA data found through a Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics special request

¹⁵ Source: Fredericton Police Force 2007 Year End Statistical Report

¹⁶ Source: : [Police per 100,000 population in Vital Signs Communities, 1999, 2006 and 2007](#)

¹⁷ Source: Fredericton Police Force 2007 Year End Statistical Report

¹⁸ Source: : [Motor Vehicle Theft per 100,000 Population for Vital Signs Communities 1991-2007](#)

e) Drug Occurrences¹⁹

There were 85 drug occurrences reported by the Fredericton Police Department for 2007, up from the 2002-2006 five year average of 46. 56 of the 85 occurrences were for cannabis only, with the remaining 29 for other drugs.²⁰

¹⁹ A drug occurrence is a reported incident involving crimes committed under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA). These occurrences may include such offences as possession, trafficking, importation and exportation, and production as outlined under the Federal Statute CDSA.

²⁰ Source: Fredericton Police Force 2007 Year End Statistical Report

3) HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A community's health may be measured by many things. Obesity rates, life expectancy, physical activity rate, and water quality provide some measure of overall health and wellness in our community.

Fredericton was named the second best walking city in Canada for 2008 by the Canadian Federation of Podiatric Medicine. In part, they stated that "The City of Fredericton scored high in the areas of good air quality, many points of interest and attractive landscapes and a very low personal crime rate."²¹

a) Obesity Rate

The obesity rate for people aged 18 and up in Fredericton (Health Region 3)²² was at 18.3 per cent in 2003, peaked at 23.7 per cent in 2005 and has dropped to 15.7 per cent in 2007. The 2007 rate compares favourably with New Brunswick as a whole at 20.0 per cent and Canada at 16.0 per cent.²³

b) Life Expectancy

Life expectancy rates for Fredericton (Health Region 3) have increased from 77.7 years in 1997 to 79.0 years in 2001. This is equal to the 2001 rate for New Brunswick as a whole and slightly lower than the Canadian rate of 79.5.²⁴

c) Rate of Physical Activity

Self-reported responses of those aged 12 and over²⁵ for Fredericton (Health Region 3) give a rate of active or moderately active physical activity in 2007 of

²¹ Source: Canadian Federation of Podiatric Medicine web site, <http://www.podiatryinfocanada.ca/>

²² Region 3 (River Valley Health) includes the communities of Bath, Boiestown, Chipman, Doaktown, Fredericton, Fredericton Junction, Harvey, McAdam, Minto, Nackawic, Oromocto, Perth-Andover, Plaster Rock, Stanley, and Woodstock

²³ Source: Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 2.1) 2003, Cansim Table 105-0292 for Canada, Provinces, CMAs and Health Regions, terminated table. For 2005 and 2007, Canadian Community Health Survey, Indicator Profile, for Canada, Provinces and Health Regions, Cansim Table 105-0502.

²⁴ Source: [Life Expectancy at Birth for Vital Signs by Health Regions, 1997 and 2001](#)

²⁵ Note: Population aged 12 and over reporting level of physical activity, based on their responses to questions about the frequency, duration and intensity of their participation in leisure-time physical activity. Respondents are classified as active, moderately active or inactive based on an index of average daily physical activity over the past 3 months. For each leisure time physical activity engaged in by the respondent, an average daily energy expenditure is calculated by multiplying the number of times the activity was performed by the average duration of the activity by the energy cost (kilocalories per kilogram of body weight per hour) of the activity. The index is calculated as the sum of the average daily energy expenditures of all activities. Respondents are classified as follows: 3.0 kcal/kg/day or more = physically active; 1.5 to 2.9 kcal/kg/day = moderately active; less than 1.5 kcal/kg/day = inactive

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40.5 per cent, down from 45.7 per cent in 2005. This compares somewhat unfavourably with New Brunswick as a whole where the 2007 activity rate was 42.7 and Canada where the rate was 49.0 per cent.²⁶

d) Current Boil Water Advisories

There are no boil water advisories for the City of Fredericton, and there have been none for the past two years.²⁷

e) Proportion of the Population 12 Years and Over without a Regular Medical Doctor²⁸

In Fredericton Health Region 3, 8.3 per cent of the population was without a regular physician in 2007.²⁹ This was an increase of 3.3 percentage points from 2005. This compares favourably with the national rate of 15.2 per cent, and is marginally higher than the New Brunswick rate of 8.2. The following table shows the figures for 2003, 2005, and 2007 for Fredericton (Health Region 3), New Brunswick, and Canada.

f) Physicians per 100,000 Population

In Fredericton Health Region 3, the number of active physicians per 100,000 was 149 in 2006, consisting of 95 family practitioners and 54 specialists. This is well below the national rate of 191 and the provincial rate of 177. However, the rate is up 7.2 per cent from 139 in 2000.³⁰

g) Self-rated Mental Health³¹

In 2007, 67.3 per cent of respondents in Fredericton Health Region 3 rated their mental health status as "excellent" or "very good." This represented a decrease of 5.5 percentage points from 2005, but an increase of 2.8 percentage points since 2003.

By comparison, the proportion of respondents rating their own mental health as "excellent" or "very good" in 2007 was 67.1 per cent in New Brunswick and 72.7 per cent Canada-wide.³²

²⁶ Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 2.1) 2003, Cansim Table 105-0292 for Canada, Provinces, CMAs and Health Regions, terminated table. For 2005 and 2007, Canadian Community Health Survey, Indicator Profile, for Canada, Provinces and Health Regions, Cansim Table 105-0502

²⁷ Source: Province of New Brunswick web site, <http://www.gnb.ca/0053/water/alerts-e.asp>

²⁸ Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), Indicator Profile, Cansim Table 105-0502 for Canada, Provinces and Health Regions

²⁹ Population aged 12 and over who reported that they do not have a regular medical doctor

³⁰ Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, Health Indicator Reports <http://secure.cihi.ca/hireports/>

³¹ Source: [Self-rated Mental Health for Vital Signs for the Proportion of the Population 12 years and over by CMA and Health Regions, 2003, 2005 and 2007, Per Cent](#)

4) LEARNING

Good educational attainment and lifelong learning are important to a community's vitality.

Fredericton was named one of the world's top seven Intelligent Communities by the New York-based Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) this year. Part of the citation reads "Today, Fredericton contains 70% of the province's knowledge-based businesses and is using ICT to substantially reduce its carbon footprint."³³

a) Proportion of Population who have not Completed High School

In 2007, 23.0 per cent of the population (aged 15 and over) had not completed high school in the Fredericton economic region, compared with 35.8 per cent in 1990. The 2007 figures compare favourably with New Brunswick, where 27.0 per cent of the population had not completed high school, but are slightly above the national rate at 22.2 per cent.³⁴

b) Proportion of Population with Completed Post-secondary Education

In 2006, 55.1 per cent of the population in the Fredericton CA (aged 15 and over) completed post-secondary education³⁵, compared with 49.8 per cent in 2001. The 2006 figures compare favourably with New Brunswick, where 44.6 per cent of the population completed post-secondary education and Canada where 50.7 per cent of the population completed post-secondary education.³⁶

c) Adult Literacy Scores

The average adult literacy score for prose in the Fredericton-Oromocto economic region³⁷ in 2003 was 273, 3.2 per cent above the New Brunswick average and 0.2 per cent higher than the national average.³⁸ Note that scores in the 276-325

³² Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), Indicator Profile, for Canada, Provinces and Health Regions, Cansim Table 105-0502

³³ Source: Intelligent Communities Forum web site
<http://www.intelligentcommunity.org/index.php?src=news&refno=5&category=News>

³⁴ Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey by special request, program A050705

³⁵ Postsecondary values represent an aggregation of the percentage of people with a trades certificate, a college certificate or diploma and a university certificate or diploma (below bachelor's or bachelor's degree and above)

³⁶ Source: [Proportion of the Population \(15 years and over\) with a Post-Secondary Education \(University Degree; Post-Secondary Cert Diploma\) for CMAs and Economic Regions, 1990, 2000-2007](#); [Proportion of the Population 15 years and over with a Postsecondary Education in Vital Signs Communities, 2001 and 2006](#)

³⁷ The Fredericton-Oromocto economic region includes Queens, Sunbury, and York Counties

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range are considered "level 3" proficiency - the proficiency level required for a modern economy and knowledge society.

d) Public Library Usage

The Fredericton Public Library and the Nashwaaksis Public-School Library reported a total of 39,405 library card holders (almost half the population of the Greater Fredericton area) and a total circulation of 368,685 items in 2007.³⁹ The French Library, Bibliothèque Dr Marguerite-Michaud, reported 4,139 library card holders and a total circulation of 75,409 items in 2006/07.⁴⁰

e) CCL Learning Index⁴¹

According to the 2008 Composite Learning Index,⁴² the overall index score for Fredericton CA was 78, up 20.0 per cent from 65 in 2007. The 2008 score was 1.3 per cent higher than the national score (77) and 14.7 per cent higher than the New Brunswick score (68).

5) HOUSING

Adequate and affordable housing is an important indicator of the health of our community. By looking at the costs of renting and home ownership,

³⁸ Source: Canadian Council on Learning, based on International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey 2003

http://data.ccl-cca.ca/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=22&CS_Chosenlang=en

³⁹ Source: Fredericton Public Library & Nashwaaksis Public-School Library Annual Report 2007, Prepared by the Fredericton Public Library Board, May, 2008

⁴⁰ Source: Bibliothèque Dr Marguerite-Michaud
<http://www.franco-fredericton.com/bibliomm/index.htm>

⁴¹ Source: Canadian Council on Learning (CCL), CMA and CA data are by special request.
<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/CLI/2007scores.htm>

⁴² The CLI scores data are based on data for the most recent year available. In almost all cases, the data are not for the year of publication of the CLI scores.

along with the use of homeless shelters, we can begin to form a picture of the housing situation and needs in our community.

h) Rental Vacancy Rate (two-bedroom)⁴³

The rental vacancy rate in Fredericton increased from 4.6 per cent in 2005 to 5.4 per cent in 2006 and 7.1 per cent in 2007.⁴⁴ An increase in vacancy rates may mean that slower employment growth, out-migration, and relatively low mortgage carrying costs have weakened demand for rental housing.

i) Proportion of Units Requiring Major Repair

In Fredericton CA in 2006, 7.8 per cent of dwelling units required major repairs. This was 4.0 per cent higher than the national average and 19.6 per cent lower than the provincial average. This was down from 8.4 per cent in 2001.⁴⁵

j) Gross Shelter to Income Ratio

The following table shows the per cent of households spending 30% or more of their income on gross rent and the per cent of households where the owner's major payments⁴⁶ as a percentage of household income exceeds 30 per cent.

Households that rent in Fredericton have shown an increase of 12.8 per cent from 2000 to 2005, and are higher than the equivalent for Canada or New Brunswick.

⁴³ Note: based on vacancy rates (%) in privately initiated rental apartment structures of three units and over

⁴⁴ Source: [Rental Vacancy Rates \(%\) in Vital Signs Communities, 2005, 2006 and 2007](#)

⁴⁵ Source: [Proportion of Units Requiring Major Repair for Vital Signs Communities, 2001 and 2006](#)

⁴⁶ 'Major payments' refers to the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that own their dwelling. The owner's major payments include, for example, the mortgage payment and the costs of electricity, heat and municipal services. (Statistics Canada)

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Households that own in Fredericton have shown a small decrease in the per cent that spend more than 30 per cent of income on major payments from 2000 to 2005. These percentages are much smaller than for New Brunswick or Canada.⁴⁷

	Per cent of Households Spending More than 30% of Income on Rent			Per cent of Households Spending More than 30% of Income on Owner's Major Payments		
	2000	2005	% Change 2000-2005	2000	2005	% Change 2000-2005
Fredericton	39.9	45.0	12.8	11.9	11.7	-1.7
New Brunswick	39.1	39.2	0.3	12.9	12.6	-2.3
Canada	39.6	40.3	1.8	16.0	17.8	11.3

k) Shelter Capacity and Use

As of June 1, 2008 there were two emergency shelters in Fredericton with a total of 50 emergency beds and two transitional shelters for women and children with a total of 24 beds. In 2007, the Fredericton Men's Shelter and the Fredericton Women's Shelter (Grace House) provided a total of 13,759 bed nights for 450 different men and women. This represents 77 per cent occupancy of the two shelters. The first six months of 2008 have seen an increase of both bed nights and individuals of approximately 15 per cent, bringing occupancy to nearly 90 per cent between January and June of 2008.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ Source: [Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Gross Rent and Percent of Households where Owner's Major Payments as a Percentage of Household Income Exceeds 30% in Vital Signs Communities, 2000 and 2005](#)

⁴⁸ Source: Fredericton Emergency Shelter, Executive Director Brian Duplessis

6) GETTING STARTED

How successful we are at bringing newcomers from various cultures into our community and providing the supports they need to succeed and remain is a core measure of our vitality.

a) Median Immigrant Income

In 2005 in Fredericton CA, median immigrant income was \$61,966, compared with average non-immigrant income of \$64,060. Immigrant income was higher than that for New Brunswick (\$55,745) and lower than that for Canada (\$62,242). In 2000, average immigrant income in Fredericton was \$69,987 and average non-immigrant income was \$62,922.⁴⁹ Because of the limited number of recent immigrants to Fredericton, no data is available on the mean income of recent immigrants, which is a much more interesting variable than median income of all immigrants, many of whom have been in Canada for decades.

b) Net Migration

The proportion of the population in Fredericton that had lived in a different province/territory or country five years ago was 7.9 per cent in 2001.⁵⁰ This compares favourably with New Brunswick at 5.4 per cent and Canada at 6.7 per cent. In 2006, the percentage in Fredericton increased to 9.1 per cent, compared to 5.7 per cent for New Brunswick and 6.7 per cent for Canada.⁵¹ Being the capital city and home to many educational, cultural, and social institutions appears to be a drawing card for immigrants. Our challenge is to keep these people here.

c) Unemployment Rate of Immigrants

The unemployment rate of immigrants in Fredericton CA who entered the country within the last five years was higher than for non-immigrants for 1996 (11.1%), 2001 (13.2%), and 2006 (9.1%). For 2006, the rate was 37.9 per cent above the non-immigrant rate.⁵²

d) ESL Programs

⁴⁹ Source: Census 2006, Topic-Based Tabulations
<http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=97-563-XWE2006021>

⁵⁰ Source: [Net Migration in Vital Signs Communities, 2001 and 2006](#)

⁵¹ Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Community Profiles, free download
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Details/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=01&Geo2=PR&Code2=01&Data=Count&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>

⁵² Source: [Unemployment Rate of Immigrants for Vital Signs Communities, 1996 ; Unemployment Rate of Immigrants for Vital Signs Communities, 2001](#)

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284 immigrants were enrolled in ESL programs of the Multicultural Association of Fredericton from April 2007-March 2008.⁵³ This is an increase of 16 students over the previous year.

e) Approved Child Care Facilities

There are 58 approved child care facilities in Fredericton, providing 2,079 spaces. Of those, 1,649 spaces operate in English, 425 operate in French, and five are bilingual.⁵⁴

⁵³ Source: Aida Bahtijarevic, Office Coordinator Multicultural Association of Fredericton, and the 2007 Annual Report of the Multicultural Association of Fredericton Inc.

⁵⁴ Source: NB Department of Social Development web site:
<http://www1.gnb.ca/cnb/daycare/index1-e.asp?PhysicalRegion=3>

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7) ARTS AND CULTURE

One of the signs of a healthy community is the importance placed on arts and culture. Quality of life is vital to residents, visitors, and people interested in relocating to the City.

Fredericton was designated a Cultural Capital of Canada for 2009 by Canadian Heritage. Part of the citation reads as follows: "Fredericton's cultural policy highlights the city's three founding cultures and recognizes the role played by culture in affirming community identity, social cohesion, and economic development."⁵⁵

Fredericton is home to many art galleries including the world-class Beaverbrook Art Gallery, several performance spaces including The Playhouse, an Artists Cooperative and an Arts Centre. There are many annual cultural festivals, including Harvest Jazz and Blues and the Summer Music Festival. The City also offers daily free outdoor cultural programming during the summer months.

a) Household Attendance at Cultural Events

According to a telephone survey carried out in February 2008, statistics were gathered on frequency of attendance at various cultural events during the past year. The following chart⁵⁶ shows the percentage of respondents who attended cultural events.

b) Median Earnings in Professional Occupations⁵⁷ in Arts and Culture

Median earnings of full-time full-year workers in professional occupations in arts and culture in Fredericton CA were \$38,274 in 2005, 13.0 per cent below the national average (\$44,010) and 3.6 per cent below the provincial average (\$39,689). Median earnings were also down 10.1 per cent from \$42,583 (2005 dollars) in 2000.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Source: Heritage Canada web site; http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/ccc/ccc2009_e.cfm

⁵⁶ Source: Pollara Research for Canada Council for the Arts, Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport, Department of Canadian Heritage, New Brunswick Arts Board, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

⁵⁷ Professional occupations in arts and culture include librarians, conservators, curators, archivists, authors, writers, editors, journalists, translators, terminologists, interpreters, occupations in public relations and communications, producers, directors, choreographers, conductors, composers, arrangers, musicians, singers, dancers, actors, comedians, painters, sculptors and other visual artists.

⁵⁸ Source: [Median Earnings of Full-Time Full-Year Earners in Professional Occupations in Arts and Culture, 2000 and 2006](#)

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c) Employment in Cultural and Recreational Industries

In Fredericton CA in 2006, 1,480 persons were employed in occupations related to arts, culture, recreation and sports, up by 0.3 per cent from 2001.

Employment in these industries accounted for 3.1 per cent of total employment, compared with 1.94 per cent in New Brunswick as a whole and 2.98 per cent Canada-wide.⁵⁹

d) Use of Cultural / Performance Spaces

i) Beaverbrook Art Gallery

Total Gallery attendance for 2007 was 36,570, down from 43,775 in 2006. This number does not represent unique individuals or households.⁶⁰ According to the Manager of Communications and Outreach for the Gallery, the 2007 attendance figures are typical. She stated that "attendance for 2006 was larger due to the *Art in Dispute* Exhibition which ran for a number of months."⁶¹

ii) The Playhouse

In 2006-07, 9,672 households attended events at The Playhouse, up from 9,273 in 2005-06.⁶²

e) Attendance at Major Festivals

i) NB Highland Games and Scottish Festival

The New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival welcomed 8,000 visitors in 2007, consistent with the past two years.⁶³

ii) Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival

There were 75,000 admissions to the 2007 Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival. These numbers do not represent unique individuals. This is up from 65,000 in 2005 and 70,000 in 2006.⁶⁴

8) ENVIRONMENT

The quality of our environment and our efforts improve it are key to the health and attractiveness of our city.

⁵⁹ Source: [Fredericton-Oromocto, Economic Region, Employment in Cultural Industries, in Thousands, 1987-2007](#); Appendix Table VII-2-a-i: [New Brunswick, Employment in Cultural Industries, in Thousands, 1987-2007](#)

⁶⁰ Source: Beaverbrook Art Gallery Annual Report 2006; 2007 data from Laurie Glenn Norris, Manager of Communications and Outreach

⁶¹ Source: Email response from Laurie Glenn Norris, Manager of Communications and Outreach

⁶² PowerPoint presentation, The Playhouse, presented to Fredericton City Council, February 17, 2007

⁶³ Source: Melanie Laird, President, New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival

⁶⁴ Source: Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival

Fredericton considers itself a green city. In 2000, the city initiated the First to Kyoto project and subsequently initiated its Green Matters Campaign in 2007. The goals of these initiatives are to reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below benchmark levels by 2010, to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 6% below benchmark levels by 2010, and to be the first City in Canada to attain compliance with the Kyoto protocol.⁶⁵ Fredericton is participating with other cities in the "Partners for Climate Change Challenge" and is already leading the pack.⁶⁶

a) Air Quality

In 2006 the number of days of above threshold levels of 8h ozone was three, up from zero days in 2001. The 2001-2006 period average was one day. The number of days with PM 2.5 concentrations above threshold levels was zero, which was equal to the 2001 number. Over the 2001-2006 period, Fredericton ranked second best of the 15 *Vital Signs* communities for the first indicator and was among the best for the second indicator.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Source: Green Matters website, July 2008

<http://greenmattersfredericton.ca/en/greencityhall/corporateupdate.asp>

⁶⁶ Source: City of Fredericton website and Alycia Morehouse, Climate Change Coordinator, July 2008

<http://www.fredericton.ca/en/environment/environment.asp>

⁶⁷ Source: Environment Canada. Data obtained by special request.

Note: The definitions for ground-level ozone and particulates are from the community accounts data published by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

http://www.communityaccounts.ca/CommunityAccounts/OnlineData/acct_selection.asp?comval=prov&menucomval=prov&whichacct=en

Definition: Ground-level ozone is a reactive, unstable form of oxygen. In very high concentrations, it is a bluish gas. It has a characteristic sharp smell which may be recognized around electrical equipment such as motors or arc welders. In the concentration found in outdoor air, ground-level ozone is both colourless and odourless. Ground-level ozone is formed in the air from other pollutants, most notably nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. Slow-moving air and strong sunshine greatly speed up the formation of ozone. Vehicle exhausts are large contributors of ground-level ozone as well as industrial emissions. Ground-level ozone irritates the lungs and can make breathing difficult. Exposure to high level concentrations can result in chest tightness, coughing, and wheezing. Ground-level ozone can also damage agricultural crops such as potatoes and tomatoes as well as affect trees and other vegetation. Ozone also weakens rubber and attacks metals and painted surfaces. Canada-Wide Environmental Standards (CWSs) have been developed for ground-level ozone. The standard to be achieved by 2015 is 65 ppb. This is based on the 4th highest measurement annually (8 hour means), averaged over three consecutive years.

Particulates are particles in the air either from a natural origin or as a result of human activity. PM-2.5 is particulate matter with an effective diameter of 2.5 microns or less which bypass filtration in the nose and may be deposited in the lungs. This is referred to as "respirable" particulate. Common natural sources of particulates include wind-blown soil dust, forest fires, sea salt, volcanoes, and plants, as well as human activity such as fuel combustion and any other burning, travel on dirt roads, construction work, and mining and quarrying. In analyzing particulates, PM-2.5 is of special significance in terms of health impacts since it has a higher chance of entering and remaining in the lungs if inhaled. People with existing breathing complaints such as asthma, bronchitis, or emphysema are likely to be adversely affected by

b) Recycling Rates

The City of Fredericton operates three recycling depots, located at Brookside Mall, Fredericton Exhibition grounds (FREX) and the Smythe St. Plaza at the top of Smythe next to Canadian Tire. The average monthly tonnage for all recycling depots in the first five months of 2008 was 26,344 kilograms, up from 23,718 kilograms in 2007. In addition, the diversion rate at the Fredericton landfill for the first five months of 2008 was 11.7 per cent, down from 13.4 percent for 2007 but up from 2006 at 11.7 per cent.⁶⁸

c) Water Use Per Capita

In 2004, the average daily flow of water for residential use⁶⁹ in Fredericton CA was 309.9 litres per capita, up 11.1 per cent from 2001. The average daily flow was well below both the provincial rate of 438 and the national rate of 336.⁷⁰

9) WORK

high concentrations of particulates. Particulates can also cause corrosion and soiling of metal or other materials, damage vegetation, and reduce visibility. Canada-Wide Environmental Standards (CWSs) have been developed for PM-2.5. The standard to be achieved by 2010 is 30 mg/m³. This is based on the 98th percentile measurement annually (24 hour means), averaged over three consecutive years.

⁶⁸ Source: Mark H. Hymers, P.Eng., Senior Engineer, Engineering and Public Works Department, City of Fredericton

⁶⁹ Note: The average daily flow of water for CMA and CA is estimated by the population weighted average of the municipal water distribution services, based on the 2004 population distribution. The total population for the municipal water distribution service does not necessarily match the population of the municipality.

⁷⁰ Source for municipal data: [Total Average Daily Flow of Water for Residential Use in Litres per Capita in Vital Signs Communities, 1999, 2001 and 2004](#)

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Employment, unemployment, and earnings provide indicators of the economic health of our community.

Fredericton has demonstrated strong employment growth in recent years, as well as healthy employment and unemployment rates.

a) Employment Growth

Fredericton CA had employment growth of 6.9 per cent in 2007, which was 4.6 percentage points higher than the national rate and 4.8 percentage points higher than the provincial rate. From 1987 through 2007, the average annual employment growth was 1.7 per cent, above the provincial rate (1.3 per cent) and the national rate (1.6 per cent).⁷¹

b) Employment Rate

In 2007, Fredericton CA had an employment rate of 69.2 per cent, 16.9 per cent higher than the New Brunswick rate and 9.0 per cent higher than the national rate. The employment rate in the Fredericton CA has increased 13.1 per cent since 1987.⁷²

c) Unemployment Rate

In 2007, the unemployment rate for the Fredericton economic region was 4.8 per cent, below the national rate of 6.0 per cent and well below the New Brunswick rate of 7.5 per cent. The unemployment rate has decreased 3.9 percentage points since 1987.⁷³

d) Average and Median Earnings in 2000 and 2005 for Persons Working Full Year Full-time in Real Terms

In 2005, average annual earnings in Fredericton CA were \$44,179, up 2.0 per cent from the year 2000. This was 6.7 per cent higher than in New Brunswick and 13.7 per cent lower than in Canada as a whole. Median annual earnings in 2005 were \$37,357 in Fredericton CA, down 1.9 per cent from 2000. The 2005 figure was 5.9 per cent higher than in New Brunswick and 9.8 per cent lower than in Canada as a whole.⁷⁴

10) LEADERSHIP AND BELONGING

⁷¹ Source: [Employment Levels and Growth in Vital Signs Communities, 1987, 1996-2007](#)
[Employment Levels and Growth in Vital Signs Communities, 2001-2006](#)

⁷² Source: [Employment Rate \(15+\) in Vital Signs CMAs and CAs, 1987-2007](#)
[Employment Rate \(15+\) in Vital Signs Communities, 2001 and 2006](#)

⁷³ Source: [Unemployment Rate \(15+\) in Vital Signs CMAs and CAs, 1987-2007](#) Note: Data from the labour force survey are based an annual average.

⁷⁴ Source: [Average and Median Hourly Earnings \(in current dollars\) for Vital Signs CMAs and Economic Regions 1997-2007](#); [Average and Median Real Hourly Earnings \(in 2002 dollars\) for Vital Signs CMAs and Economic Regions 1997-2007](#)

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Voter turnout and participation through volunteer efforts and charitable donations are indications of how committed we are to supporting our community and being responsible citizens.

a) Voter Turnout

i) Federal Elections

For the most recent Federal Election in 2006, 68.0 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot. This compares with 61.8 per cent in 2004 and 62.8 per cent in 2000. For all three elections, Fredericton had a somewhat larger turnout than the national average and somewhat lower than New Brunswick.

ii) Provincial Elections

Provincial electoral boundaries changed before the 2006 provincial election. The average voter turnout in 2006 for the five Fredericton ridings⁷⁵ was 63.9 per cent. Average voter turnout for the four Fredericton ridings⁷⁶ was 63.1 per cent in 2003 and 71.4 per cent in 2001.⁷⁷

iii) Municipal Elections

The average voter turnout for the last three municipal elections was 41 percent. The most recent municipal election, in 2008, had a voter turnout of 33.8 per cent.

b) Volunteer Rate

In 2004, 57.1 per cent of persons over the age of 14 were engaged in unpaid volunteer activities. This is well above both the New Brunswick volunteer rate (43.8 per cent) and the national rate (45.3 per cent).⁷⁸

c) Proportion of Household Donors to Total Tax Filers

Fredericton CA had 28.8 per cent of tax filers declaring charitable donations in 2006, down marginally from 29.2 per cent in 2004 and 2005. The 2006 rate is 4.2 percentage points above the national rate (24.6) and 6.0 percentage points above the rate for New Brunswick (22.8).⁷⁹

d) Median Charitable Donations

Fredericton CA had median charitable donations⁸⁰ of \$360 in 2006, which is 44.0 per cent higher than the national average (\$250) and 24.1 per cent higher than

⁷⁵ Fredericton Nashwaaksis, Fredericton Fort-Nashwaak, Lincoln, Silverwood, New Maryland

⁷⁶ Fredericton North, Fredericton Fort-Nashwaak, Fredericton South, New Maryland

⁷⁷ Source: Elections New Brunswick, Laura Edaymi, July 2008

⁷⁸ Source: [Volunteer Rate for Vital Signs, 2000 and 2004](#)

Note: Geographic units appear to be defined in terms of communities which are on the basis of municipal boundaries

⁷⁹ CAs Data from Statistics Canada, Small Area and Administrative Data Division. Special Request

⁸⁰ Note: Donations based on the amount declared on line 340 of the income tax form

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the New Brunswick average (\$290). Median donations have increased 16.1 per cent from \$310 in 2001.⁸¹

⁸¹ CAs Data from Statistics Canada, Small Area and Administrative Data Division. Special Request

11) TRANSPORTATION / GETTING AROUND

Fredericton covers an area of 13,100 hectares divided by a river. This can make getting around the City for work, shopping, and entertainment a challenge at times. 457 hectares consist of green spaces, including the natural forest of Odell Park, Killarney Lake and Wilmot Park.

e) Proportion of the Population Using Public Transport

In 2006, 3.2 per cent of workers⁸² in Fredericton CA used public transportation to get to work. This was an increase from 2.7 per cent in 2001.⁸³

f) Median Commuting Distance

In 2006, the median commuting distance to work in Fredericton was 5.5 kilometres, unchanged from 2001. This was 27.6 per cent lower than the national average (7.6 km) and 19.1 per cent lower than the provincial average (6.8 km).

g) Kilometres of Trails

Fredericton has in excess of 80 kilometres of non-motorized multi use trails. During the winter months many of these trails are groomed for cross-country skiers, snowshoers and walkers.

In the Capital City Municipal Plan, the continued expansion of non-motorized multi use trails has been identified as a priority. In future years, the current network of trails will be expanded with the development of on-road connections as described in the Trails / Bikeways Master Plan.⁸⁴

h) Per Cent of Buses with Bike Racks

There are 28 City buses in Fredericton, all of which have bike racks.⁸⁵

i) Use of Buses and Bike Racks

Total bus ridership on City buses increased from 663,737 in 1998 to 1,140,860 in 2007. Ridership peaked at 1,208,752 in 2006, and decreased 5.6 per cent in 2007. While statistics aren't kept about bike rack usage, drivers generally report 5 to 6 bikes per shift.⁸⁶

⁸² Aged 15 and over

⁸³ Source: [The Percent of Workers Who Use Public Transportation to Get to Work for Vital Signs Communities, 2001 and 2006](#)

⁸⁴ Source: City of Fredericton web site
<http://www.fredericton.ca/en/recreation/trailinformation.asp>

⁸⁵ Source: Sandy MacNeil, Fredericton Transit, June 27, 2008

⁸⁶ Source: Sandy MacNeil, Fredericton Transit

Fredericton's *Vital Signs*® 2008

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