

HOW DO WE PARTICIPATE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

The Cowichan Valley is a place where artists and artisans love to create, people of all ages engage in a large variety of sport and outdoor activities, and people still play tennis and bowl at outdoor lawn courts. People here gather for rallies, for causes, and to support families and cultural events. They love our community's various music festivals and enjoy one of the island's best year-round farmers market in the heart of Downtown Duncan. The Cowichan Valley has active and engaged citizens who often take on multiple roles in our community. And, whether they are tackling complex social issues, or planning the next community event, they are working together to build a better community for everyone who lives here.

BELONGING & PARTICIPATION

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VOLUNTEERS & THEIR ECONOMIC IMPACT

350
Voluntary
Organizations

Economic Impact of
Charitable
Organizations
\$119 M¹

VOTER TURNOUT

Cowichan		62% ²	63% ⁴
Provincial elections	BC	55% ³	58%
	Comparison	2013	2017
2019 Federal elections	Cowichan- Langford- Malahat ⁵	70%	67%
	National ⁶		

WOMEN IN LOCAL LEADERSHIP

% of seats won by women per election

	Comparison	2014	2018
CVRD		45	56
Municipality of North Cowichan		50	43
City of Duncan		33	50
Town of Lake Cowichan		50	60
Town of Ladysmith		17	29
		2014	2017
Cowichan Tribes	Comparison	39	31
Stz'uminus		27	50
Lyackson		50	50
Halalt		33	33
Penelakut		33	30

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY (ages 13-22)

71% participate in volunteerism

72% play organized sports

77% participate in creative arts

61% are employed

50% participate in some kind of physical activity at least 4 days of the week

Youth involvement in sports & hobbies boosts their resilience, and helps them develop a sense of community.⁷



SENIORS' INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY

In the 2013 Better at Home Report, seniors identified connection with people in their community, visitors to their homes and involvement with community organizations as 3 of the top 5 supports they needed in order to live independently.



Duncan Farmer's Market



Chemainus Theatre



City of Duncan

BELONGING & PARTICIPATION

Arts & Culture

"A picture of a strong and engaged arts, culture and heritage community in the Valley is emerging." Cowichan Culture

LAKETOWN RANCH (Lake Cowichan)

home to Canada's largest outdoor permanent stage⁸

with a **20,000** person capacity, drawing performers like Snoop Dogg & Keith Urban

WE HAVE

434
artists

registered in the Cowichan Region

CULTURAL ECONOMY

- 44 Art galleries & studios
- 18 Museums
- 7 Cultural Centers
- 7 Theatres 
- 5 Arts Councils
- 5 Wineries & Cideries

HIGHLIGHTS

Chemainus Theatre is famous for "big shows for a little town" creating and designing its own widely acclaimed productions.

Local groups producing community theatre that grow local talent include Ladysmith, Kaatza, Shawnigan Lake Players and Arbutus Ridge

The CVRD's Arts & Culture Division has a regional arts mandate that includes the recent addition of a new Arts tax to support local art and artists plus the development of two new arts councils.

"Cowichan Culture" is a great online resource that maps out the cultural resources in the Valley, and keeps an up-to-date inventory of local artists & events.

GATHERING SPACES

(at least!)

42

Churches & spiritual gathering places

5

public libraries

visitors to libraries in the Cowichan Valley in 2015

518,989