

CHAPTER 4

PROGRESS INDICATORS

OUR VISION

A high quality of life for all British Columbians – healthy individuals and communities and sustainable environments and economies.

To fulfill our vision of a high quality of life for British Columbia, our primary task is to create positive outcomes that will enable us to create healthy individuals and healthy communities as well as sustainable environments and economies.

Because these four elements are broad, how do we know whether or not we're moving toward their fulfillment? Specific progress indicators have been identified for each element, helping to clarify the desired results that we in the parks, recreation and culture sector strive toward.

Healthy Individuals

To be a healthy individual means to experience increased levels of health, life satisfaction and enjoyment, and personal wellbeing. As a result, healthy individuals benefit the family, the community and society as a whole.

To measure our progress in creating and supporting healthy individuals, here are seven indicators:

- **Increased Levels of Health and Wellbeing:** People of all ages enjoy higher levels of overall health and wellbeing and personal development through physically active and meaningful lifestyles.
- **Prevention and Management of Chronic Diseases:** Chronic disease levels are reduced as individuals engage in healthy living behaviours that prevent chronic disease onset. Healthy living behaviours are a key element in the management of chronic diseases and rehabilitation programs.
- **A Culture of Participation:** Participation in recreation and healthy living activities has become the cultural norm. Participation has become a core value of all generations.
- **Lifelong Learning and Development:** Individuals seek new information, ideas and skills throughout their life stages. The parks, recreation and culture sector is a major contributor toward learning experiences.
- **Development of Creative Processes:** Individuals develop their personal creative processes and skills and appreciate the culture and creativity of others.
- **Increased Opportunities for All:** The range of opportunities to participate and learn new skills is expanded in all B.C. communities. Barriers, whether social, financial or physical, have been addressed to ensure that opportunities are available to all individuals.
- **Awareness and Personal Skills:** Individuals understand the benefits of recreation and know about opportunities to participate. Their behaviour is affected as a result of this awareness. Personal planning and decision-making skills are improved and support healthy lifestyle choices.



Measuring
Measuring our Success
our Success



Healthy Communities

Individuals do not live in a vacuum and their health and wellbeing are continuously influenced by the environments in which they live, work, learn and play. Community progress indicators describe the conditions in communities that support positive, active and healthy lifestyle choices and opportunities.

To measure our progress in creating and supporting healthy communities, here are eight indicators:

- **Community Capacity and Supportive Environments:** There is a solid base of recreation, parks and cultural environments that support positive lifestyle choices. Workplaces, educational institutions and other community facilities similarly support individuals, families and groups. These facilities are viewed as investments, not as costs.
- **Renewed Infrastructure:** Recreation, parks and cultural infrastructure is renewed on an ongoing cycle to better meet changing needs, become more energy efficient and remain important and sustainable assets to the community. There is stable and sustainable funding.
- **Community Design for Living:** Communities are designed to have adequate open space, to preserve and highlight natural features, have a high degree of physical connectivity and walkability, and reflect smart growth principles.
- **Connectivity and Sense of Community:** There are high levels of social capital and interpersonal connectivity in neighbourhoods and communities, resulting in a positive sense of community. There is a strong and responsive volunteer base in a caring community.
- **Governance and Citizen Engagement:** Community governance is open and transparent. There is a high level of citizen participation in decision-making; policies and processes have been developed that support and foster citizen engagement.
- **Inclusive and Accessible Communities:** The community celebrates diversity and ensures that all citizens have access to basic services and opportunities. Physical accessibility to indoor and outdoor amenities is provided wherever possible.
- **Cultural Identity and Support:** The community values cultural facilities and opportunities including the arts, libraries, museums and natural and built heritage.
- **Improved Perceptions of Personal and Community Safety:** Parks, recreation and cultural environments are considered to be safe and the sector contributes to an overall sense of community safety and security.

Sustainable Environments

Natural environments, including the quality of air and water, have significant impacts on overall quality of life. The degree to which we conserve and the manner in which we manage natural resources and environments play a critical role in the health and vitality of the present generation as well as future generations. As the parks, recreation and culture sector, we are stewards of significant natural environments at the community and regional levels. We also use significant resources to provide and operate facilities, programs and parks systems.

To measure our progress in creating and supporting sustainable environments, here are eight indicators:

- **Preservation of Natural Areas:** Natural areas and sensitive habitats are preserved and protected as legacies to future generations.
- **Sustainable and Connected Open Space Systems:** Open space is treated as a system including various types of recreational open spaces, natural areas and greenway connections. The system is sustained through adequate financial and human resources.
- **Improved Environmental Practices:** The management practices related to both construction and maintenance of open spaces are based on sound environmental practices. There are environmental policies for practices such as chemical use and urban forest management.
- **Increased Sense of Stewardship:** There are high levels of citizen action, individually or in groups, in the stewardship of the environment.
- **Healthy Environments:** Clean air and water are a priority and natural ecosystems are kept in pristine states.
- **Balance between Recreation and Protection:** The recreational use of natural areas is balanced with the protection of the environment. Similarly, there is a balance between economic interests and the protection of sensitive natural areas.
- **Green Infrastructure/Facilities:** Facilities are designed, constructed and operate in a manner that minimizes their environmental impact and demonstrate leadership in best practices.
- **Individual and Community Awareness and Responsibility:** Citizens have a high level of awareness of the value of sustainable environmental practices and take individual responsibility to contribute to environmental health.

Sustainable Economies

The parks, recreation and culture sector is an important contributor to local economies as well as the provincial economy. It is a major employer when combining the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. In addition to its own direct purchase of goods and services within local and provincial economies, it stimulates the retail sector when citizens purchase equipment and supplies for recreational and cultural use. The sector plays a direct or supportive role of local tourism, especially through sport tourism and other events that attract out-of-town visitors, as well as through eco-tourism, agri-tourism and cultural/heritage tourism.

To measure our progress in creating and supporting sustainable economies, here are three indicators:

- **Economic Impact Levels:** The overall economic impacts of the parks, recreation and culture sector are measured and appreciated at the provincial, regional and local levels. These levels are monitored on an ongoing basis.
- **Contributions to Tourism:** In addition to the overall economic impacts, the sector's contributions to tourism-related activities are measured and reported for both special events and ongoing activities.
- **Sustainability of Infrastructure and Services:** The economic impacts of not adequately sustaining recreation, parks and culture infrastructure are measured and communicated. Of particular concern are higher downstream costs when infrastructure is neither renewed nor replaced in a timely way.