

SOUTH ISLAND
PROSPERITY
PARTNERSHIP

NEWS RELEASE

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South Island Prosperity Partnership releases 2019 South Island Prosperity Index

Victoria, BC — The newly released 2019 South Island Prosperity Index shows that our region performs very well on indicators related to environmental and human health, but we fall behind when it comes to transportation and mobility, and surprisingly, voter participation and immigration.

Today, at a sold-out Chamber of Commerce event, the South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) released the 2019 South Island Prosperity Index, a tool which provides a holistic view of prosperity by tracking more than 100 indicators that measure our region's long-term progress and economic health, as well as comparing them to other cities across Canada.

Unlike traditional measures, such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Index provides a holistic view of regional prosperity across five themes:

- Economic Resiliency
- Transportation and Mobility
- Housing and Affordability
- Human Health
- Environmental Health

A sampling of key findings in the 2019 South Island Prosperity Index:

- The concentration of fine particulate matter in our air has worsened (7.4 PPM), but is still better than peer city average of 7.8 PPM.
- This year's index includes immigrants as a percentage of the population. At 18.3%, we fall far short of other cities at 26.9%.
- Commuters in our region spent 30% less time getting to work than those in our peer cities, but our region still has less cycle infrastructure (48 km per 100,000 population compared to over 80) than other Canadian Cities
- Rental housing as a percentage of new housing starts in our region is 49.3%, compared to 24.2% in peer cities.

The full 2019 South Island Prosperity Index is available at:
www.southislandprosperity.ca/prosperity-index/

“This is the second edition of SIPP’s flagship economic publication and it’s incredibly useful as a tool to compare the South Island to peer cities,” said SIPP Interim CEO, Bruce Williams. “The Prosperity Index ensures that there is a consistent methodology for tracking progress from year to year. When we ask, ‘How do we measure prosperity?’, this is the report that gives us the data and insight to do that. We’re grateful to our sponsor, Coastal Community Credit Union, for their support in developing the Index.”

“We are proud to sponsor the South Island Prosperity Index. It’s a valuable tool to gauge our region’s progress and draw attention to where we need to improve,” said Adrian Legin, Coastal Community Credit Union President and CEO. “This deep analysis of the factors that affect our quality of life aligns perfectly with our commitment to enrich people’s lives and build healthier communities.”

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Media Contacts

Taryn Malcolm
Marketing & Communications Specialist, SIPP
tmalcolm@southislandprosperity.ca
(778) 676-9755

Kathi Springer
kspringer@pacegroup.com
(250) 888-8767

ABOUT SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP

The South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) is the economic development organization for Greater Victoria, B.C., comprised of 50+ members, including 10 local governments, seven First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, seven industry associations and non-profits, and more than 20 major employers, all working together to bolster our region’s economic and social prosperity. This will happen by catalyzing the creation of high-quality, household-sustaining jobs, so that more families can afford to live, work and build a life here.

SIPP’s mission is to facilitate and promote the development of a strong, regionally diversified economy on South Vancouver Island. www.southislandprosperity.ca

Here’s what people are saying about SIPP (video): www.southislandprosperity.ca/media-gallery/