



Notice of Meeting and Meeting Agenda Capital Regional District Board

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

12:05 PM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC

The Capital Regional District strives to be a place where inclusion is paramount and all people are treated with dignity. We pledge to make our meetings a place where all feel welcome and respected.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1. [25-0422](#) Minutes of the March 12, 2025 Capital Regional District Board Meeting

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Capital Regional District Board meeting of March 12, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Attachments: [Minutes - March 12, 2025](#)

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

5.1. Presentations

5.2. Delegations

5.2.1. **25-0456** Delegation - Andrea Miller; Resident of View Royal: Re: Agenda Item 8.2. Wildlife Attractants in the Capital Region

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1. [25-0328](#) 2024 Community Works Fund Annual Report

Recommendation: There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Attachments: [Staff Report: 2024 Community Works Fund Annual Report](#)
[Appendix A: CWF Funding Summary](#)
[Appendix B: 2024 CWF Grants Awarded](#)
[Appendix C: 2024 CWF Detailed Breakdown by EA](#)

- 6.2. [25-0329](#) 2024 Electoral Areas Grants-In-Aid Annual Report
- Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: 2024 Grants-In-Aid Annual Report](#)
 [Appendix A: 2024 Electoral Areas Grants-In-Aid Awarded](#)
- 6.3. [25-0371](#) Core Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Odour Mitigation Update
- Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: Core Area WWTP Odour Mitigation Update](#)
- 6.4. [25-0377](#) Regional Resident Experience Survey
- Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: Regional Resident Experience Survey](#)
 [Appendix A: Regional Resident Experience Survey Results](#)
 [Presentation: Resident Survey Results](#)
- 6.5. [25-0403](#) Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) 2024 Overview
- Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: FOIPPA 2024 Overview](#)
 [Appendix A: 2024 FOI Request Metrics Tables 1-4](#)
- 6.6. [25-0230](#) Deactivating the Capital Regional District X (Twitter) account
- Recommendation:** The Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
1. That the CRD begin the process of deactivating its X account on April 10, 2025 using the following deactivation procedure:
- a) Inform CRD X followers that the CRD will no longer post to this account.
- b) Publish a message stating the account is inactive and direct followers to the CRD website and other Social Media Channels.
- c) Continue to monitor the growth of Bluesky and consider CRD adopting the platform when it sufficiently matures.
- [At the April 2, 2025 Governance and First Nations Relations Committee meeting, the following motion arising was carried:]
2. Within six months, that the account move from inactive status to full deletion. (NWA)
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: Deactivating the Capital Regional District X \(Twitter\) account](#)
 [Appendix A: Analysis of X alternatives](#)

- 6.7.** [25-0389](#) Letter from Ben Geselbracht, AVICC President; re: Feedback Requested - Reforming the Local Government Act - A Roadmap
- Recommendation:** [At the April 2, 2025 Governance and First Nations Relations Committee, the report was provided for information and a motion to refer the item to the Electoral Areas Committee for discussion was carried:]
There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Correspondence: Letter from AVICC \(March 20, 2025\)](#)
-
- 6.8.** [25-0224](#) Development Variance Permit for Lot 7, District Lot 29, Otter District, Plan VIP59848 - 7827 Dalrae Place
- Recommendation:** The Land Use Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That Development Variance Permit VA000164 to vary Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Bylaw No. 2040, Part 2, be approved as follows:
a. Section 6.07(c) is varied by reducing the flanking yard setback requirement for proposed Lot A from 6 m to 4 m; and
b. Section 6.07(d) is varied by reducing the rear yard setback requirement for proposed Remainder Lot 7 from 10 m to 5.5 m;
for the purpose of alleviating undue hardship for a two-lot subdivision of Lot 7, District Lot 29, Otter District, Plan VIP59848, pursuant to the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation.
(NWP - Voting Block A: JDF EA, Colwood, Langford (Goodmanson), Metchosin, Sooke)
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: Development Variance Permit VA000164](#)
[Appendix A: Subject Property Map](#)
[Appendix B: Proposed Plan of Subdivision](#)
[Appendix C: Variance Request](#)
[Appendix D: Development Variance Permit VA000164](#)
-
- 6.9.** [25-0235](#) Regional Growth Strategy Indicators Report
- Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: Regional Growth Strategies Indicators Report](#)
[Appendix A: 2024 RGS Indicators Report](#)
-
- 6.10.** [25-0248](#) Capital Regional District Emergency Hazmat Team Service Review Implementation Plan
- Recommendation:** The Planning and Protective Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the 2025-2027 Capital Regional District Emergency Hazmat Team Service Review Implementation Plan be approved.
(NWA)
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: CRD Emerg Hazmat Team Service Review Implement'n Plan](#)
[Appendix A: Recommendations - Emerg Hazmat Team Service Review](#)

- 6.11. [24-1024](#) Motion with Notice: Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission (Director Windsor)
- Recommendation:** [At the October 16, 2024 Planning and Protective Services Committee meeting, the item was postponed until the Alternative Approval Process for the Foodlands Access Service was completed.
Bylaw No. 4602, "Foodlands Access Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2024" was adopted by the Board on February 12, 2025.
- At the March 26, 2025 Planning and Protective Services Committee meeting, the following motion with notice was DEFEATED:
The Planning and Protective Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Capital Regional District explores assuming responsibility of the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission as a regional committee, and that staff report back to the Planning and Protective Services Committee.]
There is no recommendation from Committee. This item is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Memo: Notice of Motion](#)
- 6.12. [25-0352](#) 2025 Provincial Budget Highlights
- Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: 2025 Provincial Budget Highlights](#)
 [Appendix A: 2025 Provincial Budget Highlights](#)

7. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- 7.1. [25-0412](#) CAO Quarterly Progress Report No. 1, 2025
- Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: CAO Quarterly Progress Report No. 1, 2025](#)
 [Appendix A: Photographs of Corporate Activities and Initiatives](#)
 [Appendix B: Board Priorities Dashboard Progress Q1, 2025](#)
 [Appendix C: Board Priorities Dashboard Summary of Completed Actions](#)
 [Appendix D: Capital Regional District Advocacy Strategy](#)
 [Appendix E: Advocacy Dashboard Progress Q1, 2025](#)
 [Appendix F: Operating Variance Financial Report Q4, 2024](#)
 [Appendix G: Capital Variance Financial Report Q4, 2024](#)
 [Appendix H: Human Resources Trends and Corporate Safety](#)
- 7.2. [25-0438](#) Biosolids Beneficial Use Management - March Update
- Recommendation:** There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- Attachments:** [Staff Report: Biosolids Beneficial Use Management March Update](#)
 [Appendix A: Letter from Minister of Environment and Parks \(March 19, 2025\)](#)

7.3. [25-0433](#) AAP Requirements for Bylaw No. 4634: Sooke and Electoral Area
Recreation and Facilities Service 2025 Capital Project Loan
Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2025

Recommendation: 1. That in accordance with section 86(3) of the Community Charter, the date of May 23, 2025 be confirmed as the deadline by which elector responses, under the alternative approval process for CRD Bylaw No. 4634, must be submitted to the Capital Regional District by qualified electors within the service participating area;
2. That the attached Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4634 (Appendix B), Notice of Alternative Approval Process (Appendix C), Elector Response Form (Appendix D), and AAP communication channels (Appendix E) be approved; and
3. That the total number of registered electors within the service participating area is 18,255 and that 10% of that number is 1,826 electors.
(NWA)

Attachments: [Staff Report: AAP Requirements for Bylaw 4634 SEAPARC](#)
[Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4634 at Third Reading](#)
[Appendix B: Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4634](#)
[Appendix C: Notice of AAP for Bylaw No. 4634](#)
[Appendix D: Elector Response Form Bylaw No. 4634](#)
[Appendix E: Communication Channels for Bylaw No. 4634](#)

7.4. [25-0443](#) Regional District Services and Service Review Options

Recommendation: There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Attachments: [Staff Report: Regional District Services and Service Review Options](#)
[Appendix A: CRD Regional, Sub-Regional, and Local Services](#)
[Appendix B: Overview Service Planning Improvements since 2013](#)
[Appendix C: Financial Summary - Board Directed Initiatives 2022-2029](#)
[Appendix D: CRD Regional Services Profiles](#)
[Presentation: Regional District Services and Service Review Options](#)

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Electoral Areas Committee

- 8.1. [25-0405](#) Bylaw No. 4671: CRD Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2023, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2025 and Bylaw No. 4673: CRD Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 84, 2025

Recommendation: The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4671, "Capital Regional District Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2023, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2025", be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and
(WP - JDF, SSI, SGI)
2. That Bylaw No. 4671 be adopted.
(WP - JDF, SSI, SGI, 2/3rds on adoption)
3. That Bylaw No. 4673, "Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 84, 2025", be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and
(WP - JDF, SSI, SGI)
4. That Bylaw No. 4673 be adopted.
(WP - JDF, SSI, SGI, 2/3rds on adoption)

Attachments: [Staff Report: Bylaw Nos. 4671 and 4673](#)
[Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4492 Redlined](#)
[Appendix B: Bylaw No. 4671](#)
[Appendix C: Bylaw No. 4673](#)
[Appendix D: Stage 4 Water Conservation Notice](#)

Environmental Services Committee

- 8.2. [25-0236](#) Wildlife Attractants in the Capital Region

Recommendation: [At the March 19, 2025 Environmental Services Committee meeting, this report was presented for information and the following motion arising was carried:]
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That staff be directed to explore creating a public awareness campaign regarding reducing Wildlife Attractants and interactions in the Capital Region. And that this work be done in coordination with other organizations involved in this work.
(NWA)

Attachments: [Staff Report: Wildlife Attractants in the Capital Region](#)
[Appendix A: Get Bear Smart Society Wildlife Attractant Bylaw Toolkit](#)
[Appendix B: Bear Smart Community Program Background Report](#)

Governance and First Nations Relations Committee

8.3. [25-0179](#) Bylaw No. 4668: CRD Delegation Bylaw No. 1, 2017, Amendment Bylaw No. 5, 2025

Recommendation: The Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4668, "Capital Regional District Delegation Bylaw No. 1, 2017, Amendment Bylaw No. 5, 2025" be read a first, second and third time; and (NWA)
2. That Bylaw No. 4668 be adopted. (NWA, 2/3rds on adoption)

Attachments: [Staff Report: Bylaw No. 4668](#)
 [Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4668](#)
 [Appendix B: Consolidated Bylaw No. 4186 \(Redlined\)](#)

8.4. [25-0404](#) Bylaw No. 4520: CRD Board Procedures Bylaw, 2012, Amendment Bylaw No. 13, 2025

Recommendation: The Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4520, "Capital Regional District Board Procedures Bylaw, 2012, Amendment Bylaw No. 13, 2025" be introduced and read a first, second, and third time. (NWA)
2. That Bylaw No. 4520 be adopted. (NWA, 2/3rds on adoption)
3. That the "CRD Best Practices Guide for Meetings" be updated to reflect the changes to electronic meetings and electronic participation. (NWA)

Attachments: [Staff Report: Bylaw No. 4520](#)
 [Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4520](#)
 [Appendix B: Consolidated Bylaw No. 3828 \(Redlined\)](#)

Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission

8.5. [25-0386](#) Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Development Cost Charge Program Update

Recommendation: The Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4669, "Development Cost Charge Bylaw (Juan de Fuca Water Distribution), No. 1, 2000, Amendment Bylaw No. 10, 2025", be introduced and read a first, second and third time.
2. That Bylaw No. 4669 be forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval. (WP - Colwood, Highlands, JDF EA, Langford, Metchosin, Sooke, View Royal)

Attachments: [Staff Report: JDF Water Distribution DCC Program Update](#)
 [Appendix A: Engagement Summary 2025](#)
 [Appendix B: Final Background Report - March 2025](#)
 [Appendix C: Proposed Project List and Water DCC Calculations](#)
 [Appendix D: Proposed Location Reference Maps](#)
 [Appendix E: Bylaw No. 4669](#)

9. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION**10. NEW BUSINESS****11. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING****11.1. [25-0423](#) Motion to Close the Meeting**

- Recommendation:**
1. That the meeting be closed for Labour Relations in accordance with Section (90)(1) (c) of the Community Charter. [1 item]
 2. That the meeting be closed for Land Acquisition/Disposition in accordance with Section 90(1)(e) of the Community Charter. [2 items]
 3. That such disclosures could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Regional District. [2 items]
 4. That the meeting be closed for a Legal Update in accordance with Section 90(1)(i) of the Community Charter. [3 Items]
 5. That the meeting be closed for Contract Negotiations in accordance with Section (90) (1)(k) of the Community Charter. [2 items]
 6. That such disclosures could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Regional District. [2 items]
 7. That the meeting be closed for Intergovernmental Negotiations in accordance with Section 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter. [3 items]

12. RISE AND REPORT**13. ADJOURNMENT****Voting Key:****NWA - Non-weighted vote of all Directors****NWP - Non-weighted vote of participants (as listed)****WA - Weighted vote of all Directors****WP - Weighted vote of participants (as listed)**

Meeting Minutes

Capital Regional District Board

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

12:10 PM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC

PRESENT

DIRECTORS: C. McNeil-Smith (Chair), M. Little (Vice Chair), M. Alto, P. Brent, S. Brice, J. Brownoff, J. Caradonna, C. Coleman, Z. de Vries, B. Desjardins, S. Goodmanson, C. Harder, G. Holman, P. Jones, D. Kobayashi, K. Murdoch, D. Murdock, C. Plant, S. Ridell (for R. Windsor), M. Tait, D. Thompson, S. Tobias, A. Wickheim, K. Williams

STAFF: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; N. Chan, Chief Financial Officer; A. Fraser, General Manager, Infrastructure Water Services; M. MacIntyre, Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services; L. Jones, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services; K. Lorette, General Manager, Housing, Planning and Protective Services; K. Morley, General Manager, Corporate Services; S. Carey, Senior Manager Legal and Risk Management; S. Henderson, Senior Manager, Real Estate and SGI Administration; P. Kickham, Manager Environmental Regulations; P. Klassen, Senior Manager Regional Planning; R. Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management; R. Tooke, Senior Manager, Environmental Innovation; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; S. Orr, Senior Committee Clerk (Recorder)

Regrets: Director R. Windsor

The meeting was called to order at 12:27 pm.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Territorial Acknowledgement was provided in the preceding meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Murdoch,
That the agenda for the March 12, 2025 Session of the Capital Regional District Board be approved with the removal of agenda item 8.1.
CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1. [25-0249](#) Minutes of the February 12, 2025 Capital Regional District Board Meeting

MOVED by Director Murdoch, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,
That the minutes of the Capital Regional District Board meeting of February 12, 2025 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Good afternoon. I will note that while our open agenda has somewhat fewer items than usual, this reflects three things. The first is that our committees have done their important work and many of the items from committee are under the consent agenda. Items on consent are no less important, but again, a reflection of the committee work that has been done. The second is the consideration of final approval of our 2025 to 2029 budget, and I want to acknowledge the considerable work by staff and the Board that led to the approval of the Provisional Budget last fall. Today staff will present the changes that have taken place since that approval. The other item is consideration of advancing a significant Board priority, which is the next step in the process to establish a regional transportation authority. There will be interest from the public in our process and I want to encourage directors to help bring awareness to our process with your fellow elected representatives and in your respective communities. A transportation service presents a great opportunity for us to work together in a new way for our region. I want to provide a brief update on recent meetings regarding US tariffs and Canadian tariff counter measures. Approximately two weeks ago, CAO Robbins, CFO Chan and myself attended a 90 minute webinar hosted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). This was a helpful session and I was impressed with the work that FCM had done in advancing what our local government interests across the country and trying to be a part of Canada's efforts. The FCM acknowledged that they were seeking out to receive legal opinions on procurement processes, and that information has been forwarded to the Board. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) hosted a meeting where Premier Eby made introductory remarks. Minister Kahlon and UBCM present President Mondale provided remarks and took questions and were receptive to looking at procurement by local governments and seeing if there are ways that we can work together in moving this forward. While we are all aware that the CRD launched a new public website last week to improve access to information and services, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank the staff leadership and all staff who worked on this important project. The website receives more than two million visits per year, which itself is a testament to the importance and value that it serves our public. Today marks a solemn date for the end of Canada's mission in Afghanistan that was the largest deployment since World War 2, with over 40,000 Canadian military personnel, 159 Canadian military members gave the ultimate sacrifice, along with eight civilians, and many more succumbed to their own hand by a direct result of the conflict. As CRD is host to both 443 Squadron and Royal Canadian Navy's Pacific Fleet (MARPAF), where many serving and retired veterans and their families have been directly affected by their deployments, it's appropriate to recognize their contribution. The ceremony will be held tonight at the BC Afghanistan Memorial in Victoria. I want to take a moment and ask all Directors to join me in acknowledging Director Sid Tobias and Director Doug Kobayashi. Thank you for your service to the Canadian military. They are wearing their medals today in remembrance, as well as reading the names of those who sacrificed their lives at the event this evening.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED by Director Murdoch, **SECONDED** by Director de Vries,
That consent agenda items 6.1. through 6.16. be approved.
CARRIED

- 6.1.** [25-0266](#) Advocacy on Speed Limits in Electoral Areas
1. That the Board Chair write a letter to Minister Farnsworth advocating for greater engagement with Electoral Area Directors on matters relating to speed limits and highway signage in the CRD Electoral Areas; and,
2. That staff be directed to request a meeting at UBCM between the Electoral Area Directors and Minister Farnsworth to discuss the need for more engagement on speed limits and highway signage.
CARRIED
- 6.2.** [25-0232](#) Union of British Columbia Municipalities Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant 2025 - Motion of Support
- That staff be instructed to apply for, negotiate, and if successful, enter into an agreement, and do all such things necessary for accepting grant funds and overseeing grant management for the proposed project.
CARRIED
- 6.3.** [25-0168](#) Motion with Notice: BC Ferries Advisory Committees (Director Holman)
- That the CRD Board urge BC Ferries to reinstate Ferry Advisory Committees or similar engagement opportunities for Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands.
CARRIED
- 6.4.** [25-0149](#) Verbal Update on the Addition of Flexible Plastics Collection to the Blue Box Program
- This report was received for information.
- 6.5.** [25-0090](#) Options for Flexible Plastics Collection for Multi-Family Dwellings
- That staff report back to committee with the results of the pilot project.
CARRIED
- 6.6.** [25-0167](#) Motion with Notice: Model Demolition Bylaw (Director Plant)
- That staff be directed to develop a model bylaw for demolition waste and deconstruction for municipalities in the capital region, and that the attached City of Victoria bylaw be used as a starting point.
CARRIED
- 6.7.** [25-0059](#) Capital Regional District External Grants Update
- This report was received for information.

- 6.8. [25-0058](#) Capital Regional District Investment Portfolio Holdings and Performance Annual Update
This report was received for information.
- 6.9. [25-0190](#) Potential Impacts of United States-Canada Tariffs
This report was received for information.
- 6.10. [25-0200](#) Rural Housing Program Pilot Project Update
This report was received for information.
- 6.11. [25-0093](#) Temporary Use Permit Application for Lot A, Section 74, Renfrew District, Plan VIP71883 - 11237 West Coast Road; PID: 024-937-207; and That Part of Section 74, Renfrew District Lying to the North of the Northerly Boundary of Plan 109RW; PID: 009-590-412

1. That the referral of Temporary Use Permit TP000013 to the Shirley-Jordan River Advisory Planning Commission, Pacheedaht & T'Sou-ke First Nations, Island Health, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, RCMP, and appropriate CRD departments be approved and comments be received; and
2. That the Temporary Use Permit TP000013 be approved, as amended.
CARRIED
- 6.12. [25-0251](#) Energy Recovery Project Update

That the Saanich Peninsula Recreation Services Capital Plan be amended to include additional funding of \$1,700,000 for Project 19-15 Heat Recovery Plant, funded by grants \$800,000 and capital reserves \$900,000.
CARRIED
- 6.13. [25-0039](#) 2025 Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference

That staff review Section 3.0(c) of the Terms of Reference at the end of this year.
CARRIED
- 6.14. [25-0188](#) Species at Risk Ecological Monitoring Report
This report was received for information.
- 6.15. [25-0071](#) Previous Minutes of Other CRD Committees and Commissions

1. That the CRD Board advocate to the Province for improved interregional bus service and funding between the Capital Regional District and Cowichan Valley Regional District in recognition that affordable transit and its frequency play a role in traffic safety.
2. That this motion be forwarded to the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board and request their support.
CARRIED

6.16. [25-0252](#) Short-term Biosolids Management Plan - March Update

This report was received for information.

7. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

7.1. [25-0253](#) AAP Requirements for Bylaw No. 4630 - Regional Transportation Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2024

K. Morley spoke to Item 7.1.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- financial impact on Juan de Fuca Electoral Area residents
- maximum requisition as outlined in the bylaw synopsis
- mitigation of negative perception of the service cost
- alternative approval process versus council consent for new regional services
- electoral response form verification and reporting out process
- requisition and consolidation of current services

MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Murdoch,

1. That in accordance with section 86(3) of the Community Charter, the date of May 16, 2025 be confirmed as the deadline by which elector responses, under the regional alternative approval process for CRD Bylaw No. 4630, must be submitted to the Capital Regional District by qualified electors within the Capital Regional District;

2. That the attached Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4630 (Appendix B), Notice of Alternative Approval Process (Appendix C), Elector Response Form (Appendix D), and AAP communication channels (Appendix F) be approved; and

3. That the total number of registered electors within the service area is 331,273 and that 10% of that number is 33,127 electors.

Discussion ensued regarding impact of the service on the 5 year financial plan and value of the requisitions.

The question was called:

1. That in accordance with section 86(3) of the Community Charter, the date of May 16, 2025 be confirmed as the deadline by which elector responses, under the regional alternative approval process for CRD Bylaw No. 4630, must be submitted to the Capital Regional District by qualified electors within the Capital Regional District;

2. That the attached Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4630 (Appendix B), Notice of Alternative Approval Process (Appendix C), Elector Response Form (Appendix D), and AAP communication channels (Appendix F) be approved; and

3. That the total number of registered electors within the service area is 331,273 and that 10% of that number is 33,127 electors.

CARRIED

Opposed: Holman, Jones, Kobayashi, Tobias, Wickheim

Directors Coleman and Little left the meeting at 1:53 pm.

- 7.2. [25-0198](#) Bylaw No. 4674: 2024 to 2028 Financial Plan Bylaw, 2024, Amendment No. 6, 2024

N. Chan spoke to Item 7.2.

**MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Kobayashi,
1. That Bylaw No. 4674, "2024 to 2028 Financial Plan Bylaw, 2024, Amendment
Bylaw No. 6, 2024", be introduced and read a first, second and third time.
CARRIED**

**MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Kobayashi,
2. That Bylaw No. 4674 be adopted.
CARRIED**

- 7.3. [25-0041](#) Bylaw No. 4665: 2025 to 2029 Financial Plan Bylaw, 2025

T. Robbins and N. Chan spoke to Item 7.3.

Directors Coleman and Little returned to the meeting at 1:56 pm.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- resource requirements for corporate plan
- clarification of the forecasted increase in the five year requisition
- regional emergency telecommunication revenue, contribution, and distribution
- financial adjustments related to service review and impacts on budget
- clarification of the 'Requisition by Participant' table
- clarification of taxable folios
- Full time equivalent positions for 2026

**MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Plant,
1. That Bylaw No. 4665, "2025 to 2029 Financial Plan Bylaw, 2025", be introduced
and read a first, second and third time.
CARRIED**

**MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Plant,
2. That Bylaw No. 4665 be adopted.
CARRIED**

**MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Plant,
3. That the Staff Establishment Chart as attached in Appendix G be approved.
CARRIED**

**MOVED by Director Murdoch, SECONDED by Director de Vries,
That the meeting be extended past the 3 hour scheduled time.
CARRIED**

The meeting went into recess at 2:51 pm.
The meeting reconvened at 3:01 pm.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Electoral Areas Committee

- 8.1. [25-0202](#) Bylaw No. 4671: CRD Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2023, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2025 and Bylaw No. 4673: CRD Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 84, 2025
- This item was removed from the agenda.

Environmental Services Committee

- 8.2. [25-0146](#) Biosolids Literature Review Outcomes
- Director Desjardins spoke to Item 8.2.
- Discussion ensued regarding:
- environmental human health risk
 - high level summary of land application of biosolids
 - clarification of comparisons used in the study
- MOVED by Director Desjardins, SECONDED by Director Tobias,
That the Biosolids Literature Review Outcomes report be referred to the Core
Area Liquid Waste Management Committee for information.
CARRIED**

Finance Committee

- 8.3. [25-0212](#) Implications of a “Buy Canadian” Purchasing Preference at the Capital Regional District
- S. Carey presented Item 8.3. for information.
- Discussion ensued regarding:
- monthly reporting of tariff impacts
 - indicators of tariff impact on the economy
 - adjusting the procurement policy related to prioritizing Canadian goods

Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee

- 8.4. [25-0233](#) Public Hearing Report on Bylaw No. 4550, “Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Amendment Bylaw No. 160, 2023”

MOVED by Director Wickheim, **SECONDED** by Director Little,

1. That the minutes that form the Report of Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 4550, “Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Amendment Bylaw No. 160, 2023”, which are certified as a fair and accurate summary of the representations that were made at the public hearing held on January 28, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Wickheim, **SECONDED** by Director Tait,

2. That Bylaw No. 4550 be read a third time.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Wickheim, **SECONDED** by Director Little,

3. That prior to adoption of proposed Bylaw No. 4550, the landowner registers a covenant in favour of the Capital Regional District prohibiting subdivision on District Lot 175, Renfrew District (PID: 023-414-308); and that staff be directed to ensure that all conditions are satisfied towards completion and registration.

CARRIED

- 8.5. [25-0234](#) Public Hearing Report on Bylaw No. 4598, “Shirley-Jordan River Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 5, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2024” and Bylaw No. 4599, “Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Amendment Bylaw No. 162, 2024”

MOVED by Director Wickheim, SECONDED by Director Little,

1. That the minutes that form the Report of Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 4598, “Shirley-Jordan River Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 5, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2024”, and Bylaw No. 4599, “Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Amendment Bylaw No. 162, 2024”, which are certified as a fair and accurate summary of the representations that were made at the public hearing held on January 28, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Wickheim, SECONDED by Director Little,

2. That Bylaw No. 4598, as amended, be read a third time.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Wickheim, SECONDED by Director Little,

3. That Bylaw No. 4598 be adopted.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Wickheim, SECONDED by Director Little,

4. That Bylaw No. 4599 be read a third time.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Wickheim, SECONDED by Director Little,

5. That prior to the adoption of proposed Bylaw No. 4599, the landowner provides an amenity contribution by registering a statutory right-of-way adjacent to West Coast Road in favour of the Capital Regional District for the purpose of establishing a public trail; and that staff be directed to ensure that all conditions are satisfied towards completion and registration.

CARRIED

9. BYLAWS

There were no bylaws for consideration.

10. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

- 10.1. [25-0177](#) Motion with Notice: AVICC - UBCM Resolution on Regional District Chair Elections (Chair McNeil-Smith)

MOVED by Director McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Director Caradonna,
That the Regional Board endorse submission of the following resolution for
consideration by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
(AVICC) and/or the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM):
WHEREAS section 215 of the Local Government Act requires annual elections for
Regional District Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs;
AND WHEREAS annual leadership changes can be disruptive to a Regional
Board's operational and strategic decision-making;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Local Government Act be amended to
allow for 2-year terms for Regional District Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs.
CARRIED

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

12. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

12.1. [25-0250](#)**Motion to Close the Meeting**

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,

1. That the meeting be closed for Appointments in accordance with Section 90(1)(a) of the Community Charter.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,

2. That the meeting be closed for Land Acquisition/Disposition in accordance with Section 90(1)(e) of the Community Charter.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,

3. That such disclosures could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Regional District.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,

4. That the meeting be closed for Litigation in accordance with Section 90(1)(g) of the Community Charter.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,

5. That the meeting be closed for a Legal Update in accordance with Section 90(1)(i) of the Community Charter.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,

6. That the meeting be closed for Contract Negotiations in accordance with Section (90) (1)(k) of the Community Charter.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,

7. That such disclosures could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Regional District.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Little, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,

That the meeting recess to convene the Closed Sessions of the Capital Region Housing Corporation and Capital Regional District Boards.

CARRIED

The meeting went into recess at 3:28 pm and the Capital Regional District Board moved to the Closed Session at 3:43 pm.

13. RISE AND REPORT

The Capital Regional District Board rose from the closed session at 5:13 pm and reported on the following:

In accordance with Bylaw 3654 that the following be appointed to the Shirley Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2026: Rob Gardner

In accordance with Bylaw 3803 that the following be appointed to the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2026: Simon Fallick

In accordance with Bylaw 3523 that the following be appointed to the Southern Gulf Islands Public Library Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2026: Eric Sherbine

In accordance with Bylaw 4453 that the following be appointed to the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2026: Deborah Jones

That the Capital Regional District Board appoint Kavita Srinivasan to the Royal & McPherson Theatres Society Board for a term ending no later than May 31, 2027.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Director Little, SECONDED by Director Coleman,
That the March 12, 2025 Capital Regional District Board meeting be adjourned at 5:13 pm.
CARRIED

CHAIR**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

CORPORATE OFFICER

**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 09, 2025**

SUBJECT 2024 Community Works Fund Annual Report

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of Community Works Fund (CWF) activity for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

BACKGROUND

CWF is one of three program streams under the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) Program. The CCBF transfer is from the federal government and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) administers the CCBF program on behalf of the province through a trilateral agreement. The agreement between the Government of Canada-Province of BC-UBCM provides a 10-year commitment (2024-2034) to deliver funding to local governments for infrastructure and capacity building projects. This agreement provides the administrative framework for the program. It sets out the funding allocation, program delivery and eligible categories.

To receive funding, local governments are required to enter into an agreement with UBCM as the program administrator. Funding is distributed to local governments through UBCM on a per capita basis. In alignment with Capital Regional District (CRD) Board Direction (September 2024), CWF funds received are distributed to the three Electoral Areas (EAs): Juan de Fuca (JdF), Salt Spring Island (SSI) and Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) on a per capita basis. Once funds are distributed, staff administer the program through a continuous application process.

The CRD has been a recipient of CWF under three agreements: 2005-2014, 2014-2024 and 2024-2034. Appendix A provides a summary of activity since 2006 and remaining balances at the end of 2024. The previous agreement (2014-2024) expired on March 31, 2024, and final payment was received in 2023 under the former agreement. In September 2024 the CRD entered into the next 10-year agreement (2024-2034) with UBCM, and the first-year payment was received in 2024.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

CRD services in the EAs are eligible to access CWF funding. Under the new agreement, third party projects may be able to access funds in limited and restrictive circumstances. The funding is used to support the diverse needs and local priorities in each of the EAs.

In 2024, successful projects under CWF's eligible categories included recreational, drinking water, wastewater, fire halls, solid waste and community energy systems projects. Slight adjustments were made to eligible projects and expenditures under the new agreement. The new agreement also requires local governments to commit to asset management practices. Appendix B details a

list of projects that were awarded in 2024. Appendix C details projects by recipient type and project category.

Financial Implications

2024 Activity

Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of CWF allocation and activity in the EAs for the past two years.

Table 1: Distribution of CWF Funds to EAs

	Population (2021 Census) ¹	%	2024 Allocation (\$)	Population (2021 Census) ¹	%	2023 Allocation (\$)
JdF	5,531	24	325,004	5,531	24	291,531
SSI	11,635	50	683,680	11,635	50	613,263
SGI	6,101	26	358,498	6,101	26	321,575
Total	23,267	100	1,367,182	23,267	100	1,226,369

¹ These numbers are derived from the 2021 Statistics Canada census. In alignment with CRD Board direction (September 2024), these population numbers were used for CWF distribution to the EAs.

Table 2: CWF Funding Awarded to Projects

	2024		2023	
	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)
JdF	10	820,000	1	30,000
SSI	11	446,400	20	1,197,330
SGI	4	940,000	4	189,000
Total	25	2,206,900	25	1,416,330

Remaining Funds

Since 2006, the CRD has awarded \$17.9 million to projects. The CRD has \$3 million in funding remaining uncommitted at the end of 2024. Some CRD services have identified CWF as a potential funding source in the 2025-2029 capital plans to utilize remaining funds.

The new 10-year agreement (2024-2034) with UBCM requires the CWF transfers to the CRD be expended within five years of receipt. Any unspent funds under the former agreement (2014-2024) are also required to be spent within five years of entering the new CWF agreement. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and identified through long-term capital and asset management plans. Unspent funds will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure all funding is utilized.

CONCLUSION

The 2024 CWF Annual Report provides a summary of funding activity in 2024. The program is administered through a continuous application process for services in the EAs. Applications must have EA Director support and are subject to availability of funds and program eligibility, which is coordinated through a rigorous pre-screening and application process. The previous agreement expired on March 31, 2024, and the CRD entered into a new 10-year agreement in September 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Lia Xu, MSc., CPA, CGA, Finance Manager, Local Services and Corporate Grants
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer, GM Finance & IT
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Community Works Fund Funding Summary
Appendix B: 2024 Community Works Fund Grants Awarded
Appendix C: 2024 Community Works Fund Detailed Breakdown by Electoral Area

Community Works Fund Funding Summary

April 1, 2006 – December 31, 2024

CWF Overview	Juan de Fuca (\$)	Salt Spring Island (\$)	Southern Gulf Islands (\$)	Total EAs (\$)
CWF Allocation by Electoral Area	4,584,887	10,025,948	4,798,555	19,409,391
LESS: Funding Assigned to Projects	(4,226,055)	(8,670,071)	(5,023,117)	(17,919,243)
PLUS: Project Surpluses	95,004	154,642	131,273	380,918
PLUS: Interest Earnings	345,829	656,015	153,601	1,155,445
CWF Balance Remaining	799,664	2,166,534	60,312	3,026,510

2024 Community Works Fund Grants Awarded

Total Amount Awarded to Projects: \$2,206,900

Total Number of Projects: 25

JUAN DE FUCA (\$820,500)

No.	CRD Service	Project	Eligible Category	Amount Awarded (\$)
1	Port Renfrew Refuse Disposal	Port Renfrew Transfer Station Entrance Culvert	Solid Waste	30,000
2	Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation	Kemp Lake Fishing Dock Purchase & Installation Uplift	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	16,000
3	Wilderness Mountain Water Service	Wooden Intake Platform Replacement	Drinking Water	95,000
4	Port Renfrew Water & Sewer Services	Port Renfrew Sewer and Water Master Plan Study	Capacity Building	87,500
5	Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation	Condition Assessment and Repairs to the Port Renfrew Community Hall	Capacity Building	75,000
6	JdF Community Planning	Port Renfrew Official Community Plan Update	Capacity Building	150,000
7	Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation	Active Transportation Network Plan	Capacity Building	30,000
8	Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation	Fishboat Bay Viewing Platform and Staircase	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	150,000
CRD Service Total				633,500

No.	Third Party	Project	Eligible Category	Amount Awarded (\$)
1	Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society	Sheringham Point Lighthouse Visitor Management Upgrades	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	37,000
2	Shirley Community Association	Shirley Community Upgrades & Building Improvements	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	150,000
Third Party Total				187,000
Total				820,500

SALT SPRING ISLAND (\$446,400)

No.	CRD Service	Project	Eligible Category	Amount Awarded (\$)
1	SSI Pool & Park Land Combined Service	Electric Vehicle Charger Installation Project	Community Energy Systems	10,000
2	SSI Pool & Park Land Combined Service	Rainbow Recreation Centre Water Piping Replacement Project	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	35,000
3	SSI Pool & Park Land Combined Service	Storage Building Project	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	102,500
4	SSI Pool & Park Land Combined Service	DDC Replacement	Community Energy Systems	16,900
5	Ganges Sewer Utility	Backup Power Generator	Wastewater and Stormwater	77,000
6	SSI Pool & Park Land Combined Service	Brinkworthy Pathway Project	Local Roads, Bridges, and Active Transportation	20,000
7	Beddis Water Service	Beddis Water Treatment Plant Intake	Drinking Water	40,000
8	SSI Pool & Park Land Combined Service	Pool Electric Upgrades (2024 Uplift)	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	50,000
9	Cedars of Tuam Water Service	Well Testing	Drinking Water	50,000
10	SSI Pool & Park Land Combined Service	Rainbow Recreation Centre Safety Upgrades	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	25,000
11	SSI Pool & Park Land Combined Service	SIMS LED Exterior Lighting Project	Community Energy Systems	20,000
CRD Service Total				446,400

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS (\$940,000)

No.	CRD Service	Project	Eligible Category	Amount Awarded (\$)
1	Pender Island Parks and Recreation Service	Schooner Way School Trail	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	200,000
2	Land Banking & Housing Service	Thuthiqt Hulelum - Septic System	Wastewater and Stormwater	200,000
3	Land Banking & Housing Service	Thuthiqt Hulelum - Water Well	Drinking Water	500,000
4	SGL Harbour Service	Montague Road Parking Improvements	Recreation and Sport Infrastructure	40,000
Total				940,000

*These projects have been approved by CRD and remain subject to UBCM / federal approval through completion of the Annual Expenditures Report.

**These projects reflect commitment of projects that have been awarded and do not reflect CWF disbursement.

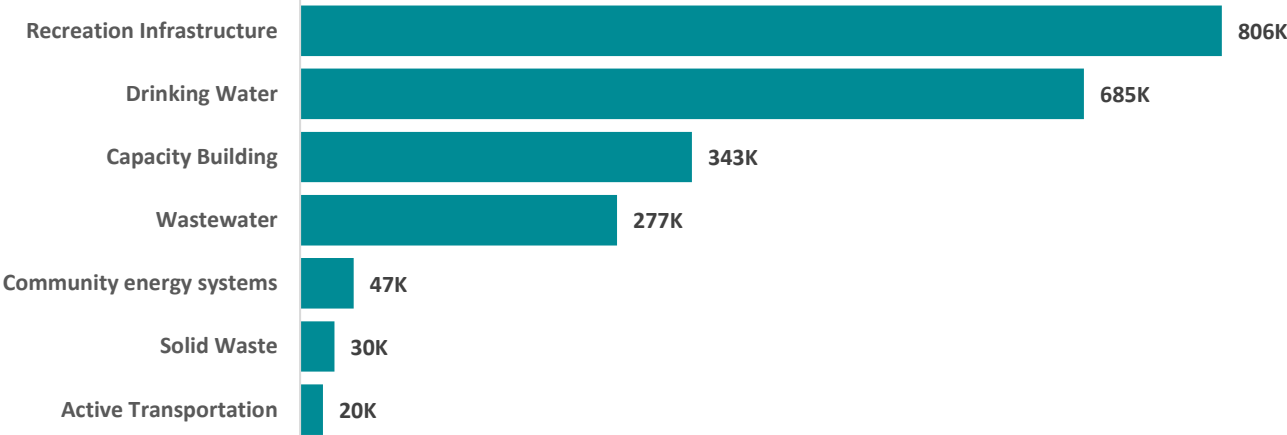
2024 Community Works Fund Detailed Breakdown by Electoral Area

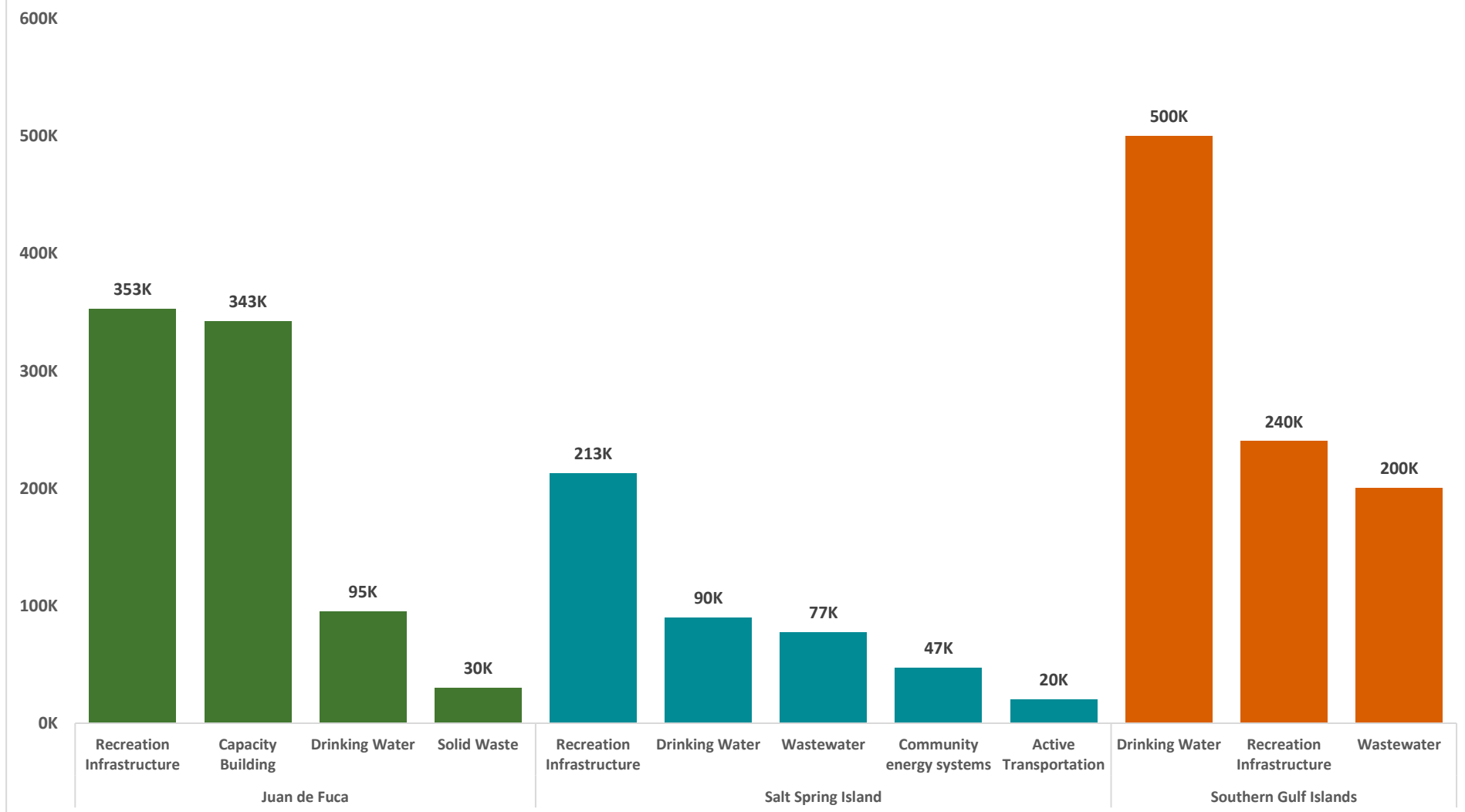
Project Categories under Community Works Fund (CWF)

To be eligible under CWF, as per the Agreement, a proposed project must meet the “Ultimate Recipient” and “Infrastructure” definitions and reflect one of the Eligible Project Categories.

Eligible Project Categories
Local roads, bridges, and active transportation
Short-sea shipping
Short-line rail
Regional and local airports
Broadband connectivity
Public transit
Drinking water
Wastewater and stormwater
Solid waste
Community energy systems
Brownfield redevelopment
Recreation and sport infrastructure
Cultural infrastructure
Tourism infrastructure
Capacity building
Fire Halls and Fire Trucks
Resilience

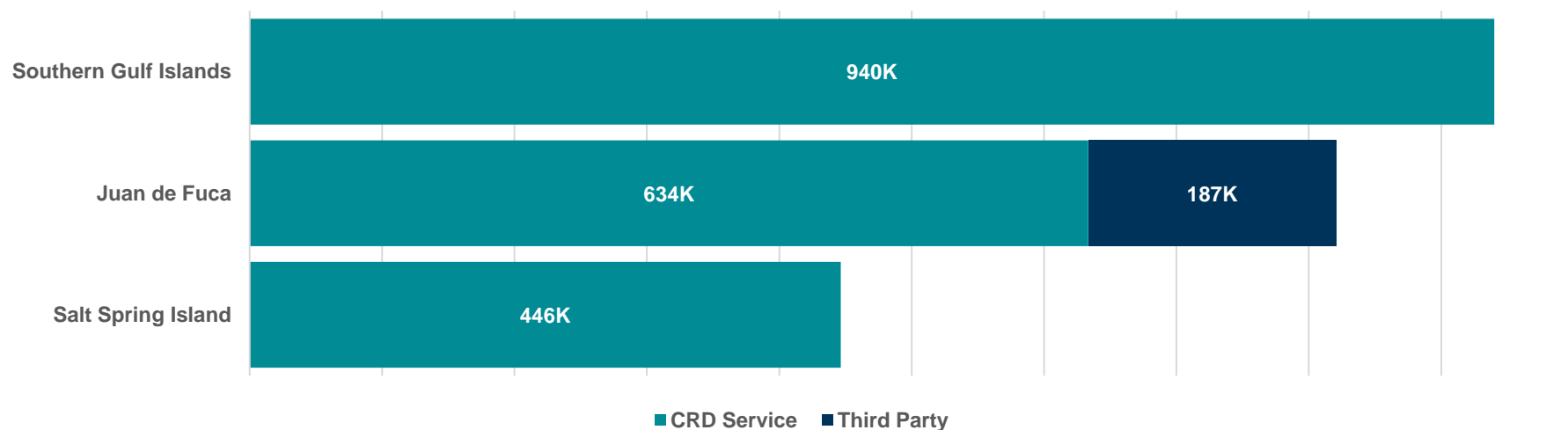
All Electoral Areas combined by Project Category
(JDF, SSI, SGI)



Each Electoral Area by Project Category

Electoral Area by Recipient Type

The following graph provides a summary of grants provided to CRD Services and Third Parties in each EA (and collectively) for 2024.



**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 09, 2025**

SUBJECT **2024 Electoral Areas Grants-In-Aid Annual Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of Electoral Area (EA) Grants-In-Aid (GIA) activity for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Under the Supplementary Letters Patent (SLP), dated March 24, 1977 and amended April 17, 1985, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has authority to deliver GIA within the EAs. These are one-time grants provided through annual tax requisition to community groups that deliver projects in the Juan de Fuca (JdF), Salt Spring Island (SSI) and Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) EAs.

GIA applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed throughout the year. In JdF and SGI, projects are approved year-round. In SSI, projects are approved during two annual intake periods. EA Directors and the SSI Local Community Commission (LCC) support projects that are selected based upon demonstrated benefit to the community respectively, and in alignment with GIA guidelines and grant program criteria. In principle, GIA fund special projects and activities beyond the scope of existing CRD services. Organizations that receive annual requisition funding through CRD established services are excluded from the GIA program. Appendix A details GIA projects awarded in 2024.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

The one-time funding through GIA provides much needed relief to organizations that provide key services to the community beyond the scope of CRD services. In 2024, many of these projects included special events, capacity building and small capital projects related to health, housing and community safety and engagement.

Financial Implications

Table 1 provides a summary of 2024 GIA awarded within each EA.

Table 1: GIA Awarded for 2024

	2024			2023		
	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)
JdF	27,822	2	10,000	31,144	2	3,192
SSI	53,986	18	53,986	43,484	12	39,000
SGI	105,081	20	99,895	100,000	22	100,762
Total	186,889	40	163,881	174,628	36	142,954

Remaining funds at the end of 2024 are carried over to 2025 GIA budgets for each EA.

CONCLUSION

JdF and SGI Grants-in-Aid are awarded throughout the year under the authority of SLP. Applications with EA Director support are reviewed on a continuous basis and are assessed against eligibility criteria. SSI Grants-in-Aid are awarded during spring and fall intake periods, with exceptions being considered on a situational basis. Applications must be supported by the SSI LCC. Organizations who deliver projects in the EA can access the funding for special projects, including events and small capital requests. Remaining funds at the end of 2024 are carried over to 2025 GIA budgets for each EA.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Lia Xu, MSc., CPA, CGA, Finance Manager, Local Services and Corporate Grants
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer, GM Finance & IT
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: 2024 Electoral Areas Grants-In-Aid Awarded

2024 Electoral Areas Grants-In-Aid Awarded

Total Amount Awarded to Projects: \$163,881

Total Number of Projects: 40

JUAN DE FUCA (\$10,000)

No.	Applicant	Project	Amount Awarded (\$)
1	Sooke Region Food CHI Society	East Sooke Community Garden	5,000
2	Otter Point Community Association	Community Hall Building Plans	5,000
		Total	10,000

SALT SPRING ISLAND (\$53,986)

No.	Applicant	Project	Amount Awarded (\$)
1	Salt Spring Literacy	Change door to glass panel and purchase space heaters	998
2	Bandemonium Music Society	Workshop and year-end concert	2,150
3	The Circle Salt Spring Education Society	Training Google Workspace	2,000
4	Wagon Wheel Housing Society	Equipment - Washer and Dryer	2,500
5	Copper Kettle Community Partnership	Country Grocer Gift Cards	5,000
6	Gulf Islands Community Radio Society	Emergency Response Obligations	2,770
7	Transition Salt Spring Society	Two days public collection for chipping and invasive plants	2,500
8	Transition Salt Spring Society	Organize a pilot roadside pickup and chipping of woody debris	2,500
9	Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society	SSI Indigenous Peoples Weekend event June 21-23	4,000
10	Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation Society	Support for the Tours des Isles	4,000
11	Salt Spring Community Health Society	Mental Wellness initiative	5,000
12	Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce	Convergence Festival	3,500
13	Salt Spring Abattoir	Refurbishment of the Ecoflow Septic System	5,000
14	FarmFolk CityFolk Society	Support a Fall Seed Cleaning to Salt Spring Island	1,000
15	Salt Spring Elementary Parent Advisory Committee	Replace the Existing Aged, Inaccessible Playground with New Playground Equipment	3,300
16	Salt Spring Baroque Music Society	Capital Equipment Upgrade Required to Grow the Organization	2,400
17	Salt Spring Health Advancement Network (SSHAN)	Facilitated Community Process to Address the Needs of the Insecurely and Unhoused	3,300
18	The Chuan Community Arts Society	Hearth Community Drop-In Space	2,068
		Total	53,986

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS (\$99,895)

No.	Applicant	Project	Amount Awarded (\$)
1	Gulf Island Food Co-op	Program Expansion	11,450
2	Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society	Technical Workshop	5,000
3	Pender Island Museum	Once Upon a Yuletide Special Event 2023	1,810
4	Saturna Recreation Centre Society	Saturna Kids Gymnastics & Sports Equipment	4,050
5	Salish Sea Marine Rescue Society	Headset Purchase	4,400
6	Pender Island Chamber of Commerce	Member and Visitor Experience Improvements	6,335
7	Mayne Island Housing Society	Salish Grove Subdivision Survey	7,000
8	Mayne Island Early Childhood Society	Retreat to Nature Seminar	3,000
9	Gulf Islands Galisle Affordable Rental Housing Society	Housing Reports	5,000
10	Ptarmigan Arts Society	Lantern Ceremony	5,000
11	Mayne Island Conservancy	Youth Education Nature Program	3,000
12	South Pender Historical Society	Site Safety Project	1,350
13	Pender Island Recreation and Agricultural Hall	Seniors Centre Activity Program	3,000
14	Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society	Housing NOW	6,000
15	Pender Island Conservancy Association	Education Materials	2,500
16	Galiano Activity Centre Society	Storage Shed	4,000
17	Salish Sea Inter Island Transportation Society	Tour des Iles Festival	5,000
18	Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society	Crisp Festival	2,000
19	Campbell Bay Music Festival Society	Viewing Platform	5,000
20	Southern Gulf Islands Neighbourhood House Society	Childcare Facility	15,000
		Total	99,895



Making a difference...together

REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

SUBJECT **Core Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Odour Mitigation Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide an update on the Core Area Odour Mitigation Strategy, a summary of actions taken and planned projects moving forward.

BACKGROUND

The McLoughlin Point Wastewater Treatment Plant (MPWWTP) was designed in accordance with the Project Agreement, which included treatment of all odour-laden air before discharge to the environment. All exhausted air at and beyond the plant boundary property line and the shoreline should have a maximum odour concentration of five odour units per cubic meter (OU/m³). MPWWTP has a sophisticated air collection and handling system, with carbon treatment to manage odour-laden air from the process systems. Despite the state-of-the-art odour control systems, MPWWTP has generated complaints from neighbouring communities since commissioning. As a result, the Capital Regional District (CRD) committed to continued monitoring of the odour control system performance and discharges, and to work directly with equipment suppliers to seek opportunities to further increase potential odour removal.

An internal audit of the odour collection and treatment systems, as well as an analysis of the previous odour complaints, completed at the end of 2022, outlined the odour mitigation steps for future years. These tasks included an odour assessment using dispersion modelling, odour collection upgrades, revisions to plant maintenance procedures, and a recommendation for further review of findings to validate the approach.

Results from the odour modelling work completed by WSP Canada Inc. confirmed the maximum odour concentration at the plant property boundary remains below five OU/m³ during normal plant operations. During plant maintenance work, when tank covers are removed, odour concentrations at the plant property boundary and within the surrounding community were observed to exceed the maximum five OU/m³. Staff continue to log and investigate all odour complaints from the community. This information is used to further inform the modelling and understanding of the impact of maintenance activities on odour dispersion.

Odour Complaints and Public Engagement

In 2024, there were 73 odour complaints received, and each odour complaint was investigated to establish the nature of the odour.

Table 1: Summary of Wastewater Odour Complaints Received

Year	Total Odour Incidents	Number of unique complaints
2018	11	11
2019	19	19
2020	29	27
2021	222	69
2022	101	29
2023	149	46
2024	73	33

Odour complaints were received from CRD residents across the region for concerns related to infrastructure in the Core Area, Saanich Peninsula, Southern Gulf Islands, and at least three directly attributed to non-CRD infrastructure. Historically, several odour complaints were attributed to 16 identified cross connections within the City of Victoria collection system. In 2024, the City of Victoria undertook repairs in Barnard Park eliminating cross connections and mitigating a significant odour source.

Of the 73 odour complaints in 2024, staff estimate that 62 were attributed to the Core Area system. Of those 62 complaints, 49 were directly attributed to MPWWTP and 13 attributed to the conveyance system.

Staff continue to engage the Esquimalt Liaison Committee (ELC) on the odour mitigation strategy and ongoing odour concerns. In addition, the ELC is proactively informed of potential odour generating maintenance work. In 2025 semi-annual meetings are scheduled with this committee (February 27 and September 25), with two operational updates provided May 22 and November 27.

Administrative Improvements

As maintenance activities have been identified as the primary source of odour exceedances outside of the plant property boundary, staff continue to refine and optimize the scheduling and execution of maintenance activities to minimize potential odours.

- Standard operating procedures now require a review of these factors to align potential odour-causing maintenance activities with more favorable atmospheric conditions.
- Improved procedures focused on reducing the required time covers are removed. When covers must be removed, operators track odour conditions and increase the application of an odour neutralizing compound (Ecosorb), now aided with an industrial dispersion fan.

The drop in complaints received in 2024 has been aided by administrative improvements and is projected to improve as numerous equipment upgrades are scheduled to complete later in 2025.

2025 Backwash Tank Maintenance

Through the treatment process at MPWWTP, the dirty backwash tank slowly accumulates a granular material used in the biological aerated filters. The design of the plant requires maintenance on a 4–5-year cycle to ensure efficient treatment operation and reduce the risk of odour generation. To access this infrastructure, CRD staff will need to bypass secondary treatment at the facility, resulting in effluent that has undergone primary treatment exiting the outfall into the Salish Sea for 21 days. Permission to proceed with the project required both federal and provincial approval, including notification to First Nations and the public. This will be the largest maintenance project since commissioning in January 2021 and is set to begin on March 26, 2025. For eight days starting March 29, 2025 staff anticipate the potential for increased localized odour generation while staff and contractors work continuously day and night. During this scheduled maintenance, CRD staff will utilize every administrative improvement developed over the last three years to mitigate the odour impact.

2025 System Upgrades

Infrastructure work scheduled for 2025, to improve the system performance and reduce odour emissions, includes:

- Secondary Odour Control System Upgrades: Reduced moisture through the pre-filter improves odour elimination and extends the lifespan of the product and reduces maintenance activities.
- Densadeg No. 1 Scum Removal System: Improved scum removal eliminates an odour source and reduces the required frequency of Plant Maintenance.
- MBBR Odour Extraction Ducting Improvements: The addition of mist eliminators and increasing the duct diameter will improve odour extraction from the MBBR tank.
- Dirty Backwash Tank Odour Treatment System Upgrade: Upgrading the current passive system to a larger fan unit.

Future 2026 Improvements

- Collection system full-service odour control system.
- Upgrades to the primary odour control system mist eliminator.
- Additional odour extraction points for plate settlers and Densadegs.

CONCLUSION

The Capital Regional District recognizes that while operating under normal conditions the McLoughlin Point Wastewater Treatment Plant (MPWWTP) odour control system is fully functional and operating as per design specifications; however, additional system improvements are being made, according to the MPWWTP Odour Control System Review and Assessment. In 2025 and 2026, this odour mitigation project work will continue to improve regular plant operation and reduce the community odour impact from plant maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Jason Dales, B.SC., WD IV, Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations
Concurrence:	Alicia Fraser, P. Eng., General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

SUBJECT Regional Resident Experience Survey

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report advises the Governance and First Nations Committee on the results of the Regional Resident Experience Survey which was launched in the Fall of 2024.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Capital Regional District (CRD) 2024 financial plan, the CRD Board approved a Citizen-Resident Experience Survey for 2024, in alignment with Corporate Priority 12.b2 “Advance the Communications Strategic Plan to guide organizational communications practices and policies internally and externally.”

The results of the Regional Resident Experience Survey will serve as a valuable baseline, providing a better understanding of how residents perceive the CRD’s reputation, how to effectively engage with them and enable a metric-based approach to strategic communication planning, increase transparency, improve accountability, and build relationships with residents.

The survey was strategically designed to be replicable, so that CRD can leverage it in subsequent surveys. It measured:

- The level of knowledge, awareness and reputation of the CRD in the region
- The level of trust in the CRD as a government organization
- The desired role of digital technologies in service delivery
- Preferred communications and engagement methods

The Regional Resident Experience Survey also included focus group style interviews designed to dig deeper and provide a more qualitative perspective with a particular emphasis on electoral areas.

It should be noted that the approach for this survey is not designed to measure service level satisfaction on a granular level, but rather, to establish a baseline measuring awareness, perception, trust and reputation of the CRD among residents. The CRD last conducted a resident survey in 2008-2009.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

Corporate Priority 12.b2 “Advance the Communications Strategic Plan to guide organizational communications practices and policies internally and externally

12b) “Foster greater civic participation among diverse community members and, also aligns with the overarching Board direction to apply an equity lens to CRD decisions. “

Service Delivery Implications

The statistically valid survey delivered key insights in 4 areas:

1. Foundation and Trust Partnerships – CRD enjoys higher levels of trust than provincial or federal governments – although rural and island areas demonstrate lower levels of trust.
2. Communications Landscape Evolution – email is the preferred communication channel.
3. Engagement Barriers and Opportunities – Awareness is the primary barrier to engagement
4. Digital Service Reality – High expectation for digital service delivery

Initiatives are already underway to address some the opportunities identified in the Regional Resident Experience Survey:

- The data and insights about resident experiences around awareness and trust provide valuable insights and actionable data to inform strategic planning, digital transformation and major projects and initiatives.
- With the recent launch of a new website the CRD is proactively addressing digital challenges with research findings validating key assumptions. These insights provide data enabling year-over year tracking of progress and improvements.
- Residents can now subscribe to notices, alerts, and newsletters, with options to subscribe by topic and community of interest. Residents can also provide anonymous feedback on any web page on CRD.CA.
- The CRD is updating its public participation framework with an equity, accessibility, diversity and inclusion lens: An accessibility lens for the new website means the main CRD site, recreation and housing sites have improved their web accessibility guidelines and standards to meet W3C level 2.1 AA.
- The insights pertaining to the Electoral Areas will be an important reference point for the incoming General Manager of Electoral Area services.

CONCLUSION

The CRD will continue to use the results of the survey to inform communication and service delivery strategies, while tracking and building on the baselines established in the Regional Resident Experience Survey. Taken together, the Survey, the new updated website, and the Public Participation Framework are all touchpoints that inform CRD's approach to communications and engagement.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Sudha Krishna, Corporate Communications and Engagement
Concurrence:	Andy Orr, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications and Engagement
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Regional Resident Experience Survey Results

Resident Experience Survey Summary

February 2025

Research Approach

This Resident Experience Research will serve as a valuable baseline, providing a better understanding of how residents perceive the District's reputation, how to effectively engage with them and enable a metric-based approach to strategic communication and inform business and initiative planning.

The survey will seek to measure:

- What the residents of the CRD value
- The level of knowledge or awareness of the CRD in the region
- The level of trust in the CRD
- The level of satisfaction in CRD service
- The desired role of digital in-service delivery



Methodology

Qualitative

Online research study with residents of the CRD (n=402)

- Primary data set was collected from the ARF panel, representative of residents across the Capital Regional District.
- To validate findings and increase participation from less populated areas, additional responses were gathered through community partners and targeted social media outreach. (n=109).
- The data from this sample confirmed the findings from the representative sample. As such, it will not be visualized in this report.
- All responses were anonymous, and fraud prevention measures were implemented to ensure data quality.
- Data in the report will focus on the representative sample.

Quantitative

Focused Interviews with residents of the CRD (n=14)

- To deepen our understanding of resident experiences in rural regions, we conducted focused interviews enabling us to contextualize survey responses and identify emergent themes. These respondents were recruited from amongst those that participated in the quantitative study.
- All responses were anonymous, and fraud prevention measures were implemented to ensure data quality.
- Data in the report will focus on the representative sample of the quantitative study and the qualitative interviews.

Timing

Quantitative study recruitment between Nov. 1st and 18th, 2024.

Focused interviews completed in Dec. 2024

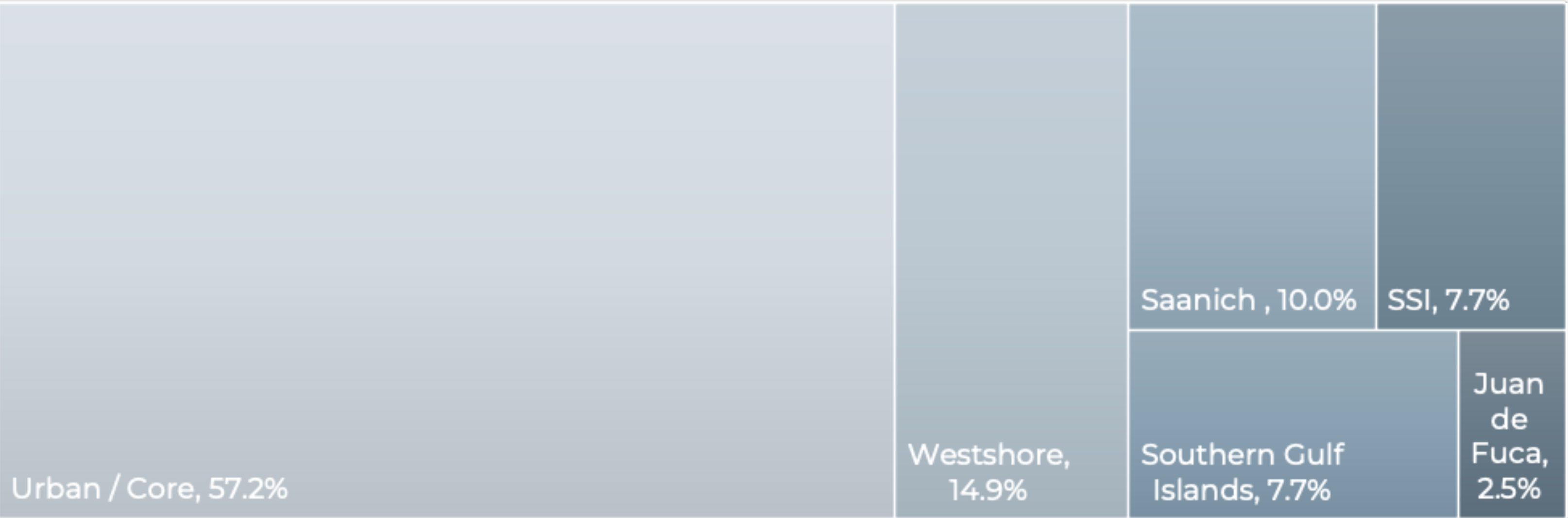


402 residents surveyed
14 in-depth interviews
Every CRD region represented
Baseline established

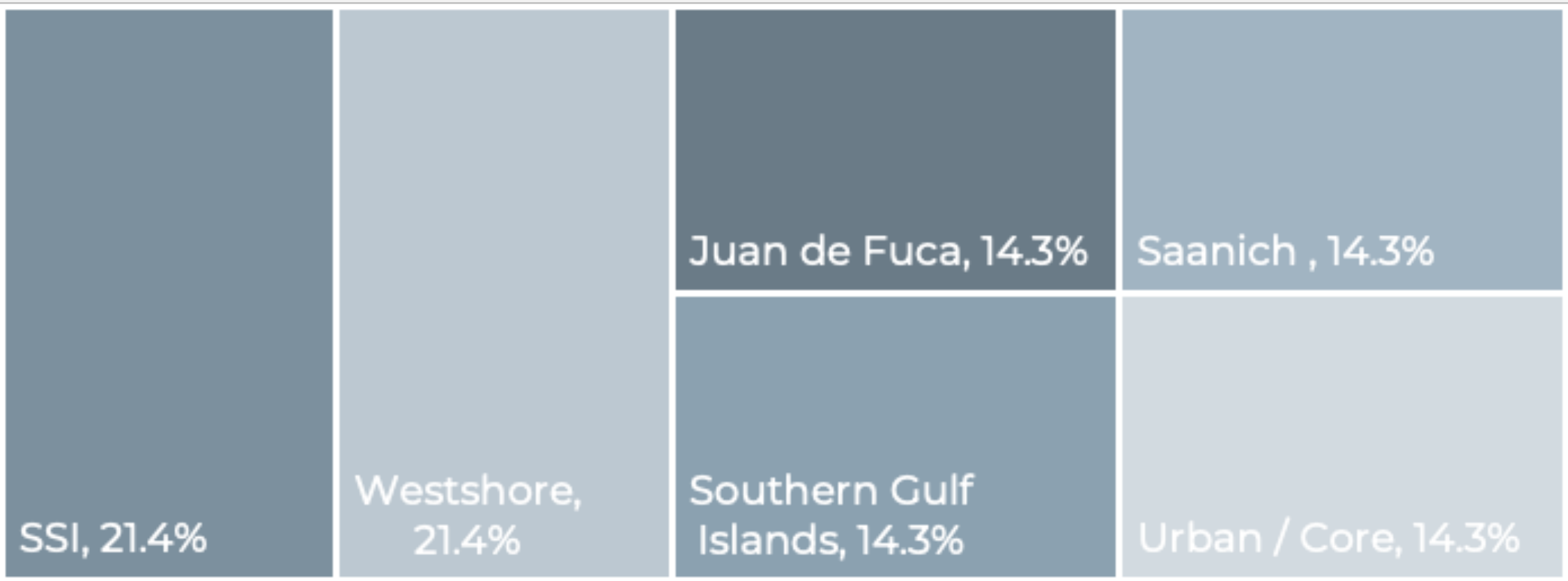
Regional breakdown of participants

The research engaged participants from across the CRD as shown in the breakdown below.

Region, Quantitative Study, n=402

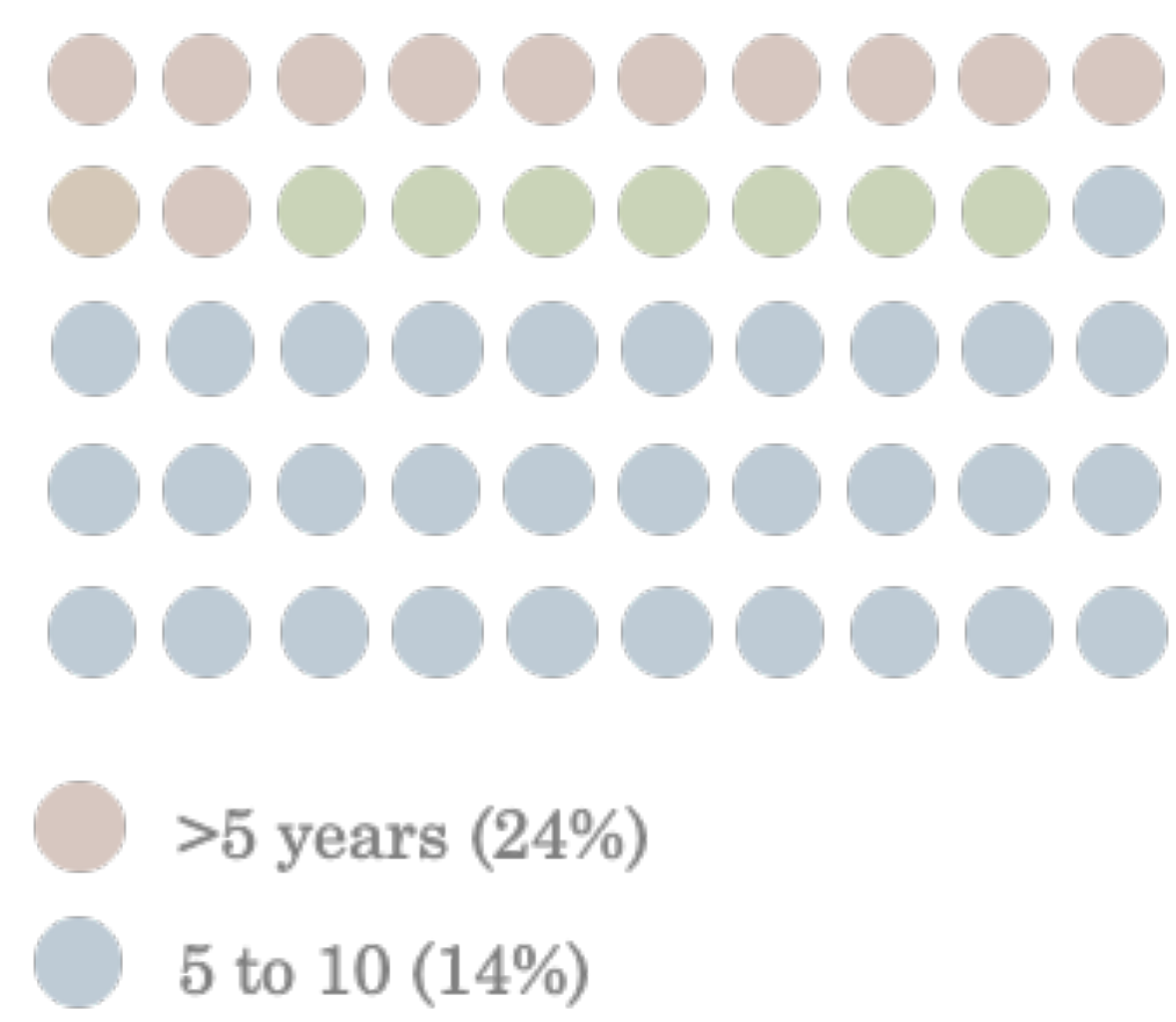


Region, Focused Interviews, n=14

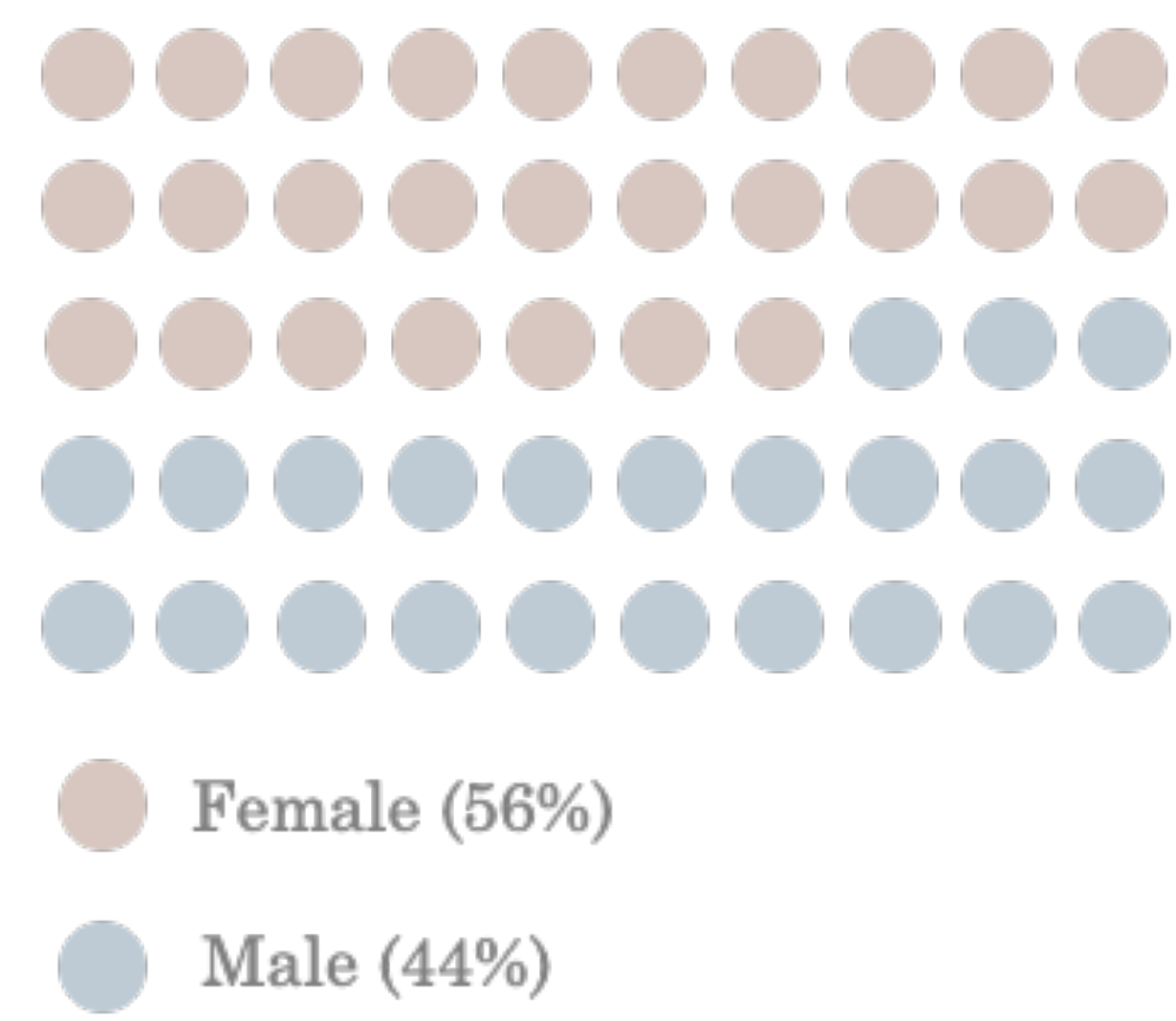


Participate Profile

Length of residency in CRD



Gender

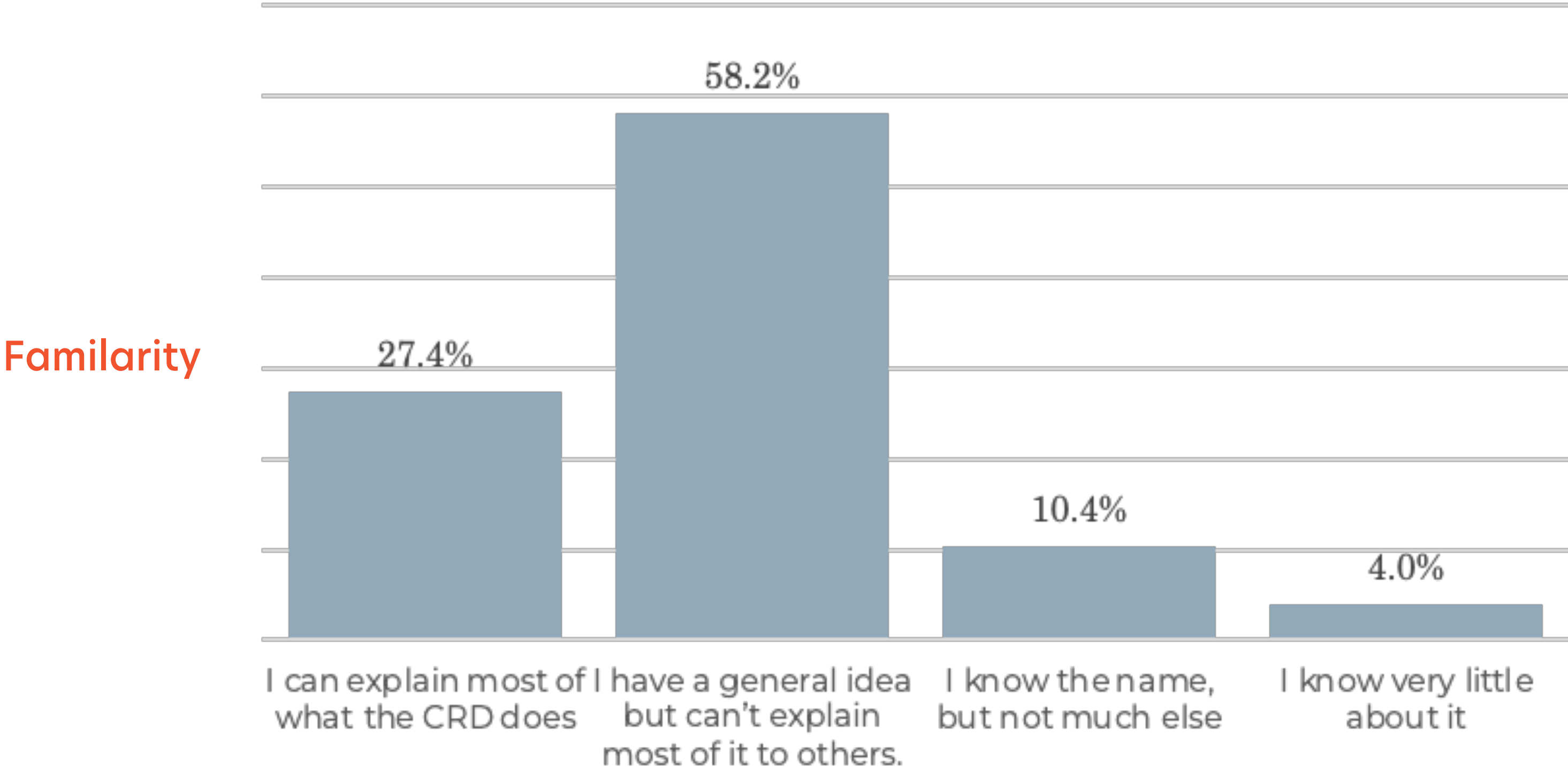


Awareness & Understanding

Capital Region District

Most residents have basic CRD knowledge, but lack deep understanding

- 85.6% of residents have at least basic familiarity with CRD, yet only 27.4% can explain its services.
- Opportunity exists to bridge this knowledge gap through targeted communication of CRD's core services and impact.

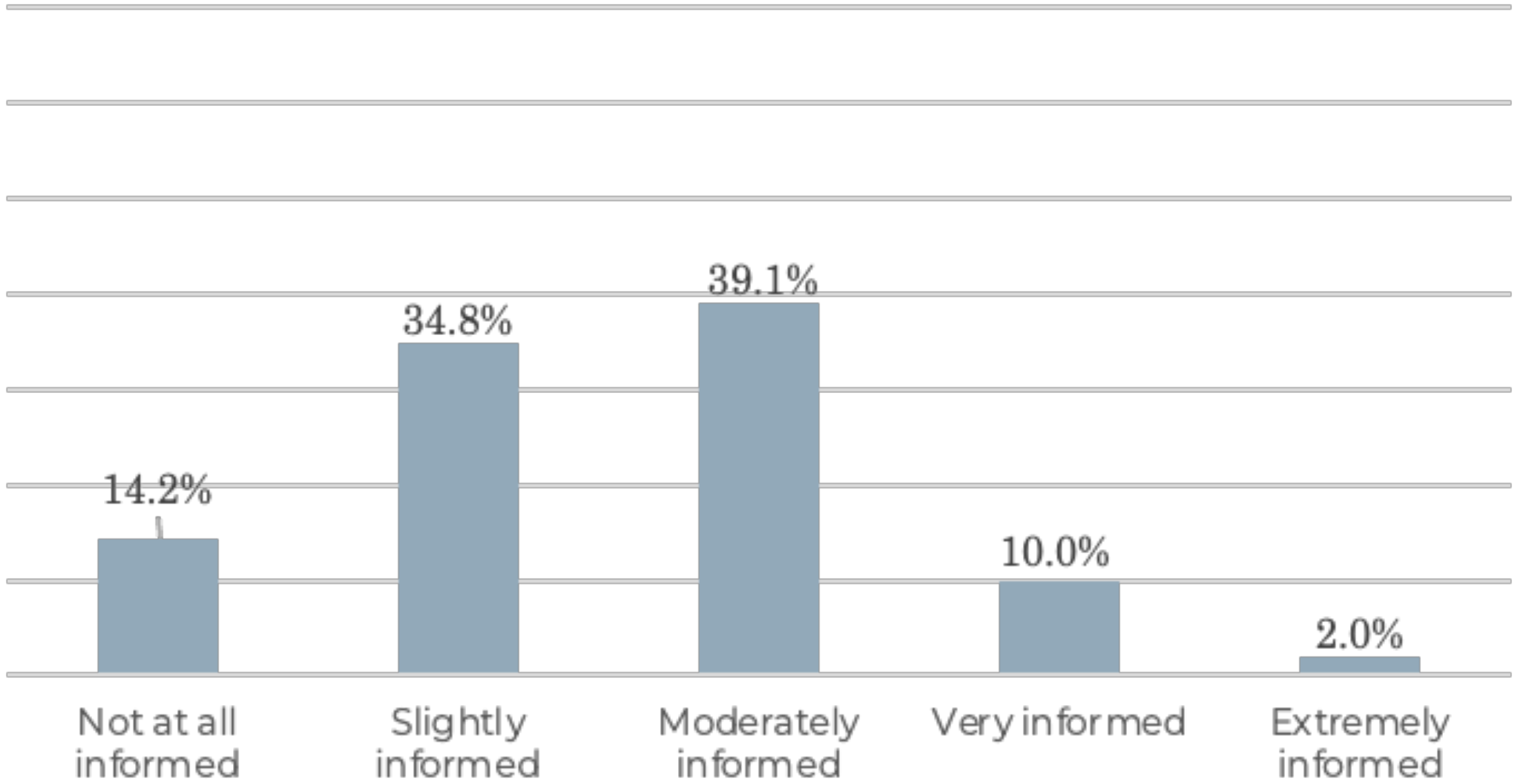


Q: N=402. Which of the following best describes how familiar you are with the services and responsibilities of the Capital Regional District (CRD)?

Residents show limited understanding of CRD decision-making process

- Only 12% of residents feel well-informed about CRD's decision-making process, while 49% report being slightly or not at all informed.
- Salt Spring Island residents show particularly low awareness, with over 50% reporting slight or no familiarity with CRD processes.
- Current awareness levels indicate room for improved communication about governance processes across all regions, particularly in outlying areas.

Decision- Making Understanding



“ In their own words ”

Theme: Size and Bureaucracy—Perception of CRD as a large bureaucratic organization.

Theme: Rural-Urban Divide—Concern over the representation of smaller/rural areas.

“Municipal politics is very confusing. In other jurisdictions, the cities work together. I do not know how they work together, and where the CRD sits.”

“It is a big bureaucracy, and big organization... do they care about the smaller islands . The more rural area. It is a big mismatch... the mouse sleeping next the elephant .. It rolls over.. Like Canada beside US.”

“No I do not know how decisions are made. Tbh, I do not understand the make up of how many councilers, and do we have to pay so many people to be there, when it could be mayors... just seems like another hierarchy.”

“What part of the cost did I pay living in town, like in Sooke..or Langford... how do your taxdollars support those in other regions. The one thing I do not understand -- the Juan do Fuca rec center -- it is shared with a few places... there are a lot of mini-budgets in there... who pays for what.. I do not know...”

Levels of Awareness

- Strong basic awareness (85.6% have at least general understanding)
- While 85.6% of residents have at least a general understanding of CRD, only 27.4% feel confident explaining its functions in detail.
- Educational opportunity with 58.2% having "general idea" group

Decision-Making and Impact Understanding

- Only 12% very/extremely informed about decision-making
- Generally positive (47.8%) or neutral (29.9%)
- Only 10.2% negative impact perception
- This varies significantly amongst those outside the core.

Implications

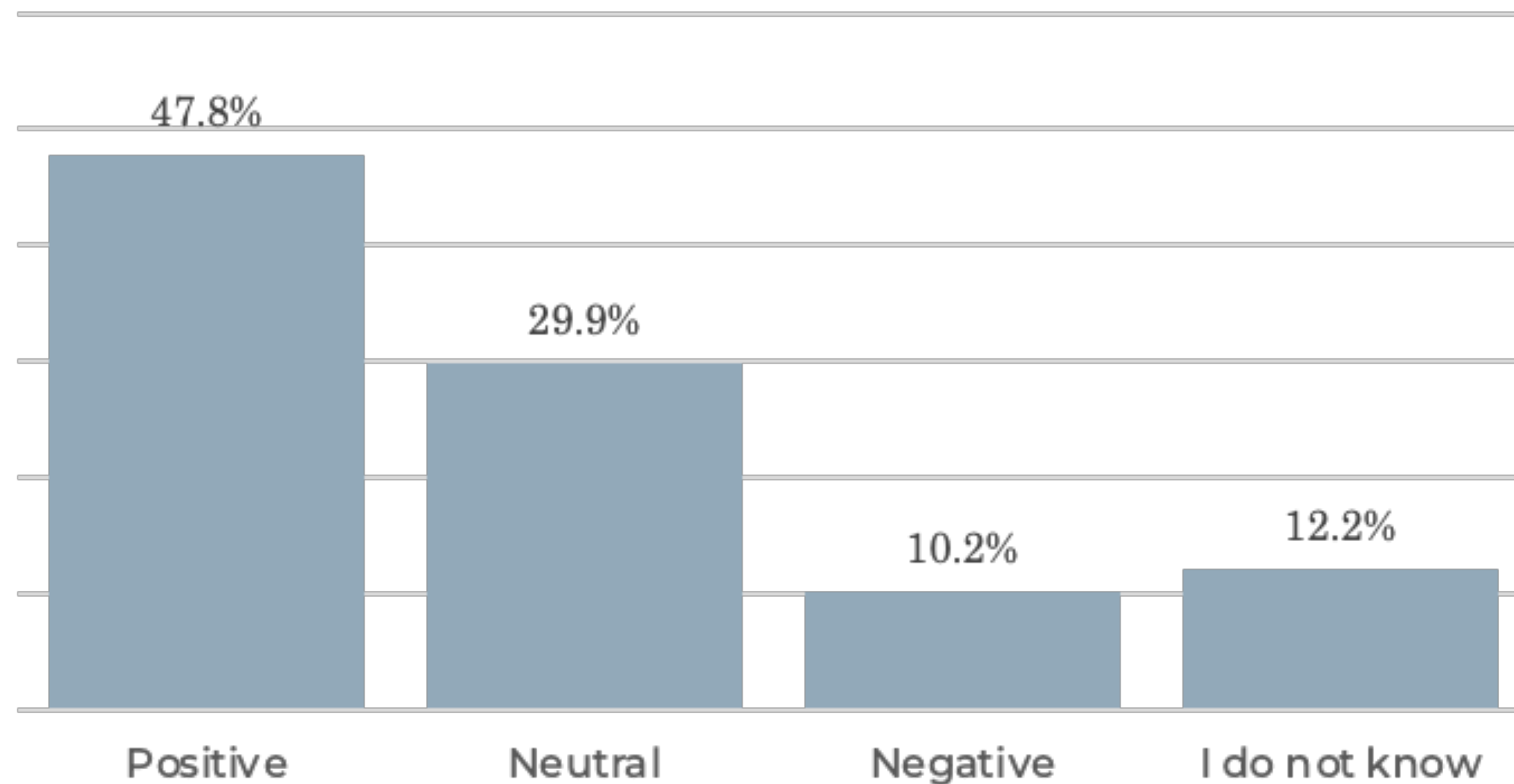
1. Opportunity to convert "general understanding" group to "can explain most" (or more detailed knowledge)
2. Room for improvement in communicating decision-making processes
3. Leverage positive impact perception
4. Need for targeted campaigns outside the core.

Trust & Credibility

Capital Region District

Nearly half of residents see positive CRD community impact

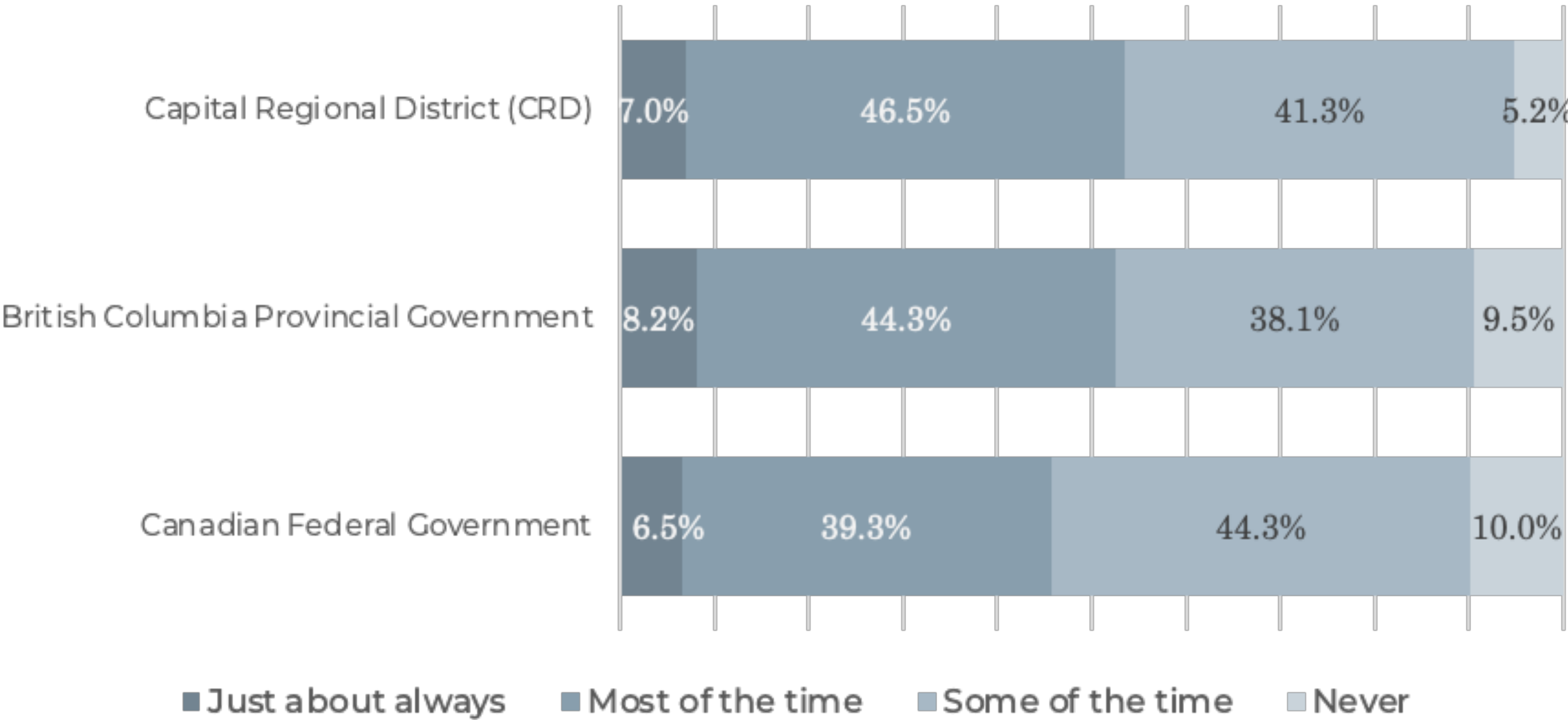
Community Impact Perceptions



- 47.8% of residents believe CRD has a positive impact on the community, while only 10.2% perceive it negatively.
- This positive sentiment provides a strong foundation for building community support.
- But this is heavily influenced by those in the Core and Westshore, 38% of those in SSI, 20% in Southern Gulf Islands, and 18% in Saanich indicate a Negative impact.

CRD enjoys higher trust levels than other public bodies

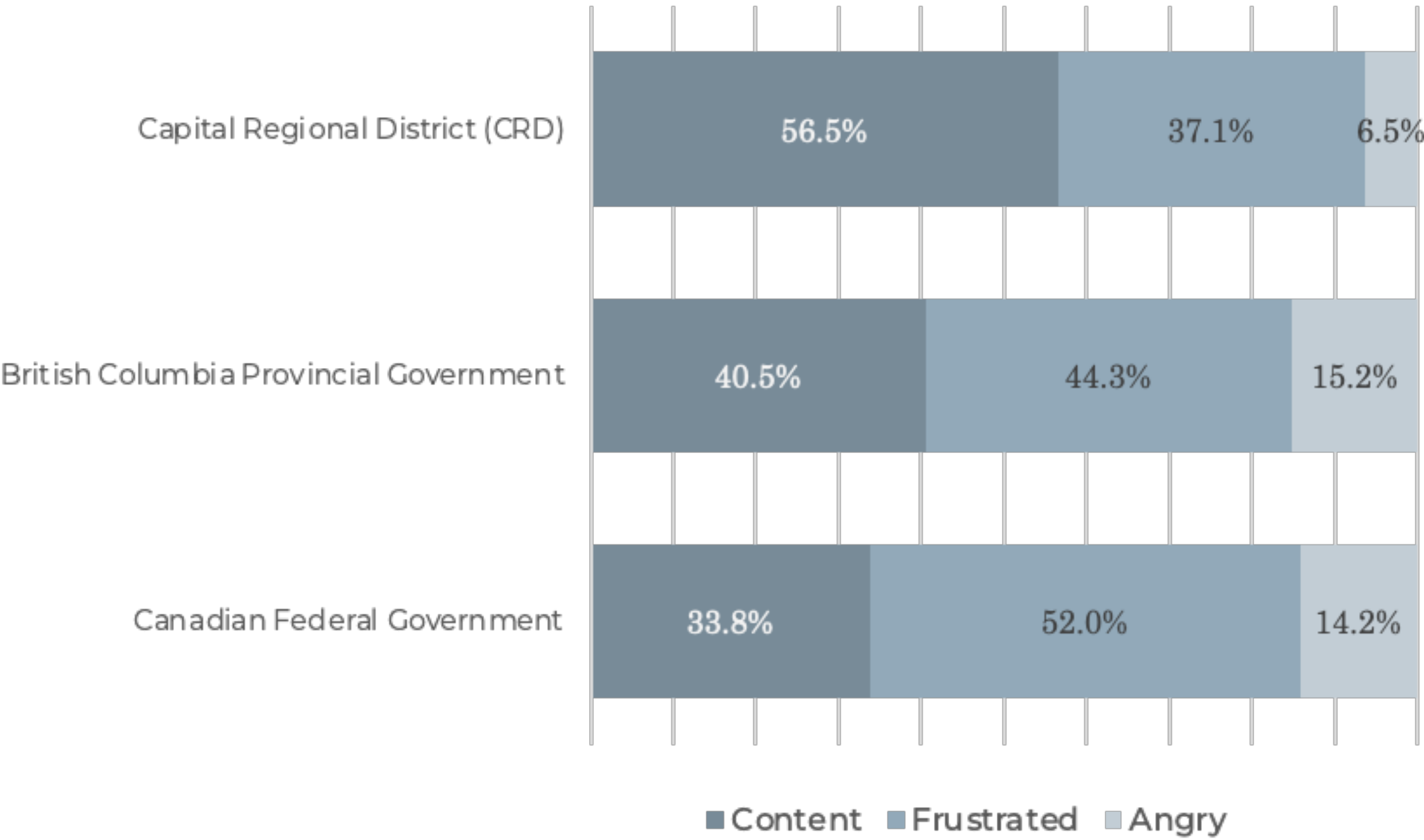
Comparative Trust Levels



- 53.5% of residents trust CRD to do what's right "always" or "most of the time," exceeding trust levels for both provincial (52.5%) and federal (45.8%) governments. This trust advantage represents a valuable asset for advancing regional initiatives and partnerships.
- While general trust levels are high, only a third of those in SSI or Southern Gulf Islands indicate they can trust the CRD always/most of the time.

CRD enjoys higher trust levels than other public bodies

Emotional Response



- CRD services receive 56.5% satisfaction rating, outperforming provincial and federal governments, with only 6.5% expressing strong dissatisfaction in core areas.
- Outer regions show higher frustration levels, particularly Salt Spring Island (66%) and Southern Gulf Islands (55%), despite rating CRD above other government bodies.
- Saanich presents a mixed picture with 58% satisfaction but 11% expressing strong dissatisfaction, similar to Salt Spring Island's 13% dissatisfaction rate, suggesting targeted service improvements could yield significant gains in resident satisfaction.

n=402 Some people say they are basically content with public services and infrastructure, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the...?

“ In their own words ”

Theme: Communication gaps—general belief that the CRD operates in public interest; skepticism and lack of understanding about execution and resource allocation.

“It seems like this ghost organization, somewhere out there in the ether, not somewhere you can go. That is my impression.”

“The population here is very distrusting of government - you need to break the barriers down to get people to understand them. After all the consultation they supposedly did, they needed to go back and do it again.”

“It is always nice to know what they are responsible for, what type of spending is done. We can vote in and vote out our local politicians, but I do not know how that works for the CRD.”

“They are ramming decisions down our throat. If it is a democracy -I should know everything. Not the nickle and dime stuff, but the stuff that you will spend millions of dollars on.”

“ In their own words ”

Theme: Fiscal transparency—interest in fiscal accountability, how funds are used, and how resources are being allocated.

“Where is the money being spent...feels like we are constantly being asked for more money--- they created something to look into traffic...how did they get permission to spend more money... even in a municipal budget you have to go down to the nitty gritty to figure it out.. i think all municipal... they are all very boss heavy...not a lot of workers... so many senior people... why do we need them all...what is a necessary biz that we need to be in... then what are all the blue sky issues -- the latest is the housing thing -- if I am paying for it in my tax dollars... why i am paying for it twice.”

“An example, rapid transit: Not making people have to come in to say no to the proposal, for forced active transportation. People it impacts are busy and do not have time to come in. It seems like they are trying to make it seem like people are accepting what they want. Whereas if it went to a referendum, where they had to get a certain amount of yas.. ”

Trust Levels

- **Comparative Trust Levels (always/most of the time):**
 - CRD: 53.5%
 - Provincial: 52.5%
 - Federal: 45.8%
- **Frustration/Anger Levels:**
 - CRD: 43.6% (37.1% frustrated, 6.5% angry)
However, this shifts for SSI (66%) and Southern Gulf (55%).
Also, in Saanich, 11% are angry.
 - Provincial: 59.5% (44.3% frustrated, 15.2% angry)
 - Federal: 66.2% (52.0% frustrated, 14.2% angry)

Credibility

Strong Areas:

- Reliable service delivery (62.4% moderate to extremely effective)
- Fair treatment (58.4% moderate to extremely effective)
- Overall performance (61.2% moderate to extremely effective)

Implications

1. Strong operational trust creates opportunity to build deeper public engagement - capitalize on service deliver reputation to improve communication effectiveness.
2. Address growing frustration in areas outside the core through targeted outreach and engagement strategies.
3. Leverage high trust position relative to other government levels to enhance communication and launch new initiatives.

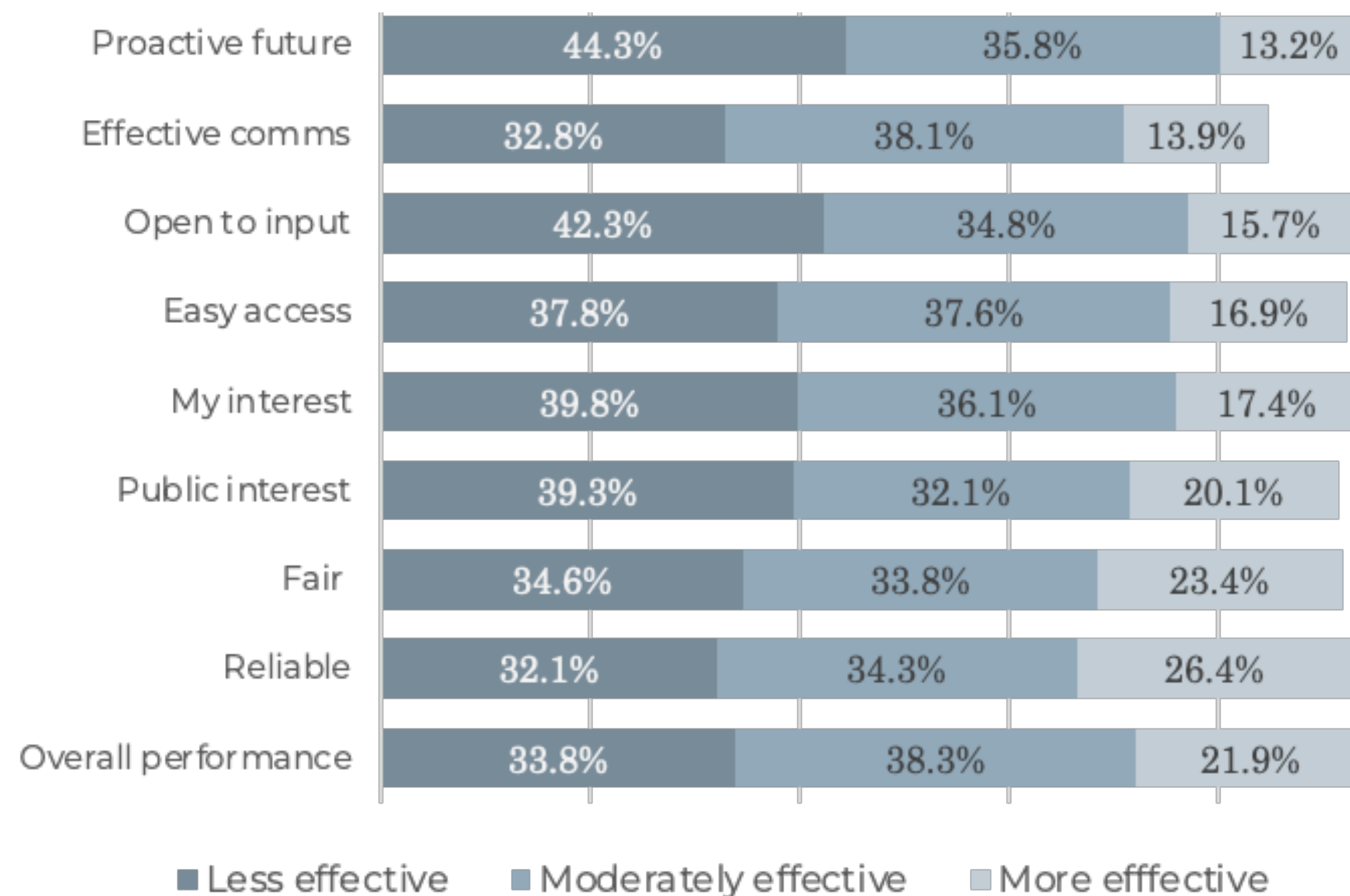
Engagement

Capital Region District



CRD service performance demonstrates operational and communication differences

Performance Assessment

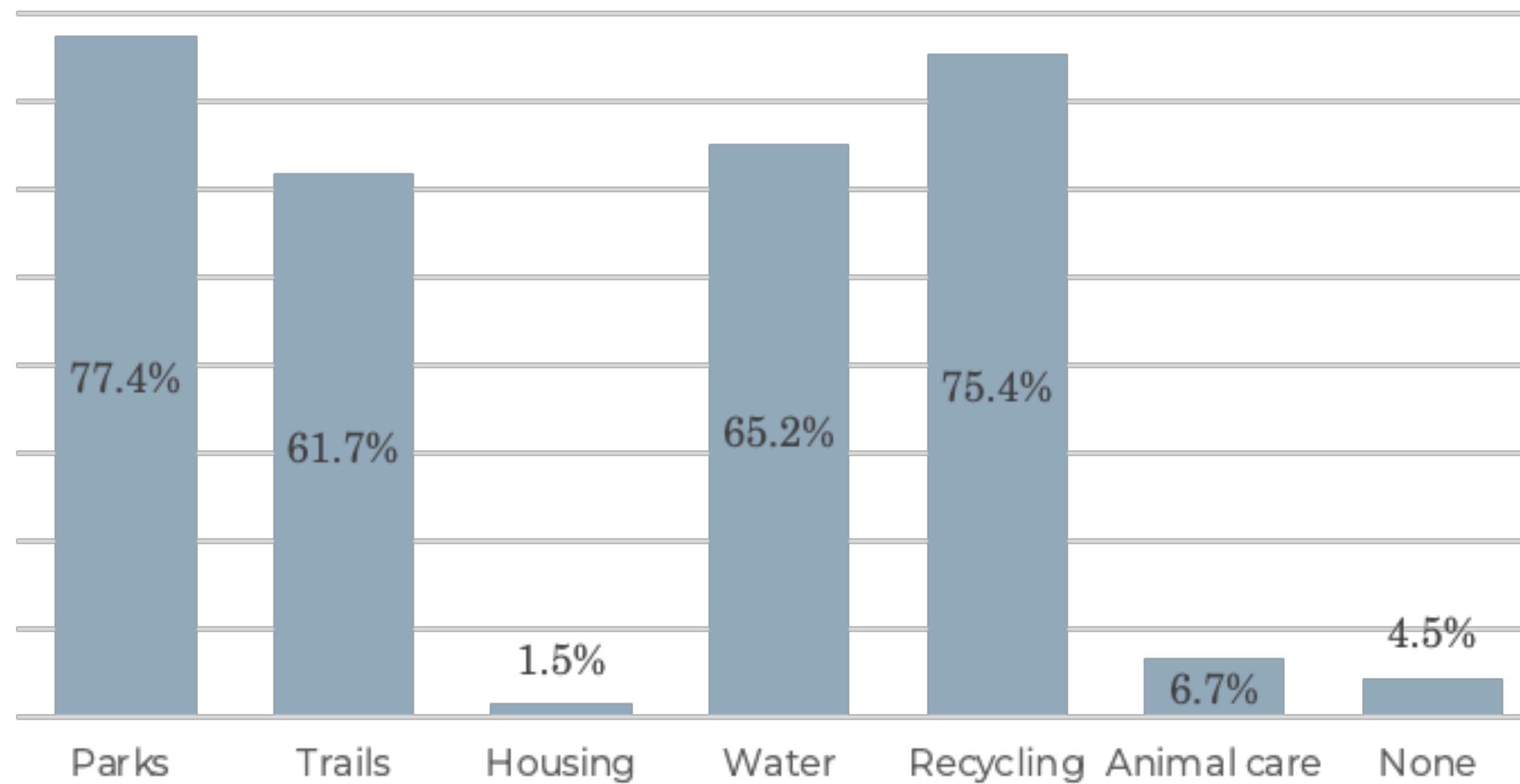


- Service operations show mixed results: while 60.7% rate reliability as moderately to highly effective, only 26.4% indicate strong satisfaction with service dependability.
- Communication and engagement metrics reveal room for improvement, with proactive planning (44.3%) and effective communications (32.8%) rated as less effective by respondents.
- Overall performance reflects this divide: while 60.2% rate CRD as moderately to highly effective, only 21.9% indicate strong satisfaction, suggesting opportunities to move from moderate to high performance.

n=402. How well do you believe the Capital Regional District (CRD) performs in the following areas? Select from: Less [Not at all effective, Slightly effective], Moderately effective, More [Very effective, Extremely effective], Not applicable [removed from above visualization]

Parks and waste management lead CRD service usage

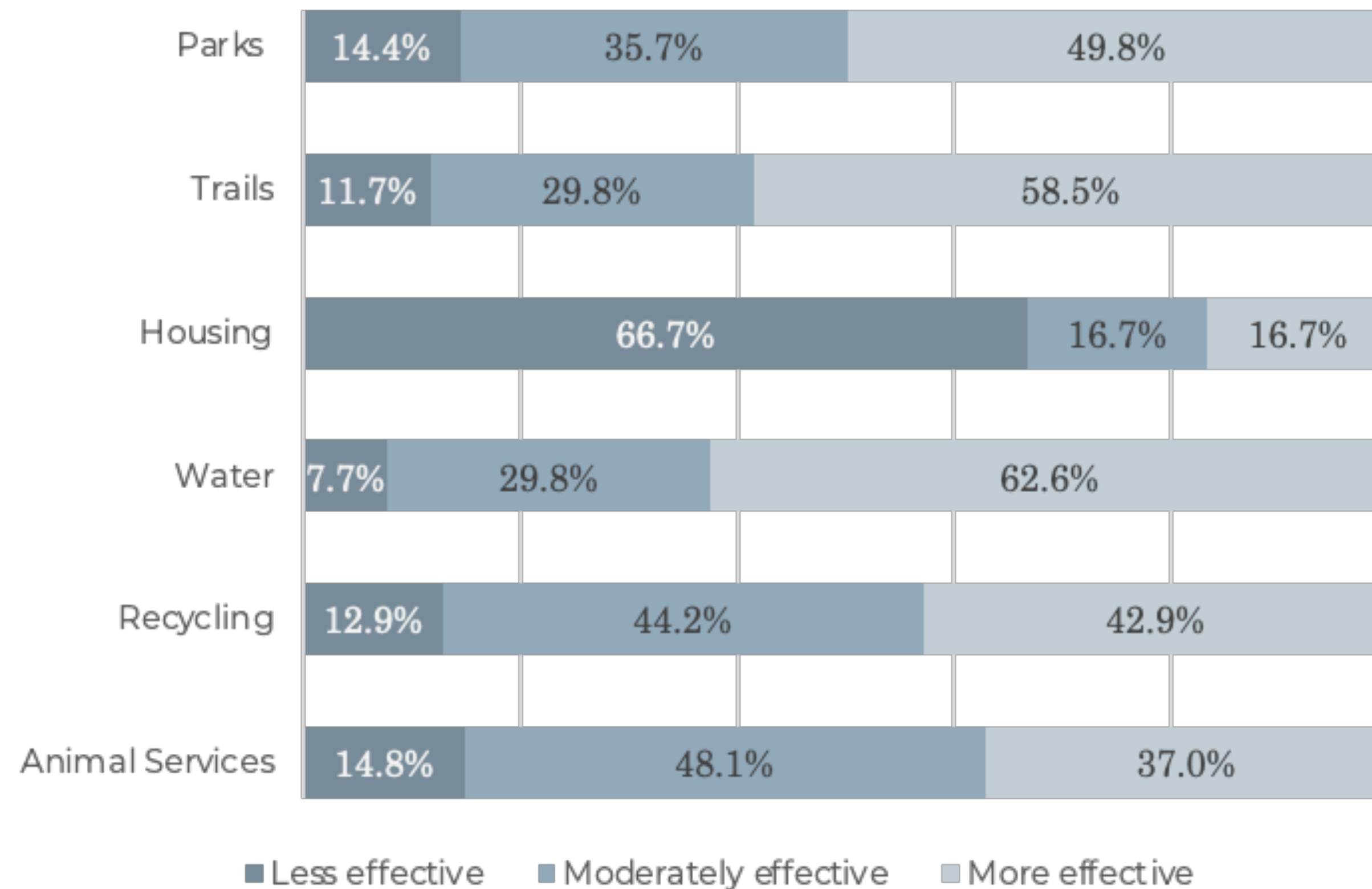
Service Usage



- Parks (77.4%) and recycling/landfill services (75.4%) are the most widely used CRD services, with regional trails (61.7%) following closely.
- The high utilization of outdoor recreational services highlights an opportunity to leverage these touchpoints for broader community engagement.

CRD core services show varied effectiveness across functions

Performance Assessment



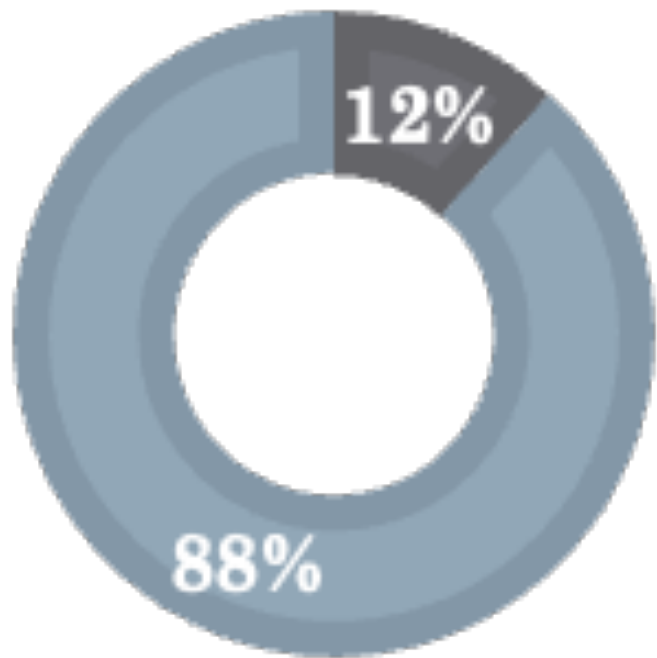
- Essential infrastructure services receive highest ratings, with water services showing strongest performance (92.4% moderate to high effectiveness) and trails close behind (88.3%).
- Housing emerges as a key challenge area, with 66.7% rating it less effective, significantly lower than other core services.
- Community services like parks and recycling maintain solid performance, with over 85% rating them moderately to highly effective.
- Strong performance in essential services provides a foundation for building public confidence in newer initiatives.

n=Varied, only shown to those that utilized these services. Based on your experience, how effective is the CRD in delivering the services you selected? Select from: Less [Not at all effective, Slightly effective], Moderately effective, More [Very effective, Extremely effective]. Only shown to those that utilized these services.

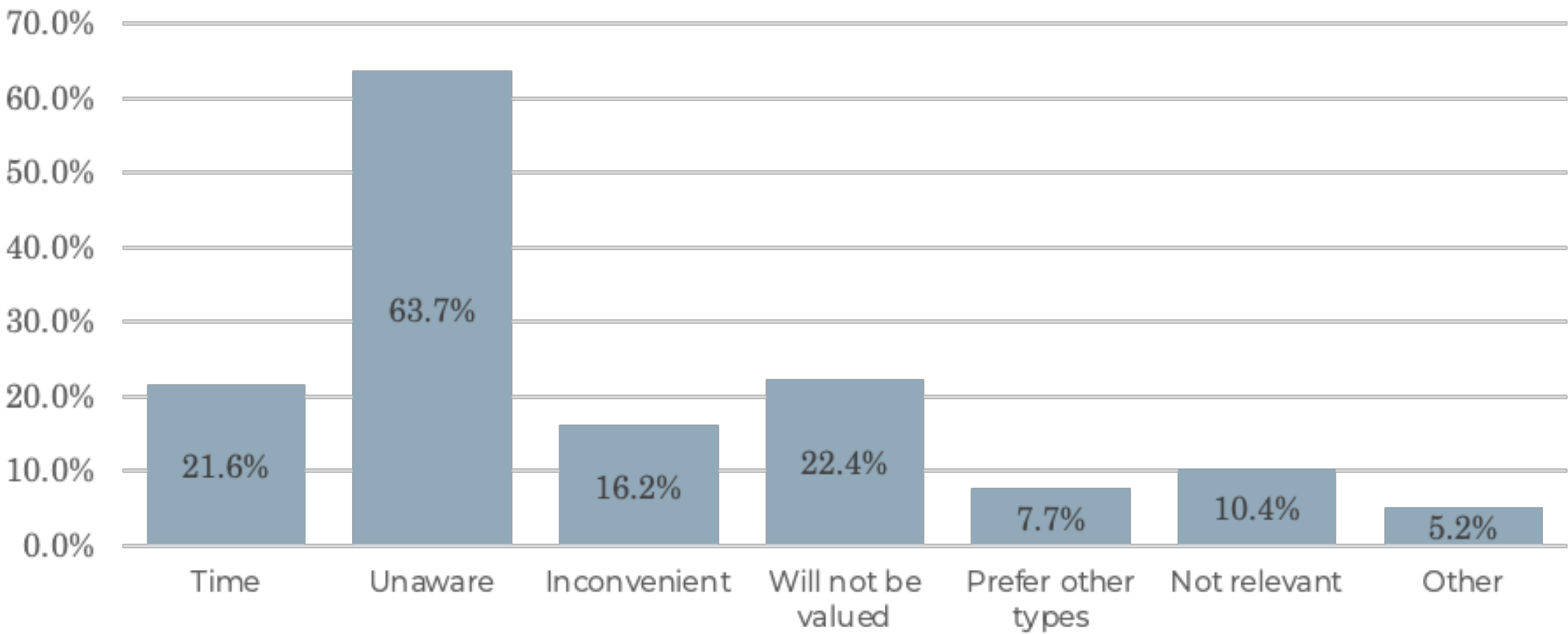
Awareness Gap Is Primary Barrier to Public Participation

- Few participated in CRD public engagement opportunities in the past year.
- 63.7% of residents cite lack of awareness as their main barrier to participation, while 21.6% indicate time constraints. This clear feedback points to an opportunity to enhance communication channels and simplify engagement processes.

Participated in Public Engagement?



Reasons to Not Participate in Public Engagement



n=402. In the last 12 months, have you provided input into any of the public participation opportunities offered by the Capital Regional District (CRD), such as the recent initiative about Rural Housing or the Regional Water Supply ? What are the barriers that prevent you from participating or from participating more fully? Select all



In their own words



Theme: Core service reliability—generally positive on core services, where and when they are aware of what is being provided.

Theme: Infrastructure planning concerns—disconnect between operational performance and public perceptions.

“When I turn on the tap the water goes, when I flush the water goes. They rebuilt the bridge that fall into the ravine. They do a darn good job”

“It is a fractured system. Can’t go to one council, make your views known...If you have an issue of fire protection, you go to one meeting. If it is an issue about water, you go to a water meeting. If it is planning, you go to Islands Trust. You end up going to so many different meetings and track the organizations to understand the different services you are getting.”

“I have no real complaints on what they do. The basic infrastructure generally works well, the trails and parks are nice. But, beyond that I do not really know what they do.”

“They tell us we need more housing. Have they asked the tax payer do we want more people. I have not been asked that question. So, what or who is this housing for?”

Insights about services

- Core services perform well (water, trails, parks)
- High satisfaction among actual users (>60% positive for key services)
- Room for improvement in service awareness and accessibility

Insights about engagement with CRD public activities

- Awareness is primary barrier (63.7%)
- Trust/value perception issues (22.4%) indicate communication gap
- Time constraints (21.6%) suggest need for flexible engagement option
- Multiple barriers often overlap, requiring multi-faceted solutions

Implications

1. Leverage high satisfaction with core services (>60%) to build awareness and increase engagement with lesser-known CRD offerings.
2. Address the significant awareness barrier (63.7%) by integrating service promotion into existing high-performing touchpoints like parks and trails.
3. Develop multi-channel engagement strategy that addresses both time constraints and trust gaps while improving accessibility.

Digital Engagement

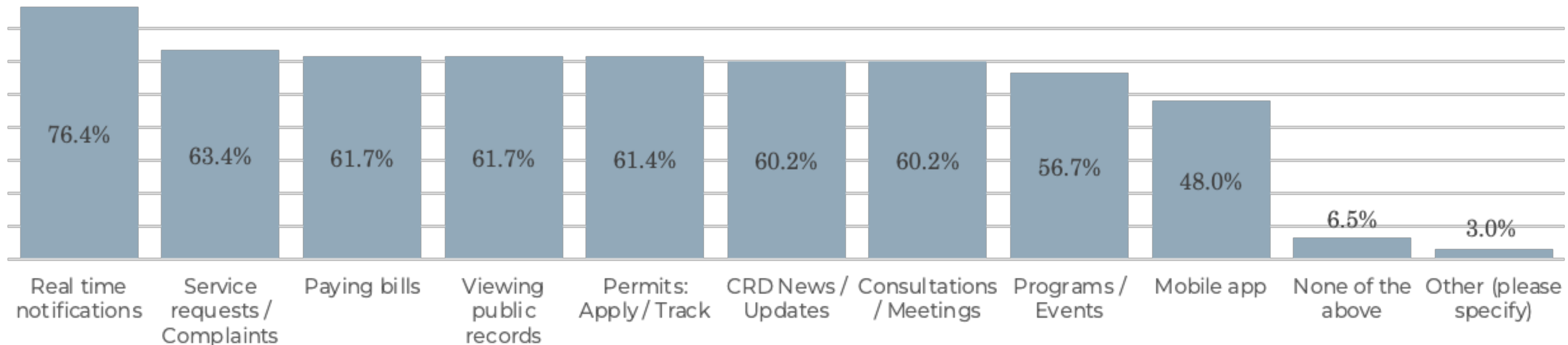
Capital Region District



Real time notifications top list of expected digital services

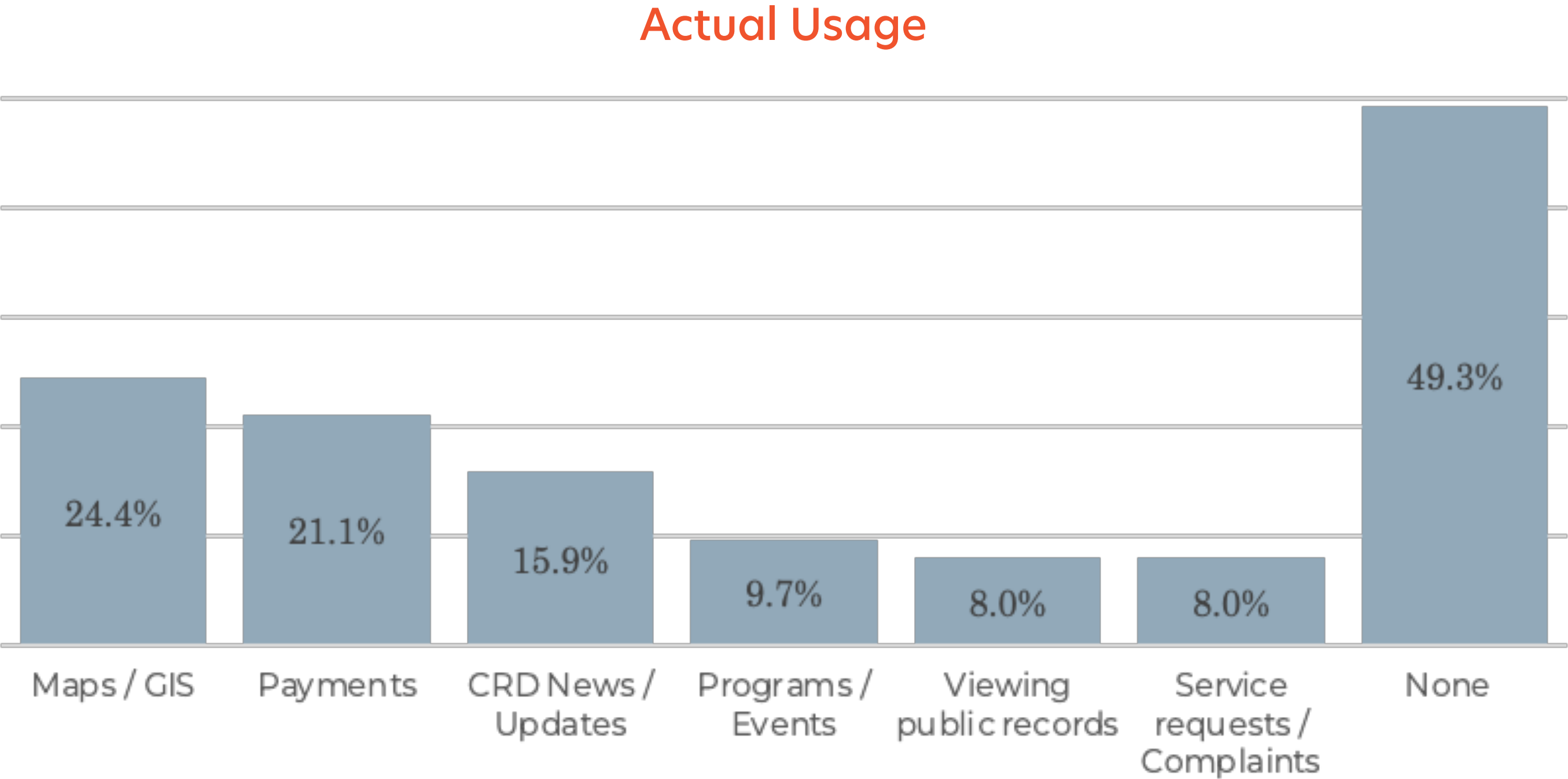
- Real-time service notifications lead resident expectations at 75.4%, followed by basic service requests and bill payments (around 62%)
- Core administrative functions like permit tracking, public records access, and CRD updates are expected by approximately 61% of residents
- While digital communication tools are highly valued, traditional programs and events remain important to 56.7% of residents

Expected Services



n=402. Which of the following services would you expect the Capital Regional District (CRD) to offer? Select all that apply.

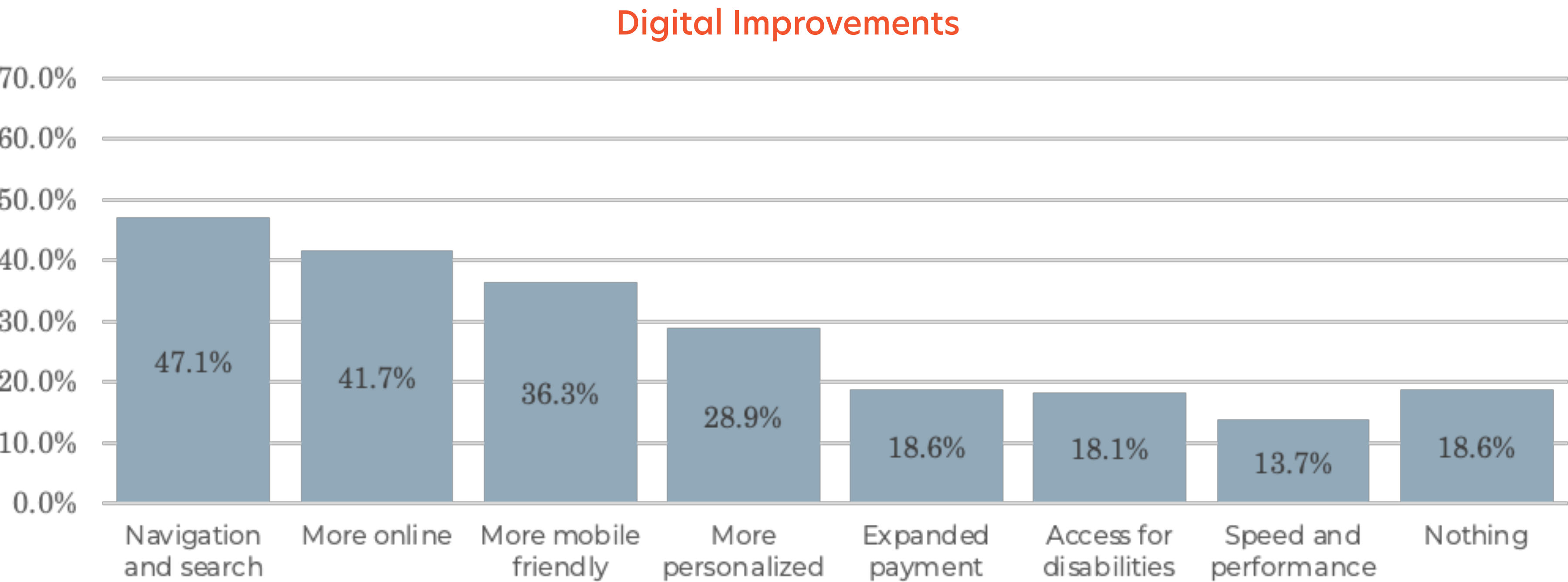
Digital service adoption lags behind expectations



- While 49.3% of residents haven't used any CRD digital services, online maps/GIS (24.4%) and payments (21.1%) show strongest adoption.
- The gap between expected and actual digital service usage indicates an opportunity to improve awareness and accessibility of existing online tools.

Website navigation and digital services top improvement priorities

- 47.1% of users want better navigation and search tools, while 41.7% seek more online services overall. The focus on basic usability improvements, particularly among 55+ users (58.8%), suggests a need to enhance the fundamental digital experience before expanding services.

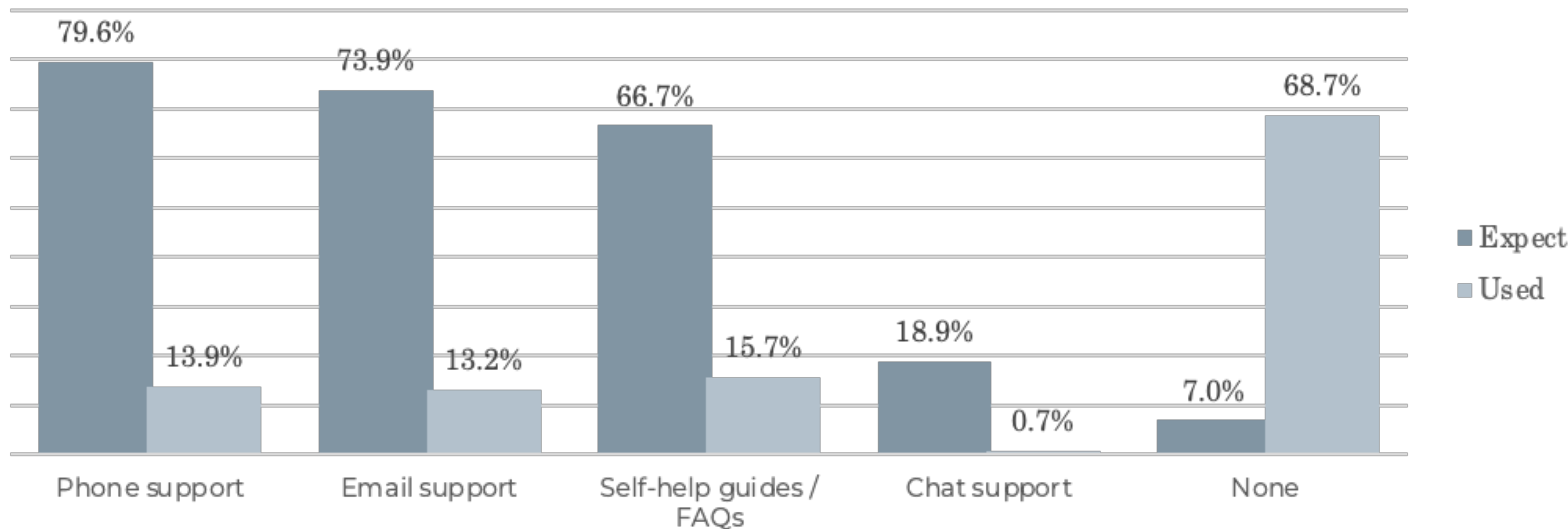


n=402. What improvements would you like to see in CRD's digital services? Select all that apply.

Traditional support channels remain most expected service option

- Phone (79.6%) and email (73.9%) support during business hours are the most expected service channels, while only 18.9% expect 24/7 live chat. The high demand for traditional channels suggests a need to maintain robust phone/email support while gradually introducing digital alternatives.
- 68.7% of residents haven't used any CRD support services in the past year, with self-help resources showing highest usage at 15.7%. The low utilization rates across all channels suggest an opportunity to either improve service visibility or reduce friction points that lead to support needs.

Customer Support: Expected vs Actual Usage

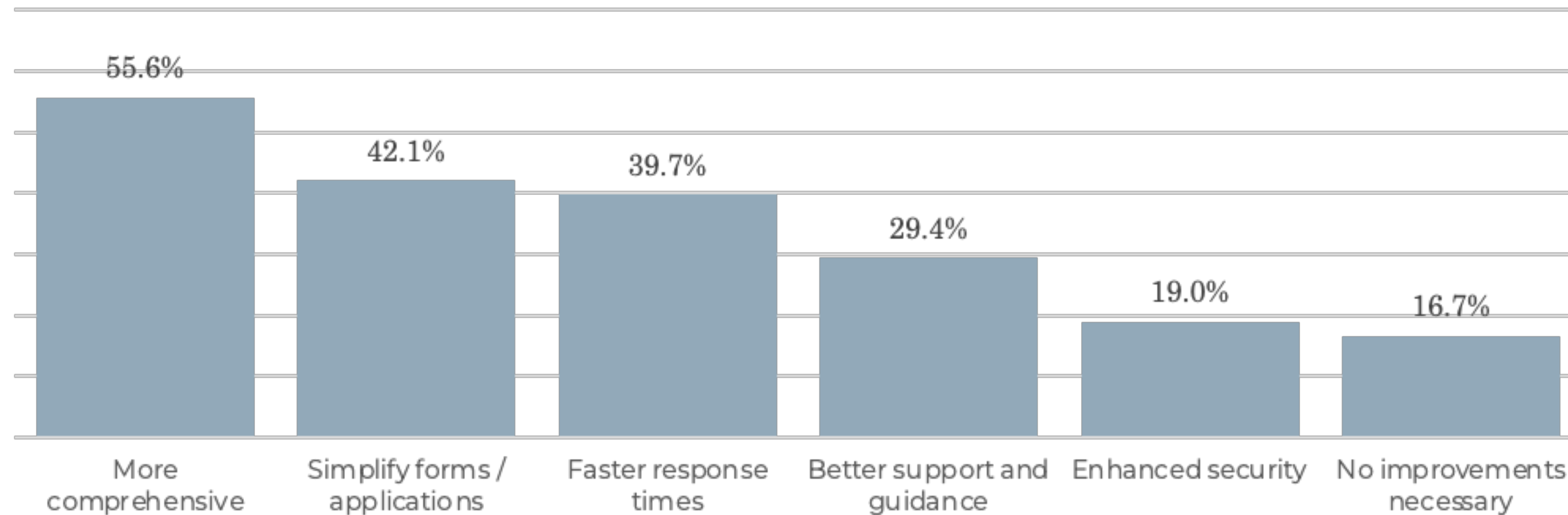


n=402.. In addition to in-person services, which types of customer support would you expect the CRD to offer? Which of these customer support services have you used when interacting with the CRD in the last 12 months? Select all that apply.

Information access and process simplification lead online improvement priorities

- 55.6% of users want more comprehensive online information, while 42.1% seek simplified forms and applications.
- The focus on content and usability improvements points to clear priorities for enhancing digital service delivery.

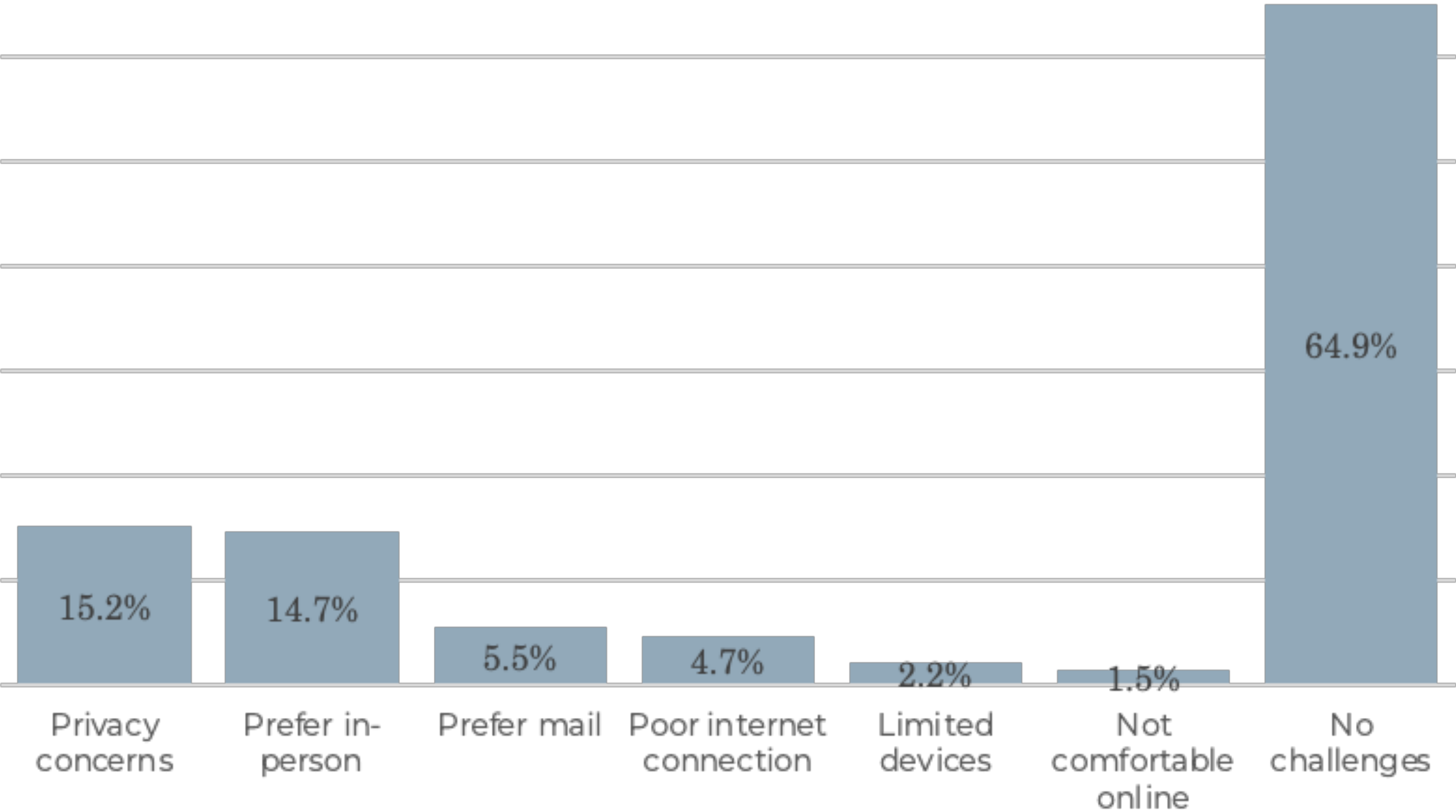
Improve Online Experiences



n=402. Which of these would most improve your online experience with the CRD? Select all that apply.

Digital service access barriers affect minority of residents

Digital Challenges

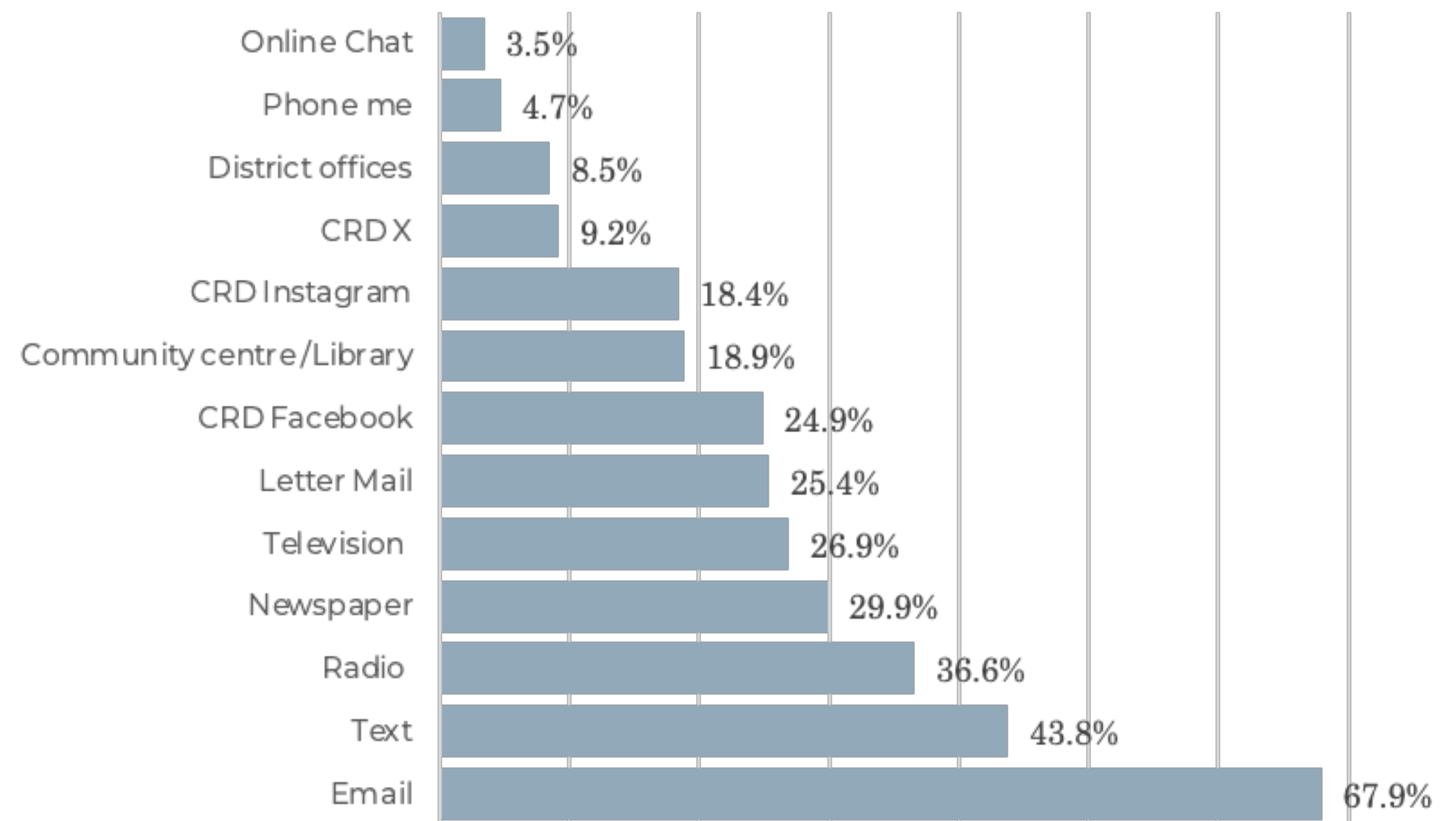


- 64.9% of residents report no challenges using digital services, with privacy concerns (15.2%) being the primary barrier.
- The preference for in-person interactions suggests value in maintaining multi-channel service delivery.

n=402. What challenges do you face when using digital services? Select all that apply.

Residents show strong preference for direct communication channels

Feedback Channels



- Email dominates as the preferred communication method at 67.9%, followed by text messaging at 43.8%, indicating strong preference for direct digital contact.
- Traditional media channels maintain significant relevance, with radio (36.6%), newspaper (29.9%), and television (26.9%) reaching substantial audiences.
- Social media platforms show varying impact: Facebook leads at 24.9%, while Instagram (18.4%) and CRD X (9.2%) demonstrate lower preference levels among residents.

n=402. We use different forms of communication to share information. We want to know how you prefer to hear from us. Today we are just asking about one example, water restrictions. How will you want to hear about water restrictions? Select all that apply.

“ In their own words ”

Theme: Website navigation and information architecture—current structure creates barriers to finding relevant information.

Theme: Content format preferences—strong preference for direct, searchable text content.

“The email is good - you need people to be engaged. What can you add to the email to make it interesting so people know what the CRD is doing. There is a lot of misinformation and simple communication could overcome the mistrust.”

“Email, for sure...- if anything relevant to me and how I live- it would be nice to get an email from them. Of course, it needs to be focused on my region, not all of CRD. I can imagine they could help me register in advance.”

“I do not know how they communicate - you hear about them in news media and from tv from time to time. Otherwise I am not sure.”

“I learned about the active transit from roads being torn up, social media. It would be better through billboards. DO not read newspapers, do not listen to the radio.”

Information Architecture Challenge

- StrongUsers struggle with information overload and relevance filtering
- "Have to burrow through technical stuff to find basic information"

Channel preference more complex than data suggests

- Regional/demographic variations in digital readiness
- Mixed reception to email (concerns about overload, but preference to self select into email list services)
- Traditional channels still vital in rural areas

Strong user experience preferences

- Preference for searchable text over multimedia
- Demand for smart, guided tools for specific tasks
- Need for layered information (summary → detail)

Implications

1. Enhance User Navigation

- Improve search and filtering capabilities
- Create clear topic-based pathways
- Implement summary views with optional detail

2. Multi-Channel Strategy

- Develop integrated digital/traditional approach
- Enable end-to-end digital service deliver
- Maintain traditional channels where needed

3. Personalization Priority

- Enable customizable notifications
- Create region-specific content hubs
- Develop smart tools for common tasks

Thank you.

Prepared by Catapult Strategy
Contact: Monique Janower
E. mjanower@catapultstrategy.com



CRD



Resident Experience Survey Governance & First Nations Relations Committee Summary

April 2, 2025

CRD

What makes this research important?

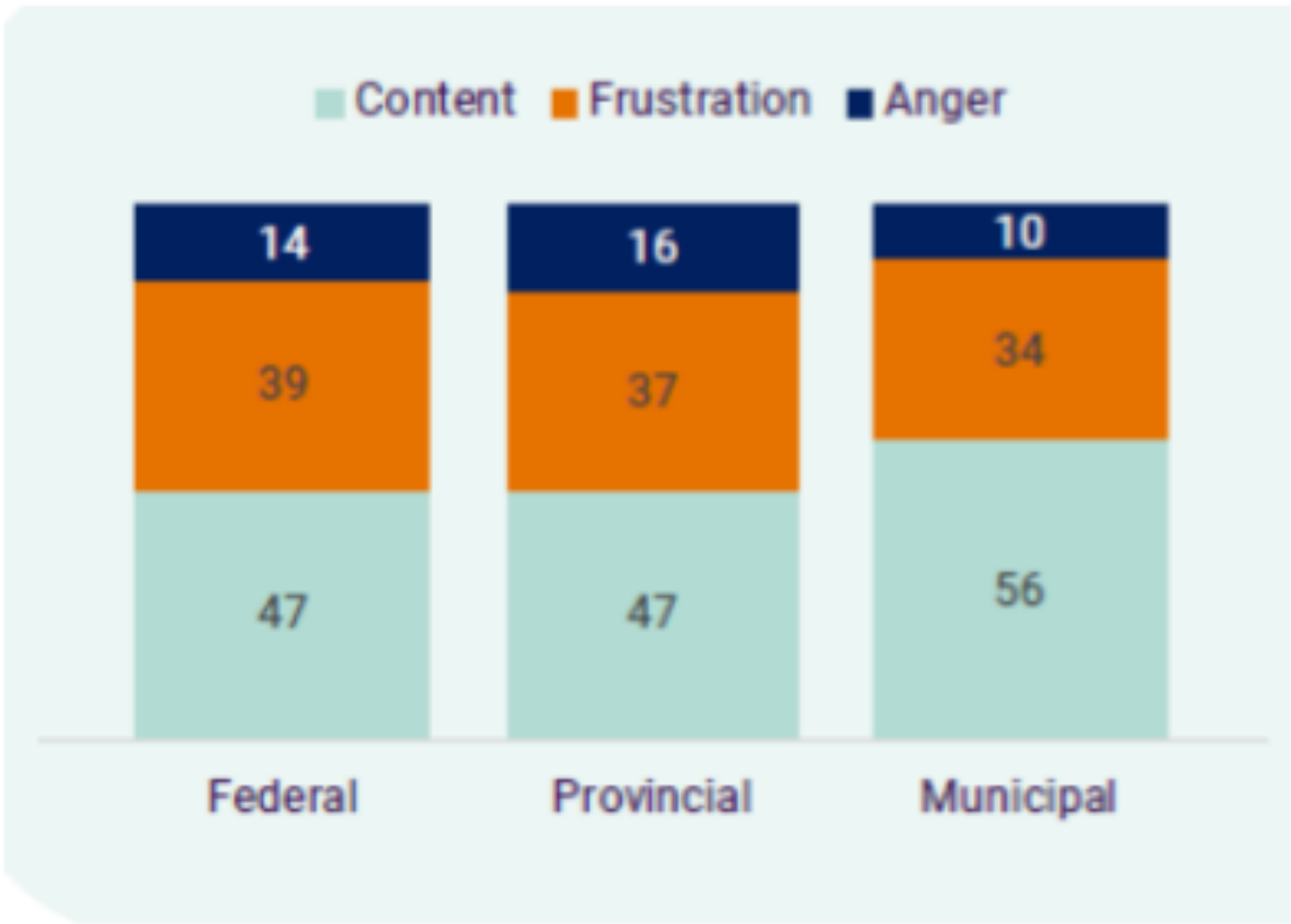
- ✓ **A data gap:** A general resident survey was last conducted in 2008/09. More recently, high visibility projects would have skewed results.
- ✓ **The world has changed:** Issues of trust exist, misinformation is rampant, and governments are competing for attention.
- ✓ **CRD has changed:** Since 2008 population has increased by 26% (96000). Differences in rural areas seem to have become more pronounced (population, governance structures, infrastructure challenges) leading to changes like establishing LLC, rural reclassification.
- ✓ **Lacking broader view and baseline:** No shared metrics to understand the collective impact on citizens overall experience with the CRD, and to use to make data-driven decisions and measure progress overtime.



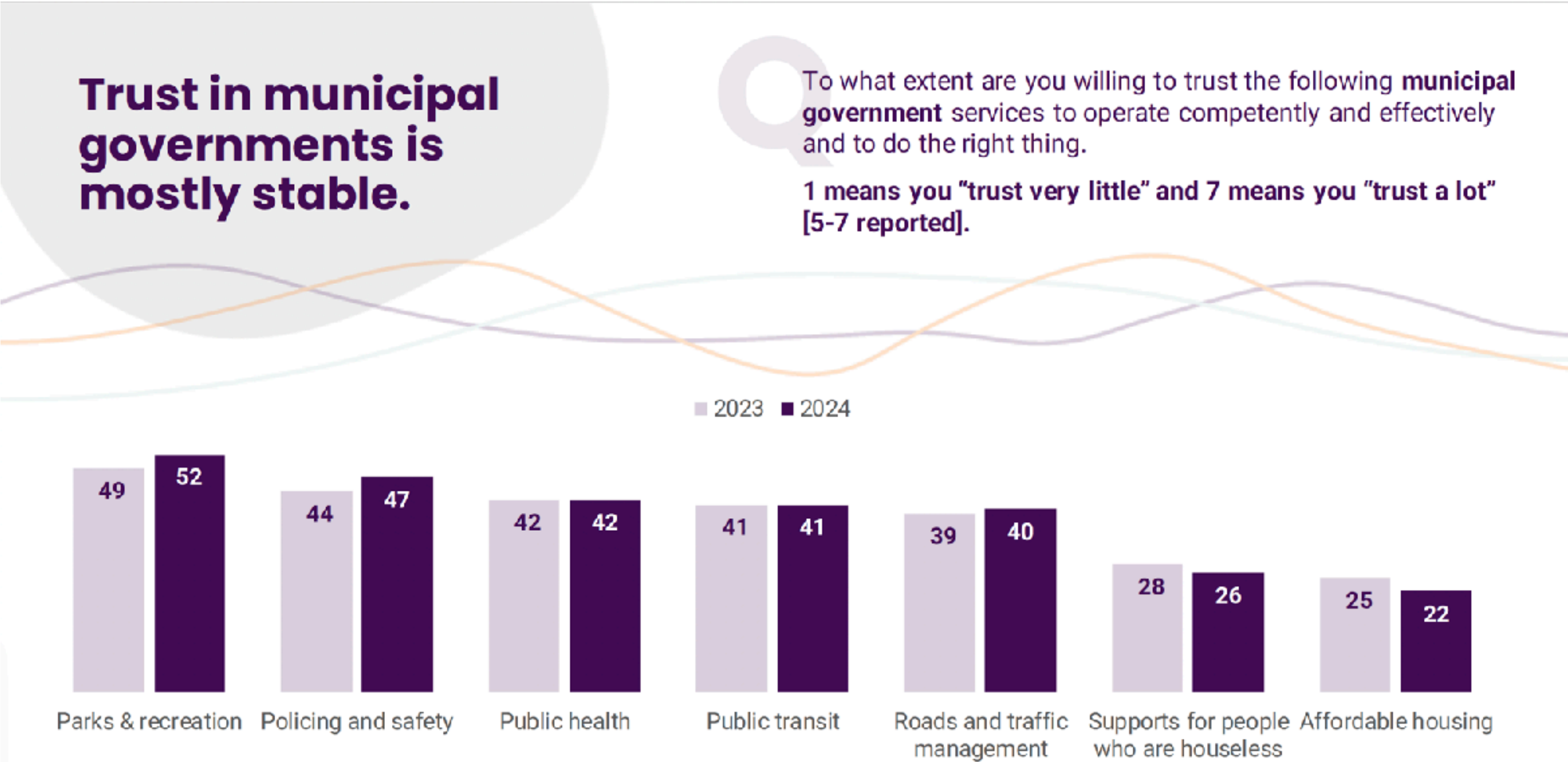
Trust in municipal services: how we stack up

How the citizens views public institutions and governments is changing.

Residents are slightly more content with municipal governments but 44% are either frustrated or angry.



Source: Special Report: The Crisis of trust in government and democracy. Proof Strategies February 2023



Source: CanTrust Index February 13, 2024

Research Snapshot

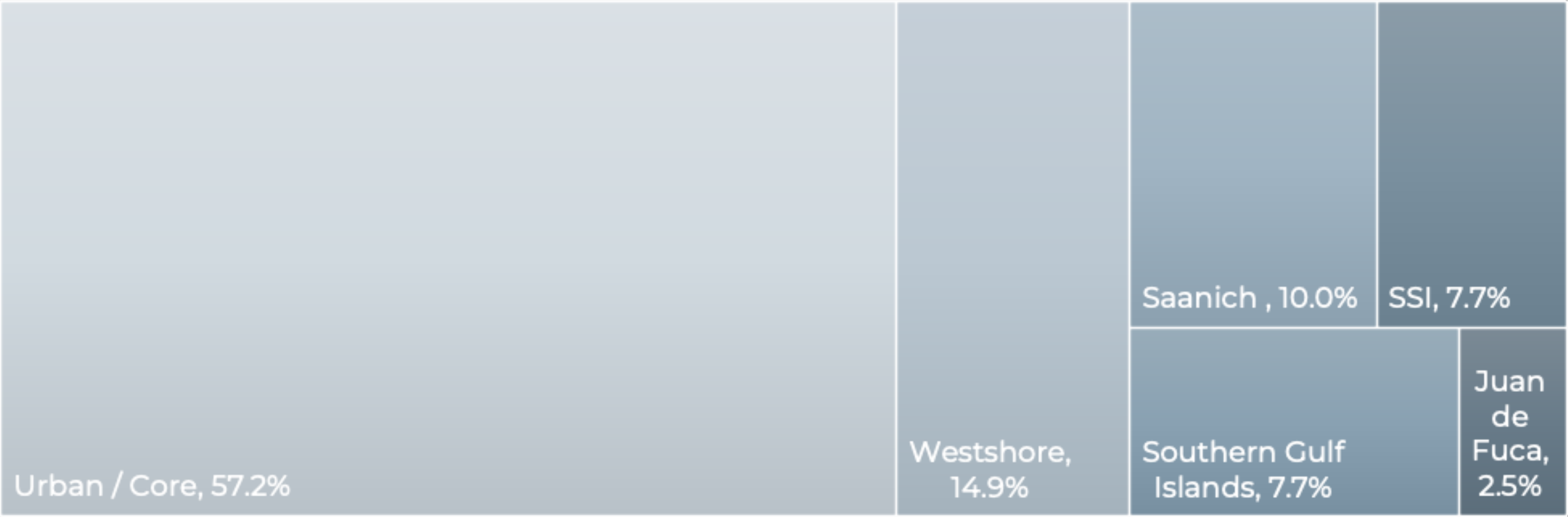
- What the residents of the CRD value
- The level of knowledge or awareness of the CRD in the region
- The level of trust in the CRD
- The level of satisfaction in CRD service
- The desired role of digital in-service delivery

Awareness & Understanding
Trust
Engagement
Digital Engagement

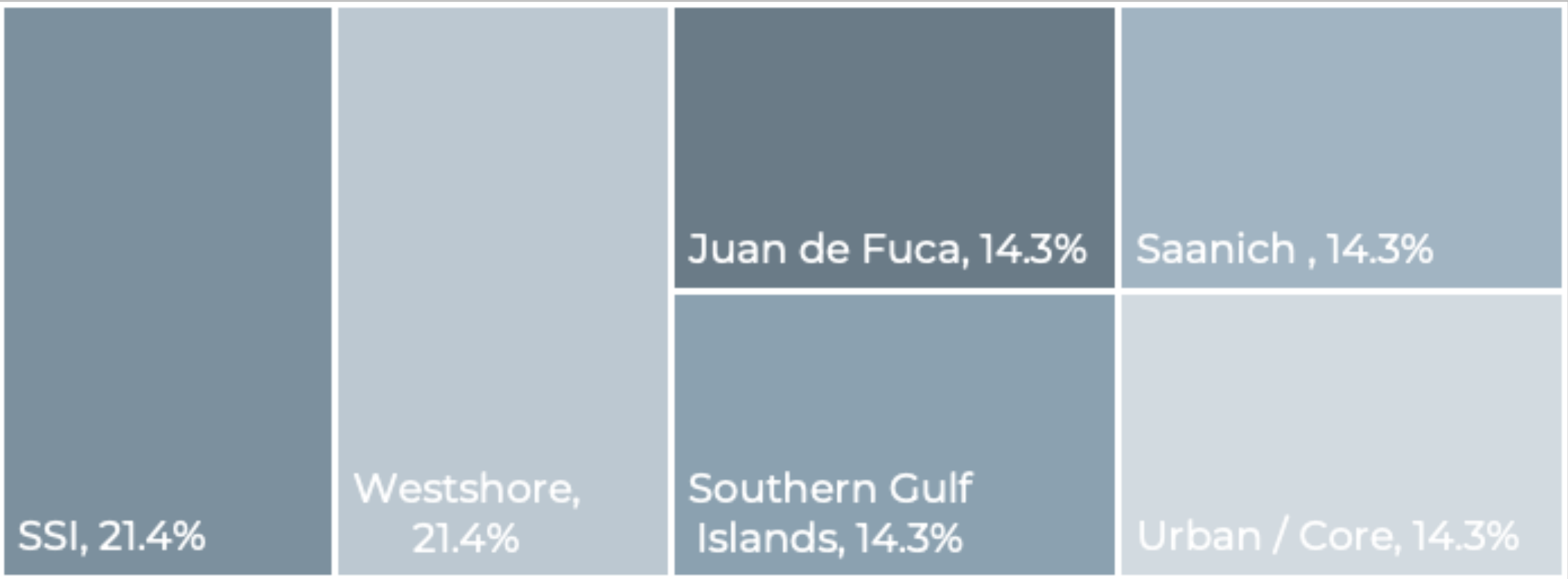
402 residents surveyed online
14 in-depth interviews
Every CRD region represented
Baseline established
Q4 2024

Regional breakdown & participant profile

Region, Quantitative Study, n=402



Region, Focused Interviews, n=14



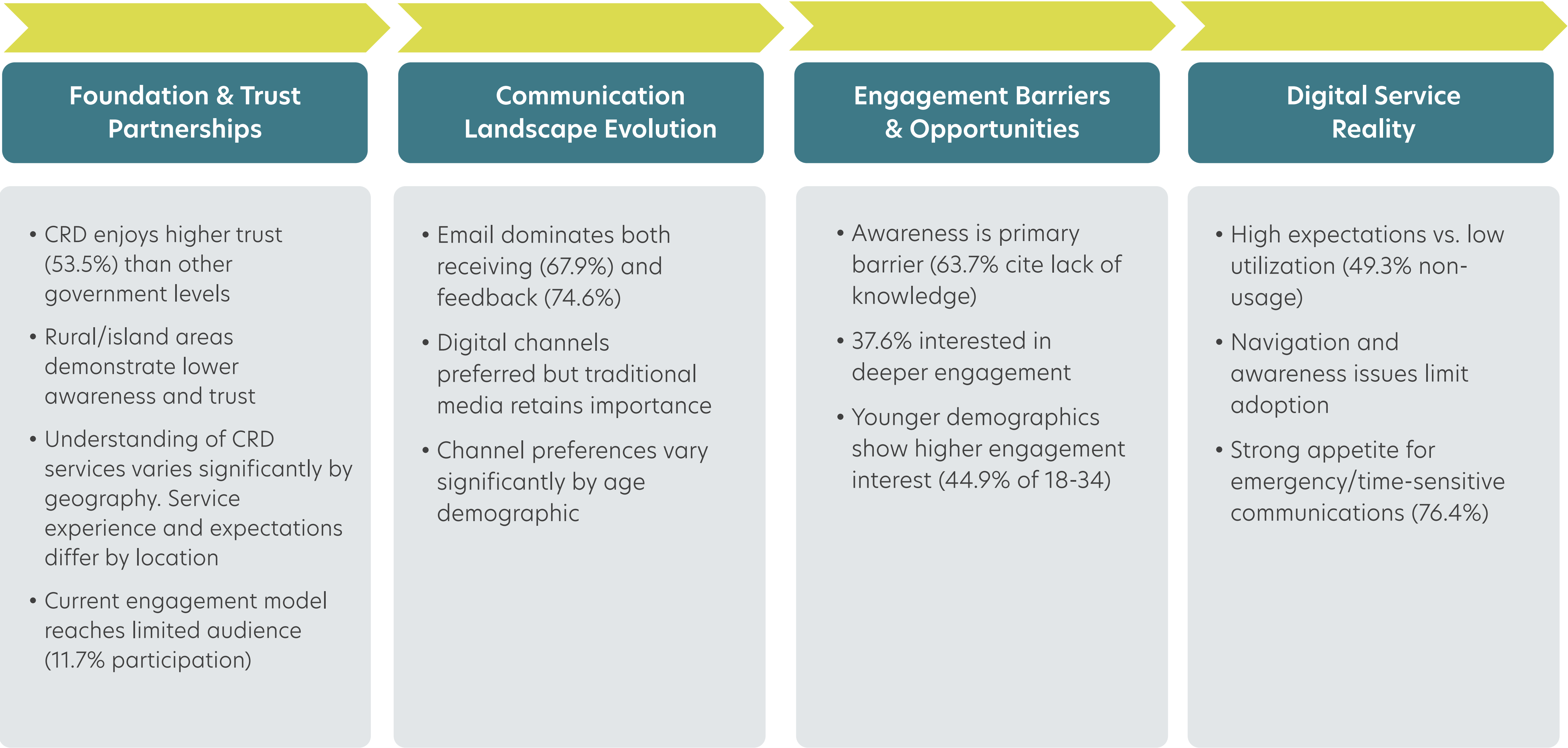
Gender
Female 56% Male 44%

Length of Residency in CRD
< 5 years 24%
5-10 years 14%
> 10 years



What We Learned - Key Insights

KEY INSIGHTS



Where to from here

Geographically Targeted Communications Framework

ACTIONS

- Develop distinct communication approaches for core vs. rural areas
- Create region-specific content highlighting local service impact
- Build targeted awareness campaigns for rural/island communities about CRD's role
- Maintain consistent core messaging while adapting delivery methods



Salt Spring Island



Galiano Island



Victoria

Thank you.

Prepared by Catapult Strategy
Contact: Monique Janower
E. mjanower@catapultstrategy.com
P. 778-996-2099



CRD

REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 02, 2025

SUBJECT **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) 2024 Overview**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual year-end update on the key metrics of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received in 2024 and provide an overview of privacy-related activities led by the Privacy and Information Services Division in 2024.

BACKGROUND

The *Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act) requires all public bodies to be accountable to the public and to protect personal privacy by providing a right of access to records in the custody or control of a public body, including records containing personal information about the applicant.

IMPLICATIONS

Access (FOI) Requests for 2024

In 2024, the Capital Regional District (CRD) processed **268** requests for information under the Act, decreasing by 16 requests or approximately 6% from last year. The Planning and Protective Services Department and Building Inspection Division continue as the service areas most subject to FOI requests. The average size of each request increased from previous years, as has the overall complexity and effort required to process each request. This is demonstrated by the increase in the number of 30-day extensions taken. In 2024, 13 extensions were taken, compared to 8 in 2023. Records retrieved are categorized by department under the following themes:

Planning and Protective Services (234 Requests):

- **Building Inspection** (190 requests) – building and property inspection records;
- **Bylaw Enforcement** (39 requests) – animal control incidents, complaint files (including audio-visual files), permits and inspection records;
- **Emergency Management** (1 request) – Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP) records;
- **Regional Housing** (4 requests) – Tenancy records.

Corporate Services (4 requests) – Commission & Committee meeting records, accidents & claims files (Risk), electoral information.

Executive Services and Human Resources (7 requests) – Board meeting records and correspondence, employment & personnel records.

Integrated Water Services (8 requests) – Water infrastructure, waste management, water servicing & supply, and related records.

Parks & Environmental Services (13 requests):

- **Regional Parks** (7 requests) – Strategic planning records about parks and trails;
- **Recreation** (6 requests) – Video surveillance footage and incident reports from recreational facilities.

Finance & Technology (2 requests) – Financial service records.

In 2024, Privacy and Information Services staff continued to process a high volume of audio-visual (AV) files; 158 AV files were reviewed as part of 11 requests. Similar to 2023, most video files were responsive to bylaw enforcement FOI requests, which applicants specifically requested. In FOI work, AV files are complex to redact and are significantly more time-consuming to process compared to written records, electronic documents, photos, and other file types. As this trend continues, Privacy and Information Services staff keep building and refining their AV processing skills.

In 2024, Privacy and Information Services staff formalized a procedure to re-direct applicants requesting building permit information to request a Permit Information Report (PIR) prior to submitting an FOI request. The PIR costs \$100 and is available for purchase directly from Building Inspection. The report provides a chronological history of the permits issued for a specific property. Although the PIR has been available for many years through Building Inspection, it is now being consistently leveraged by Privacy and Information Services staff as an alternate release process outside of FOI requests.

FOIPPA does not permit FOI requests to bypass, or replace, existing fee-based request processes. Furthermore, PIRs do not contain personal information and qualify for routine release directly by Building Inspection. By re-designing Privacy and Information Services processes to incorporate the PIR, staff can re-direct applicants seeking historical permit information to the fee-based request process, bypassing FOI. This approach generates revenue for Building Inspection, improves timelines and service delivery to requestors, and reduces workload, as FOI requests are more onerous and time-consuming to process. In 2024, Privacy and Information Services staff re-directed 9 formally submitted FOI requests to the PIR process. However, this number does not account for the many FOI requests which were avoided by redirecting prospective FOI applicants to the PIR process, as avoided requests are not recorded in the FOIPPA annual statistics.

General request metrics are further broken down in the Tables in Appendix A. Tables 1 and 2 outline the type of requestors and the number of requests broken down by CRD department area. The effort required to address each request varies significantly based on the scope and nature of what the applicant is looking for. Table 3 sets out the cumulative total number of pages staff reviewed and released over the year. This metric does not include other forms of processed records, including AV files. Table 4 outlines how many requests were subject to fees, how much was issued in fee estimates compared to how much was collected in fee payments, how many of the requests involving fees were commercial applicants compared to non-commercial applicants (i.e. individuals) and how many requests were not processed due to fees.

Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) - In 2024, Privacy and Information Services staff worked

on 46 PIAs. Technology initiatives, including IT system upgrades, corporate change initiatives and provincial/multi-jurisdictional projects, continue to drive PIA work in terms of volume, complexity, depth, and scope of required assessments. Many legacy IT systems and processes, which never initially went through the PIA process, are now being assessed due to a major system upgrade or change. Given the modernization goals of Technology and Digital Transformation's (TDTs) strategic plan, this trend is expected to continue into 2025 and beyond.

Surveys and consultation activities also require significant PIA support. In late 2024, the Manager, FOI & Privacy established a new, simplified PIA template specific for survey initiatives which use existing CRD survey tools (Checkbox and Engagement HQ). As these corporate tools underwent the PIA process and are approved, including for surveys which may collect personal information, the PIA review process for individual surveys which use these tools can be streamlined. This new PIA template is well-received by staff and should reduce processing times for survey PIAs.

PIAs completed in 2024 can be categorized under the following themes:

- **Public or Internal Stakeholder Consultation and Surveys** (14 PIAs) – Regional Residential survey, Liquid Waste Management Plan Consultation, Recreation Facility Needs Assessment Survey & Engagement, SEAPARC Strategic Plan Survey, CRHC 2024 Tenant Survey, Solids Waste Management Engagement Project (Malatest), various environmental and satisfaction surveys.
- **New or Updates to Corporate Technologies & Major Change Initiatives** (9 PIAs) – Video surveillance systems changes or updates, new enterprise-level Microsoft tools (Power BI, Entra/Purview), SAP S/4 HANA Upgrade (*ongoing*), ArcGIS Portal, enterprise architecture management solution.
- **Internal Projects** (21 PIAs) – Website redesign and associated tools (usage statistics, e-newsletter), Arts & Culture data sharing initiative, wildlife monitoring in regional parks, fleet data and telematics, CRD electric vehicle charging stations, CRHC property management software, SharePoint volunteer registration lists, CRHC Housing Agreement Program, Checkbox Cloud upgrade, Digital Asset Management System, Motor Vehicle Claims module of Prismatic.
- **Provincial / Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships or Projects** (2 PIAs) – Next Generation 911 (NG911), Homeless Individuals and Families Information System project (HIFIS, involving CRD, BC Housing, other various parties).

PIAs can differ greatly across initiatives which require them. The time and effort required to write, review, and complete a PIA heavily depends on the scope, scale and complexity of an initiative. Key considerations include the type and sensitivity of the information involved, the initiative's privacy impacts and mitigation requirements, the physical, technical and security measures used, the processes, systems and stakeholders involved, and timing. Large initiatives may require multiple PIAs to address the different components or may require multiple years to complete. Business areas lack the privacy subject matter expertise to complete PIAs on their own and need guidance for their initiatives to be privacy compliant, which the PIA process provides. Further, PIAs for technology initiatives may also require input and review by Information Technology staff, particularly IT security.

Initiatives involving a service provider or external stakeholder typically include the third

party/parties in the PIA process. Components of the assessment may require external input, such as the technical security measures used to protect information collected and stored by a third party. The process helps apprise service providers of the CRD's obligations under FOIPPA.

A new Senior Privacy & Information Analyst FTE position was approved for 2024, to further support PIA work. The position was filled in January 2025, and PIA processing times within the Privacy and Information Services team are anticipated to improve.

Privacy Management Program (PMP) and Training – Privacy and Information Services provides regular mandatory FOI and privacy training for all CRD employees, which must be completed within six months of commencing employment. In 2024, Privacy and Information Services offered three foundational training sessions, attended by 77 staff. Privacy Refresher training tailored specifically for Finance managers was also offered.

Privacy Breach Reporting – In 2024, Privacy and Information Services were notified of seven privacy incidents; none of which resulted in any significant harm to affected individuals, and all were quickly remediated. Four privacy-related complaints involved the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) for BC. The CRD was upheld in one complaint review, one complaint was withdrawn by the complainant, and the remaining two complaints have not yet been reviewed by an OIPC investigator.

The number of privacy breaches that occur annually is relatively low, and generally manageable, but could be very impactful on workload should a large incident occur, involving sensitive personal information. Privacy staff coordinate closely with IT security on areas of common interest, including PIAs, risk management, incident management, policies, training, and support.

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

Access to information and privacy impact assessments fall under the Community Need for Open Government. These activities also support legislative compliance, transparency and business systems and processes in the Corporate Plan and are important for good governance.

CONCLUSION

Redirecting permit information requestors to purchase Permit Information Reports (PIRs) directly from Building Inspection seems to have successfully reduced the number of FOI requests in 2024. However, both FOIs and PIAs have continued to grow in complexity. As CRD undertakes technology modernization and digital transformation, these initiatives will require PIAs. Further work is planned in 2025 to define and promote publicly accessible data categories for certain record types, such as the PIR. This work benefits the public through improved information access and meets legislative requirements under FOIPPA. Further, increasing public access to CRD information outside of the FOI process should slowly decrease the annual volume of FOI requests. In time, these improvements should free up Privacy and Information Services staff to focus on processing more complex FOI requests, PIAs and other areas of work.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Kelsey Dupuis, MLIS, MAS, CIPM, Manager, FOI & Privacy
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: 2024 FOI Request Metrics Tables 1 - 4

Table 1 – Types of Requestors

Type of Requestor	Requests by Year		
	2024	2023	2022
Individuals	153	156	134
Realtors	67	81	66
Law Firms	11	11	23
Other Commercial/Businesses	19	14	12
Associations and Societies	6	5	2
Special Interest Groups*	9	9	9
RCMP and Police	3	7	1
Media	0	1	1
Total	268	284	248

**These account for consultation requests submitted by other public bodies under FOIPPA, including provincial and local government, and special purpose government bodies such as Islands Trust. Consultation requests require similar administration and processing efforts to other FOIs for reporting purposes.*

Table 2 – Requests by Department

Requests by Department	Requests by Year		
	2024	2023	2022
Planning and Protective Services	226	244	213
Parks and Environmental Services	17	13	12
Executive Services	5	6	6
Corporate Services	6	6	7
Finance & Technology	2	2	0
Integrated Water Services	8	8	4
Capital Regional Housing Corp / Regional Housing	4	5	6
Total	268	284	248

Table 3 – Summary of Documentation Released

Year	Requests	Total Pages Reviewed	Total Pages Released	Average Review (pages)	Average Release (pages)	30 Day Extension
2024	268	11,749*	9,667	56	46	13
2023	284	14,306	10,355	50	36	8
2022	248	8,730	6,344	35	26	2

** This figure does not include **158 audio-video records** that were also reviewed as part of 11 requests.*

Table 4 – Summary of Fee Estimates Issued and Fees Collected

Year	Requests	Total Requests with Fees	Total Fee Estimates Issued	Total Fees Collected (Paid)	Total Commercial Requests (Paid Fees)	Total Non-Commercial Requests (Paid Fees)	Total Requests Abandoned (Not Paid)
2024	268	3	\$1,333.81	\$1,255.31	1	1	1
2023	284	7	\$2,110.80	\$349.79	1	3	3
2022	248	8	\$3,002.05	\$1134.99	2	3	3

**REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025**

SUBJECT **Deactivating the Capital Regional District X (Twitter) account**

ISSUE SUMMARY

Staff have been monitoring the evolution of the X (formally twitter) social media platform. X has decreased in reliability over the last few years. The platform's instability, diminished content moderation, and policies around hate speech have had significant impacts on engagement, and have resulted in increasing challenges in managing misinformation and maintaining a positive online presence.

BACKGROUND

Since February 2012 the Capital Regional District (CRD) has been on Twitter, now re-branded as X. The CRD has approximately 8,500 followers and follows 534 accounts. Because decision makers in media, government, business, entertainment, and the non-profit sector all leverage X, its impact has exceeded the size of its user base. Since Elon Musk acquired the platform in 2022, significant changes to the social media platform have been made including:

1. Laying off about six thousand employees, including eliminating its communications team.
2. Moved to a paid system for verified accounts.
3. Arbitrarily suspended and reactivated accounts.
4. Dissolved its Trust and Safety Council which was responsible for policies on hate speech, child sexual exploitation, and self-harm conduct.
5. Restricted and increased the cost of accessing the Twitter API (Application Program Interface).
6. Closed 4 large data centres leading to platform instability.
7. Changed the name of Twitter to X overnight.
8. The social conversation on X has increasingly degraded where the number of bots, hostile speech, excessively graphic content and misinformation has increased.

The platform instability, diminished content moderation, and policies have had significant impacts on organizations including in British Columbia. Numerous municipalities have deactivated their X account.

Some municipalities, public sector organizations, media companies and journalists have chosen to move to X alternatives like Bluesky. An analysis of Bluesky and other X alternatives and the CRD approach can be found in Appendix A.

Briefly, Bluesky shows promise with a focus on decentralization, privacy, and user experience. It aligns well with modern digital engagement strategies. However, the current limitations in Bluesky's discoverability, lack of integration with CRD's social media management tools, and verification, along with potential risks in content moderation, security, and technical issues, need to be carefully considered before a full-scale adoption.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the CRD begin the process of deactivating its X account on April 10, 2025 using the following deactivation procedure:

- a) Inform CRD X followers that the CRD will no longer post to this account.
- b) Publish a message stating the account is inactive and direct followers to the CRD website and other Social Media Channels.
- c) Continue to monitor the growth of Bluesky and consider CRD adopting the platform when it sufficiently matures.

Alternative 2

That the CRD maintain the status quo and continues to utilize the X social media platform.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

The primary utility of X to the CRD is as a platform to deliver public notices and alerts.

The CRD recently launched its new public website which has introduced new features designed to enhance how residents interact with CRD services and stay informed. Email subscription options allow users to receive updates on topics of interest, ensuring they remain aware of important changes, events, and service updates.

The move away from X will be mitigated by pointing users to other options and proactively promoting these new web subscription options for news, public notices and alerts.

Some physical CRD signage promotes CRD's presence on X, so a holding message will be useful to point users to other CRD platforms.

CONCLUSION

X has become rife with misinformation, which can spread rapidly and undermine public trust in official communications. Additionally, the time and resources required to monitor and respond to X can be better allocated to more effective communication channels, such as web notices and updates or other social media platforms. By focusing on these more controlled and reliable methods, the CRD can ensure that its messages are accurately conveyed and that public information sharing, and engagement remains constructive and meaningful.

Governance and First Nations Relations Committee – April 2, 2025
Deactivating the Capital Regional District X (Twitter) account

RECOMMENDATION

The Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the CRD begin the process of deactivating its X account on April 10, 2025 using the following deactivation procedure:

- a) Inform CRD X followers that the CRD will no longer post to this account.
- b) Publish a message stating the account is inactive and direct followers to the CRD website and other Social Media Channels.
- c) Continue to monitor the growth of Bluesky and consider CRD adopting the platform when it sufficiently matures.

Submitted by:	Sudha Krishna, Manager, Social Media and Marketing
Concurrence	Andy Orr, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications and Engagement
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Analysis of X alternatives

Analysis of X alternatives

Information for Capital Regional District Board

Capital Regional District | February 2025

Purpose

To evaluate the potential benefits and drawbacks of the Capital Regional District (CRD) adopting the Bluesky platform as a substitute for X (Twitter).

Background

Bluesky is an emerging social media platform established in 2019 as a project under the previous leadership of Twitter founder Jack Dorsey. It became a fully independent company in 2022, focusing on giving users more control. It does this through the AT Protocol, which was designed to enhance privacy, data security, and user control over digital identities by allowing seamless movement of social connections across different apps. Bluesky gained popularity after Elon Musk took over Twitter rebranding it as X. Bluesky is viewed as a potential replacement for X.

Corporate Communications and Engagement currently has placeholder accounts in three potential alternatives to X.

- Bluesky,
- Threads (owned by Meta)
- Mastodon.

Pros and Cons of the Bluesky platform

Pros:

Decentralization and Privacy:

- Bluesky's decentralized nature ensures that user data is not controlled by a single entity, enhancing privacy and data security.
- Users have greater control over their digital identities and can carry their social connections across different apps that adopt the AT Protocol.

Analysis of X alternatives

Information for Capital Regional District Board

Capital Regional District | February 2025

User Experience:

- The platform offers a user-friendly interface similar to the early days of Twitter, making it easy for users to transition.
- There is no central algorithm manipulating the feed, leading to a more genuine engagement and visibility based on user interactions.

Community and Engagement:

- Bluesky has a growing user base, with over 27 million users as of January 2025.
- The platform fosters a positive community with minimal trolling and negativity, creating a safer and more pleasant environment for users

Innovation and Growth:

- Bluesky is rapidly evolving, with new features being rolled out regularly, keeping the platform fresh and engaging.
- The platform's user base expanded from 10 million in September 2024 to 27.44 million by mid-January 2025, demonstrating a growth rate of approximately 1 user every 6 seconds.

Cons:

Discoverability Issues:

- Finding specific users can be challenging due to limited verification and naming conventions, which may hinder user engagement and connectivity.

Limited Integration:

- Unlike other decentralized platforms like Mastodon, Bluesky does not currently connect with ActivityPub, limiting its interoperability with other networks
- Currently, there is no integration with Hootsuite, the social media platform the CRD leverages to publish and moderate social media content. So that means anytime a communicator would want to

Analysis of X alternatives

Information for Capital Regional District Board

Capital Regional District | February 2025

publish to Bluesky that would have to go into the app to publish as opposed to our current process where we have greater oversight in Hootsuite.

Early-Stage Development:

- As a relatively new platform, Bluesky may still have some technical and usability issues that need to be addressed
- The platform's ecosystem is still developing, which may result in a less polished experience compared to more established social media networks.
- Though the platform is growing quickly, a scan of Vancouver Island accounts shows promising but still limited adoption, confined to early adopters in the media (CFAX, individual reporters).

Potential Imposters:

- The current verification system is not robust, making it difficult to identify genuine accounts, which could lead to issues with imposters

Financial Uncertainty:

- Bluesky is a start-up company currently in Series B round of financing after a \$15 million series A round of financing, led by Bain Capital Ventures. News reports suggest a valuation of \$700 million. Reports also suggest it is developing a subscription-based revenue model.

Bluesky Comparisons

Bluesky vs. X (Twitter):

User Control: Bluesky offers more user control over data and content due to its decentralized model, whereas X is centralized and often criticized for algorithmic manipulation.

Community: Bluesky fosters a more positive community with less trolling, while X has issues with both spam and toxic interactions.

Analysis of X alternatives

Information for Capital Regional District Board

Capital Regional District | February 2025

Verification: X has a paid verification system, which has sparked debates, while Bluesky's verification system is still developing.

Bluesky vs. Mastodon:

Interoperability: Mastodon connects with ActivityPub, allowing interaction with other networks in the Fediverse, while Bluesky does not

User Experience: Both platforms offer a decentralized experience, but Bluesky is noted for its simpler, more user-friendly interface.

Bluesky vs. Threads:

Accessibility: Bluesky is open to everyone, while Threads requires an Instagram account, making it more exclusive to Meta users.

Community Building: Bluesky focuses on niche, interest-driven communities, whereas Threads is more integrated with Instagram's broader user base.

Integration: Threads has integration with Hootsuite so CRD communicators would be able to publish to the channel similar to other CRD social channels.

Potential Risks of Adoption:

Content Moderation Challenges:

Bluesky's user-driven content moderation may not be sufficient to protect against inappropriate or harmful material. The platform's decentralized nature complicates adherence to community guidelines, potentially leading to delayed responses to harmful content.

Security Concerns:

As a relatively new platform, Bluesky's privacy measures are still evolving, raising concerns about data security as it scales.

The platform is actively working on systems to identify and mitigate spam and fake accounts, but these measures are still in development

Analysis of X alternatives

Information for Capital Regional District Board

Capital Regional District | February 2025

Financial Viability

Bluesky is startup so its long-term viability remains an open question. Success social media startups are mixed at best and the CRD needs to be mindful before investing in the platform.

Cultural and Social Risks:

Bluesky has faced controversies, such as user backlash against certain public figures, which could impact the platform's reputation and user experience.

The platform's rapid growth has led to challenges in managing government censorship, scam accounts, and propaganda

Technical and Usability Issues:

Being in the early stages of development, Bluesky may still have technical and usability issues that need to be addressed

The platform's ecosystem is still developing, which may result in a less polished experience compared to more established social media networks.

Conclusion:

Bluesky's focus on decentralization, privacy, and user experience aligns well with modern digital engagement strategies. However, the current limitations in discoverability, integration, and verification, along with potential risks in content moderation, security, technical issues and financial viability concerns, need to be carefully considered before a full-scale adoption.

Recommendation:

1. Point X users to our other social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) and our new subscription features on our website.
2. Continue to monitor Bluesky adoption in the South Island before fully activating the account.



March 20, 2025

AVICC Member Legislative Services
AVICC Member Councils, Boards, and CAOs

RE: FEEDBACK REQUESTED: Reforming the Local Government Act - A Roadmap

I am reaching out to formally request that this communication be included as a Board or Council Communication on your upcoming agenda.

Feedback is requested on the initiative to modernize the *Local Government Act (LGA)*. It has been identified that the input from member staff and elected officials is crucial, and we are asking that this opportunity be shared throughout your organization, and that time be allocated to allow for participation.

Don Lidstone K.C. has written a document, "[Regional District Legislation Roadmap](#)", as a framework to gather feedback from all five area associations on the challenges local governments are experiencing with the *LGA*. The *Roadmap* document has been transposed into a survey that is now available at the following link:

[Reforming the Local Government Act: A Roadmap – SURVEY LINK](#)

- The survey may be completed by individuals or as a group – we would like to hear from local government and First Nations elected officials and staff with comments about the legislation and recommendations, examples of how the current legislation impacts the work that you do, and potential solutions or additional recommendations.
- The *Roadmap* document has been divided into 9 survey pages in SurveyMonkey, consisting of an executive summary with recommendations, followed by examinations of Parts 5-12 of the *LGA*.
- Each of the 9 survey pages is followed by questions that you are invited to respond to as you wish. There is no requirement to answer all the questions – any degree of input is beneficial.
- Survey responses will be anonymously compiled to produce a report for UBCM and the Province that defines issues and specific preferences for modernizing the current legislation.
- There is an option in each section to input your contact information if you are willing to provide more information about your comments, or if you would like a response - this is not required.
- Your responses will be saved after each page, so that you can pause and return to the survey at your convenience – you must use the same device and web browser to access your saved survey.

- You may edit your responses, or add additional comments up until May 31, 2025 at 11:59pm – you must use the same device and web browser to access your previously submitted survey.

Any survey responses received by March 28 will be included in content provided to the area associations' annual conventions. The final deadline to submit responses to any of the survey pages is 11:59 pm on Saturday, May 31.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please reach out to AVICC Executive Director, Theresa Dennison, at info@avicc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Geselbracht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" and last name "Geselbracht" clearly legible.

Ben Geselbracht
AVICC President
Councillor, City of Nanaimo

cc: Theresa Dennison, Executive Director, AVICC; info@avicc.ca



Making a difference...together

REPORT TO THE JUAN DE FUCA LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

SUBJECT **Development Variance Permit for Lot 7, District Lot 29, Otter District,
Plan VIP59848 – 7827 Dalrae Place**

ISSUE SUMMARY

A request has been made for a development variance to reduce a flanking yard setback from 6 m to 4 m and a rear yard setback from 10 m to 5.5 m, to address undue hardship under the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation* requirements for the purpose of a two-lot subdivision (SU000736).

BACKGROUND

The 1.0 ha property is located at 7827 Dalrae Place in Otter Point (Appendix A) and is zoned Rural Residential 2 (RR-2) under the Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Bylaw No. 2040. The parcel has an irregular shape and is roughly bisected by a wetland that is protected by a covenant. The property is partially designated as Steep Slopes and Watercourses and Wetlands Development Permit (DP) areas by the Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP), Bylaw No. 3819. The parcel has road frontage on Carpenter Road and Dalrae Place. A single-family dwelling and detached garage are located on the southern portion of the lot with access from Dalrae Place. Neighbouring parcels on Dalrae Place and Carpenter Road are also zoned RR-2.

The parent parcel meets the minimum parcel size specified by RR-2 zone; however, the landowner wishes to subdivide the parcel into two lots (Appendix B) to provide residence for a relative in accordance with Section 514 of the *Local Government Act (LGA)*. No minimum lot size is specified by the RR-2 zone for parcels created under this section of the *LGA*.

The *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR)* specifies that where less than 30% of a proposed parcel is available for development after the standard of protection and the required yard setbacks are applied, development is considered to put additional pressure on the riparian areas and present undue hardship. The owner has requested variances to reduce the required flanking yard setback of proposed Lot A and the rear yard setback of the proposed Remainder Lot to ensure both parcels have an adequate developable area and remove the undue hardship designation under the *RAPR* (Appendix C).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Land Use Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That Development Variance Permit VA000164 to vary Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Bylaw No. 2040, Part 2, be approved as follows:

- a. Section 6.07(c) is varied by reducing the flanking yard setback requirement for proposed Lot A from 6 m to 4 m; and
- b. Section 6.07(d) is varied by reducing the rear yard setback requirement for proposed Remainder Lot 7 from 10 m to 5.5 m;

for the purpose of removing undue hardship for a two-lot subdivision of Lot 7, District Lot 29, Otter District, Plan VIP59848, pursuant to the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation*.

Alternative 2

That the development variance permit be denied, and the proposed parcels be required to comply with setback requirements.

IMPLICATIONS

Legislative Implications

The Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Bylaw No. 2040, Part 2, Section 6.07(c) and (d), specify that buildings and structures in the RR-2 zone be located a minimum of 6 m from a flanking lot line and 10 m from a rear lot line.

The *RAPR* specifies the conditions under which local governments may approve development in or near riparian areas and outlines the standard of protection for those areas. This includes delineation of a Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA) and determining undue hardship at the time of subdivision. Where less than 30% of the area of a proposed parcel is available as a buildable area due to SPEA calculations and zoning setbacks, undue hardship is determined to exist. The *RAPR* allows local governments to approve variances to reduce yard setbacks and alleviate the hardship. The application of SPEA and yard setbacks requirements creates potential undue hardship for each of the proposed lots under subdivision application SU000736.

Public Consultation Implications

Pursuant to Section 499 of the *LGA*, if a local government proposes to pass a resolution to issue a development variance permit, it must give notice to each resident/tenant within a given distance as specified by bylaw. Capital Regional District Bylaw No. 3885, Fees and Procedures Bylaw, states that a notice of intent must be mailed to adjacent property owners within 500 m of the subject property. Any responses received from the public will be forwarded by staff to the Land Use Committee (LUC) in advance of the March 18, 2025, LUC meeting.

Land Use Implications

The landowner proposes to create an additional parcel for a relative under Section 514 of the *LGA*. If a parcel is designated as DP area, a development permit is required to authorize subdivision. Where development, including subdivision, is to occur within riparian areas under the *RAPR*, the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship must approve a Riparian Areas Assessment report prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) prior to CRD issuance of the DP.

The landowner submitted a development permit application to meet the CRD's subdivision requirements. However, the riparian assessment identified that both proposed parcels would be subject to undue hardship under the *RAPR* due to the SPEA calculation for a wetland on the parent parcel and the minimum setbacks for buildings and structures specified by the RR-2 zone.

The existing dwelling on the proposed Remainder Lot is partially located in the SPEA; however, it was constructed prior to *RAPR* regulations and complies with the terms of covenant EH127722. The existing accessory building meets the 1 m rear and side yard setback requirements specified by the Accessory Buildings and Structures regulations in Bylaw No. 2040.

The Otter Point OCP supports the consideration of variances from applicable zoning regulations in order to minimize encroachment into the DP area. Reducing the flanking setback for proposed Lot A along Dalrae Place from 6 m to 4 m and the required rear yard setback for proposed Remainder Lot 7 from 10 m to 5.5 m will increase the developable areas of the proposed parcels to meet *RAPR* standards and minimize encroachment into the DP area.

Upon receiving *RAPR* approval for the subdivision layout, the development will be aligned with the development policies of the Settlement Area land use designation and the DP guidelines in the Otter Point OCP. The riparian areas assessment report for the development permit application will be reviewed by staff in accordance with the Watercourses and Wetland Areas DP guidelines.

It is not anticipated that a reduction in yard setbacks will impose a hardship on adjacent properties; however, notice of the requested variance will be sent to owner and occupiers of land within 500 m of the subject property and any comments received will be forwarded to the LUC for consideration.

Staff recommend approval of development variance permit VA000164 (Appendix D), subject to public notification and consideration of comments from neighbouring residents. If the variance is approved, any structures on proposed Lot A that are located less than 4.5 m from the Dalrae Place right-of-way will require a permit from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

CONCLUSION

The applicant has requested a variance to alleviate future undue hardship under the *RAPR* and facilitate a 2-lot subdivision. In order to meet *RAPR* standards, a variance to reduce the flanking yard setback for proposed Lot A from 6 m to 4 m and the rear yard setback for proposed Remainder Lot 7 from 10 m to 5.5 m is required. If the Permit is approved by the Board, the Corporate Officer will proceed to issue the Permit and register a Notice on Title.

RECOMMENDATION

The Land Use Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That Development Variance Permit VA000164 to vary Juan de Fuca Land Use Bylaw, 1992, Bylaw No. 2040, Part 2, be approved as follows:

- a. Section 6.07(c) is varied by reducing the flanking yard setback requirement for proposed Lot A from 6 m to 4 m; and
- b. Section 6.07(d) is varied by reducing the rear yard setback requirement for proposed Remainder Lot 7 from 10 m to 5.5 m;

for the purpose of alleviating undue hardship for a two-lot subdivision of Lot 7, District Lot 29, Otter District, Plan VIP59848, pursuant to the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation*.

Submitted by:	Iain Lawrence, MCIP, RPP, Senior Manager, JdF Local Area Services
Concurrence:	Patrick Klassen, MCIP, RPP, Acting General Manager, Housing, Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B.Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: Subject Property Map
Appendix B: Proposed Plan of Subdivision
Appendix C: Variance Request
Appendix D: Development Variance Permit VA000164

Subject Property Map - VA000164

CRD
Making a difference...together

Legend

- Watercourses Primary 20,000
- Watercourses Secondary 20,000
- Watercourses Tertiary 20,000
- River
- Properties
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Private Managed Forest Land
- Plan and Lot Labels < 1:10,000

Scale: 0 50.8 101.6 Meters

North Arrow

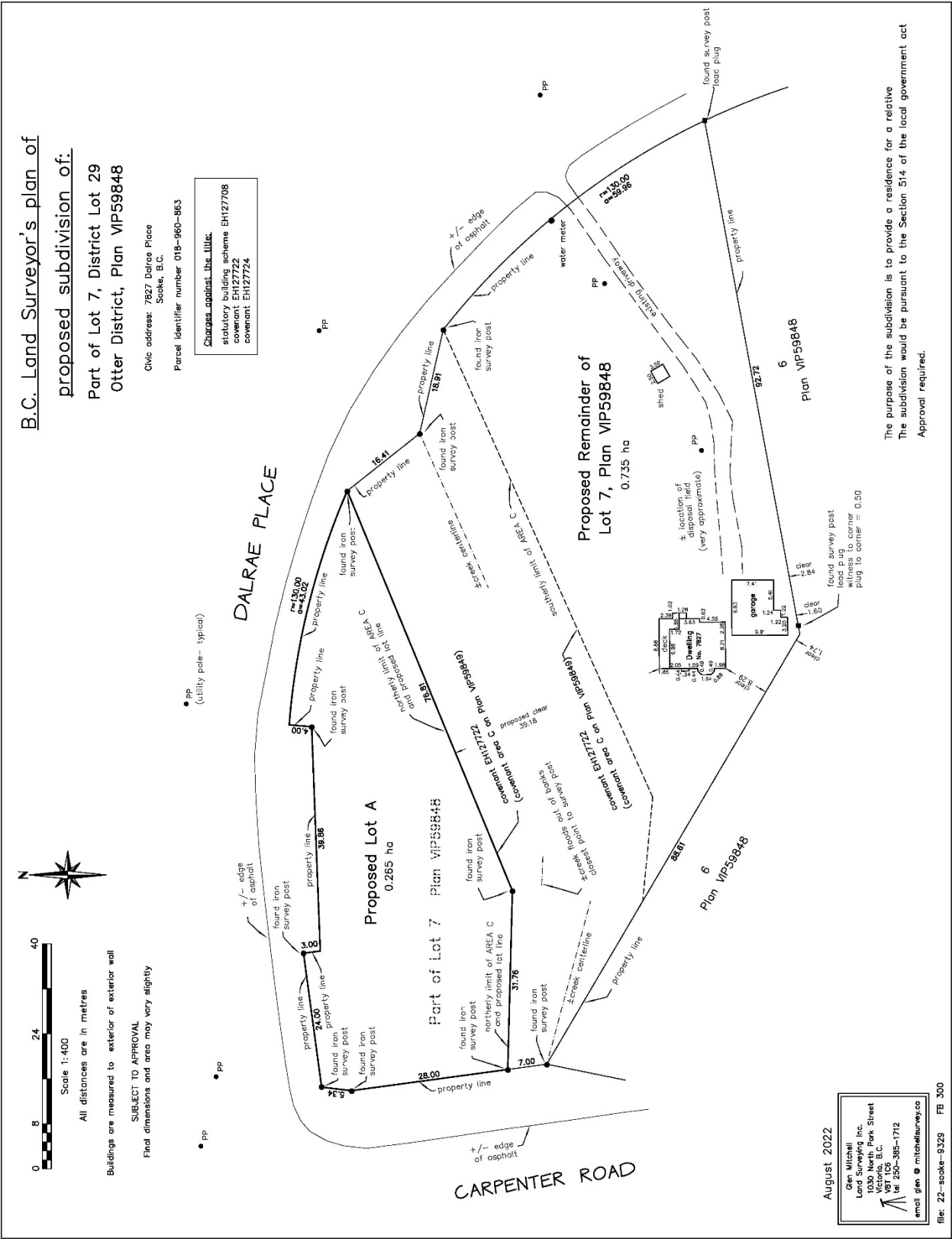
Title Block: VIP76542 B, VIS4511 A, VIS4511 B, VIS4511 C, VIS4304 A, VIS4304 B, VIS4304 C, VIS4304 D, VIP59848 1, VIP59848 2, VIP59848 3, VIP59848 4, VIP59848 5, VIP59848 6, VIP59848 7, VIP59848 8, VIP59848 9, VIP59848 10, VIP59848 11, VIP59848 12, VIP59848 13, VIP59848 14, VIP59848 15

Scale: 1: 2,000

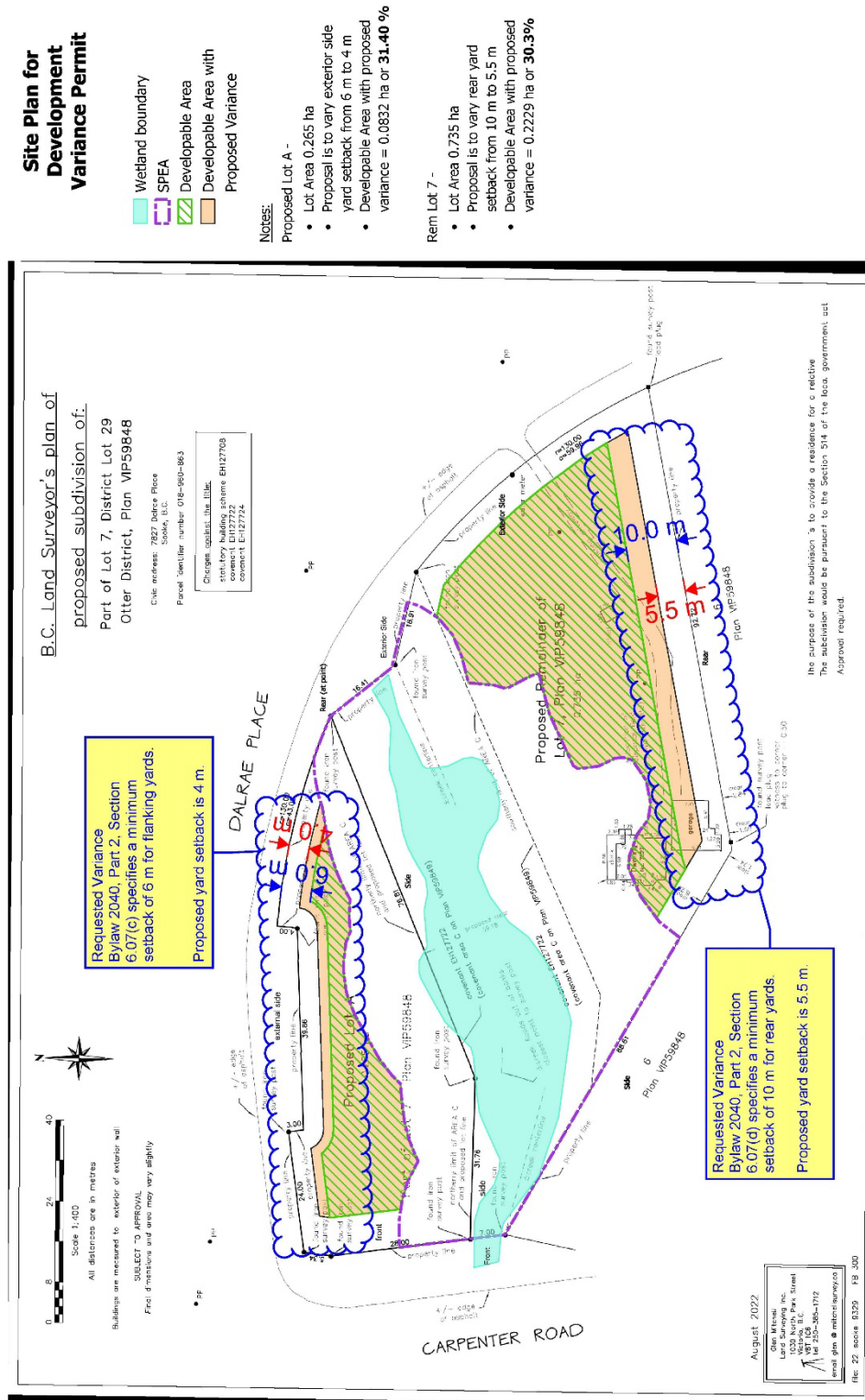
Notes: Important: This map is for general information purposes only. The Capital Regional District (CRD) makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of this map or the suitability of the map for any purpose. This map is not for navigation. The CRD will not be liable for any damage, loss or injury resulting from the use of the map or information on the map and the map may be changed by the CRD at any time.

Map Data: NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_10N
© Capital Regional District

Appendix B: Proposed Plan of Subdivision



Appendix C: Variance Request



Appendix D: Development Variance Permit VA000164



CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT NO. VA000164

1. This Development Variance Permit is issued under the authority of Section 498 of the *Local Government Act* and subject to compliance with all of the bylaws of the Regional District applicable thereto, except as specifically authorized by this Permit.
2. This Development Variance Permit applies to a proposed 2-lot subdivision of those lands within the Regional District described below (legal description) in accordance with the plans submitted to the CRD and attached herein:
PID: 018-960-863;
Legal Description: Lot 7, District Lot 29, Otter District, Plan VIP59848
3. The Capital Regional District's **Bylaw No. 2040, Part 2** is varied under Section 498 of the *Local Government Act* as follows:
 - a. Section 6.07(c) is varied by reducing the flanking yard setback requirement for proposed Lot A from 6 m to 4 m; and
 - b. Section 6.07(d) is varied by reducing the rear yard setback requirement for proposed Remainder Lot 7 from 10 m to 5.5 m;for the purpose of removing undue hardship pursuant to the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation*.
4. Notice of this Permit shall be filed in the Land Title Office at Victoria as required by Section 503 of the *Local Government Act*, and the terms of this Permit (VA000164) or any amendment hereto shall be binding upon all persons who acquire an interest in the land affected by this Permit.
5. If the holder of a permit does not substantially start any construction permitted by this Permit within 2 years of the date it is issued, the permit lapses.
6. The land described herein shall be developed strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions and provisions of this Permit, and any plans and specifications attached to this Permit which shall form a part hereof.
7. The following plan and specification is attached:
 - a. Attachment 1: Site Plan Survey
8. This Permit is NOT a Building Permit.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE BOARD, THE ____ day of _____, 2025.

ISSUED this _____ day of _____, 2025

Corporate Officer
Kristen Morley



Making a difference...together

VA000164

**Site Plan for
Development
Variance Permit**

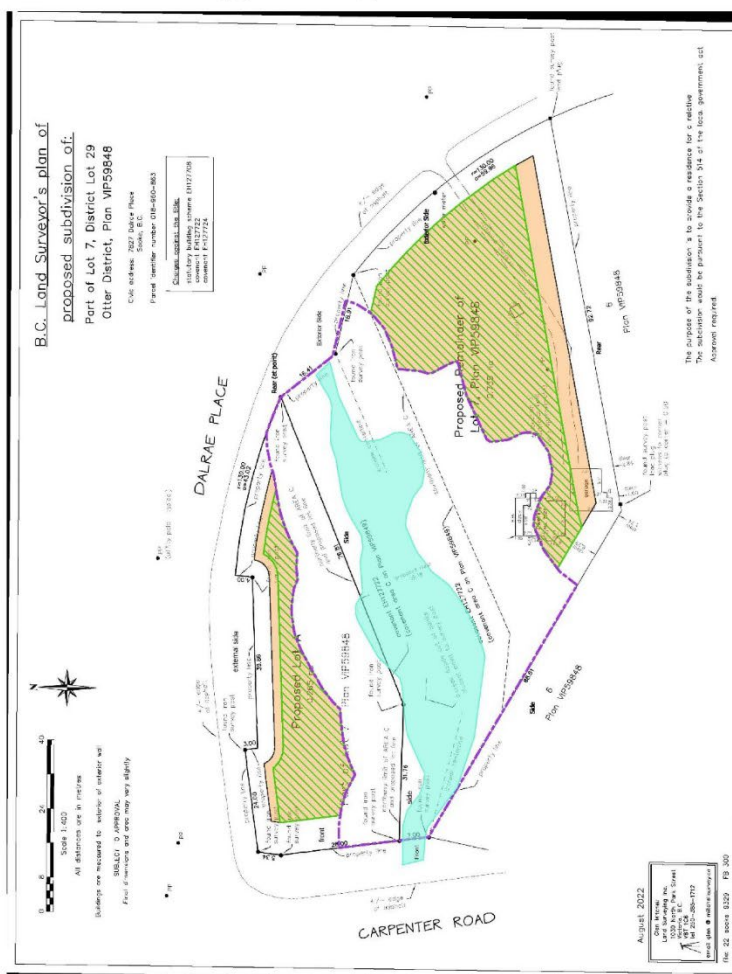
- Wetland boundary
SPEA
Developable Area
Developable Area with
Proposed Variance

Notes:

- Lot Area 0.265 ha
- Proposal is to vary exterior side yard setback from 6 m to 4 m
- Developable Area with proposed variance = 0.0832 ha or **31.40 %**

Rem Lot 7 -

- Lot Area 0.735 ha
- Proposal is to vary rear yard setback from 10 m to 5.5 m
- Developable Area with proposed variance = 0.2229 ha or **30.3%**



**REPORT TO PLANNING AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025**

SUBJECT **Regional Growth Strategy Indicators Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To receive the 2024 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Indicators Report.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act (LGA)* section 452 sets out requirements for regional districts with adopted regional growth strategies. Specifically, a regional district must:

- a) Establish a program to monitor RGS implementation and the progress made towards its objectives and actions; and,
- b) Prepare an annual report on that implementation and progress.

The RGS Indicators Report was developed in 2019 to support consistent annual reporting and meet legislative requirements. The report consists of 19 indicators that measure progress towards achieving RGS targets and objectives. Each indicator includes a description of what is being measured, why it is important and a discussion of trends. Criteria for selection of indicators included: relevance, data availability, accuracy, cost, and effort. While many indicators use data that is available annually, some rely on Census data that is only available every five years. Changes in year-to-year performance do not always equate to a long-term trend. It may take several years of data collection to reliably identify a trend.

This report is based on data available for the 2023 reporting year (January–December 2023). In this reporting year, 13 of the 19 indicators were updated with new data. Of the six indicators not updated, four are reliant on Census data and the next Census will be conducted in 2026, one is based on the Origin Destination Household Travel Survey data that will be conducted again in 2027, and one is based on Climate Action work that will be completed in 2025.

This year, four indicators have seen changes to their performance meter (*see Appendix A, page 1*). Waste stream: solid waste disposal (2.2a) and vacancy rate by rental price quartiles (3.2c) have improved. The number of stormwater discharges with a high public health concern (2.1d) and average residential water consumption (2.2b) have worsened.

Additionally, for this report, indicator 3.1a, “Create Safe and Complete Communities,” was removed. This indicator was intended to track the percentage of the region living in complete communities as identified through Regional Context Statements. However, these statements did not contain sufficient quantitative information to develop a meaningful indicator. Refinements to indicators, including a measure of safe and complete communities, will be reevaluated within a future update to the RGS.

Please see Appendix A for the report and detailed information about the new data.

The report will be posted on the Capital Regional District’s (CRD) website. A copy of the report will be sent to municipal councils and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

Annual indicator reporting addresses the Planning Community Need in the 2023-2026 CRD Corporate Plan. Initiative 8a-2 is to assess the need for an update to the Regional Growth Strategy. Annual monitoring contributes to this initiative by identifying progress being made toward RGS implementation and alerting the region to a need for change if progress is not being seen. Additionally, the indicators provide insight on progress on other Board priority areas such as transportation, housing and climate action.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

In addition to the RGS, indicators are updated as needed to align with a variety of guiding documents, including the Regional Transportation Plan, Parks and Trails Strategic Plan and the Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan.

This year, indicator 1.1a was revised to align more closely with BC Transit's 10-Year Vision. BC Transit has reduced its target for total trips made by transit from 15% to 12% by 2038. This has resulted in the adjustment of the overall target for combined active transportation and transit mode share from 45% to 42%. Additionally, indicator 2.2a was revised to align with the CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan. This Plan outlines a goal of surpassing the provincial per capita waste disposal target and aspiring to achieve a disposal rate of 125 kg/capita/year.

Intergovernmental Implications

The Development and Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC) reviewed the draft indicator report. Following receipt by the CRD Board, copies will be forwarded to municipal councils.

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

Achieving RGS objectives requires collaborative partnerships between local, regional and provincial levels of government, each with specific jurisdictional authorities. The RGS indicators reveal how we are doing as a region rather than the performance of a specific CRD service. The region's growth management approach, policies and targets are to be reevaluated every five years to help the CRD Board in its consideration of the need to update the RGS. The upcoming five-year milestone is in 2026. Staff is currently undertaking studies that will inform the need for and scope of a potential RGS update in 2026.

There are several RGS policy areas where the indicators suggest a need to closely watch for progress.

1. From a growth management and transportation perspective, only 16% of growth occurs in areas meeting the mode share target of 42% for active transportation and transit in the past five years (1.1a). When looking at the supplemental map to indicator 1.1a, we can see that the areas with 25%-41% walk/bike/bus mode share are mostly adjacent to areas meeting or exceeding the target of 42%.

The two most efficient means to improve this indicator are to direct proportionally more development into areas already meeting the target and improving infrastructure and transit service in areas nearing the target (currently in the 25%-41% category). Significant and concerted investment in infrastructure and transit service is needed to increase walking, cycling and transit use in areas where the walk/bike/bus mode share is below 25%.

This indicator will be monitored for change as the result of the introduction of Bill 44 Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing and Bill 47 Transit-Oriented Areas. It is hoped these bills will lead to

more development in areas with high levels of active transportation and transit.

2. From a housing affordability perspective, the region is making steady progress to increase the supply of affordable housing, adding 2,711 units between 2020 and 2023 (3.2d), 490 of which were added between March 2022 to March 2023. Despite modest improvements over 2022, rental vacancy rates at all levels of the price spectrum indicate a market that is difficult for renters (3.2c). Low vacancy rates are compounded by average rent increases that have continued to outpace inflation (3.2b). The most efficient means to improve this indicator is to continue to deliver more affordable housing.
3. From an environment and infrastructure perspective, solid waste disposal (2.2a) has performed well compared to the provincial average. Nevertheless, recent years' data has shown that the region was unable to meet the provincial 2020 target. In 2023 the CRD Board approved significant Hartland Landfill policy changes including banning of wood waste along with other construction and demolition materials, and adjustment of the tipping fee schedule. These changes were implemented 2024 and are anticipated to reduce our per capita waste disposal numbers.

Service Delivery Implications

The legislation stipulates that all related services undertaken by a regional district after the Board has adopted a regional growth strategy must be consistent with its RGS. Any adjustments to service levels in support of achieving RGS objectives can be considered through the CRD's established service planning and budgetary processes. Based on current data, no items require adjustment.

CONCLUSION

The RGS Indicators Report monitors the region's annual progress towards the targets outlined in the RGS. For this reporting year, 13 of the 19 indicators were updated with new data. The RGS Indicator Report will be posted on the CRD website and forwarded to municipal councils.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Patrick Klassen, MCIP, RPP, Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Housing, Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: 2024 RGS Indicators Report

Regional Growth Strategy Indicators Report 2024



Making a difference...together

This page is intentionally blank.

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is a framework developed by municipalities and the regional district to address how communities will work together to enhance regional quality of life and social well-being. It is a requirement of provincial legislation.

The provincial government created the growth strategy legislation to “promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources”.

The RGS also includes policies, actions and targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy was developed with significant public and stakeholder involvement and responds to the regional vision of a livable community that stewards the environment and natural resources with care.

The RGS Indicator Report

A robust monitoring program helps the region measure progress towards achieving RGS goals and objectives.

Wherever possible, indicators with data available on an annual basis were selected. However, for some indicators, information is only available through census data which is updated every five years.

How to use this report

For each indicator, four key questions are answered:

- What is being measured?
- Why is the indicator important?
- What is the target/desired trend?
- How are we doing?

Indicator performance is described relative to a goal or baseline year. However, it is important to note that changes in year-to-year performance do not always equate to a long-term trend.

While performance in any given year may be positive or negative, it may take many years of data to reliably identify a trend. Where possible, trend lines are included in the graphs to illustrate indicator trends.

Data updated for 2024

This report is based on data available for the 2023 reporting year (January to December 2023). In this reporting year, 13 of the 19 indicators were updated with new data.

This year, four indicators have seen changes to their performance meter (*see page 1*). Waste stream: solid waste disposal (2.2a) and vacancy rate by rental price quartiles (3.2c) have improved. The number of stormwater discharges with a high public health concern (2.1d) and average residential water consumption (2.2b) have worsened.

For this reporting year, the former indicator 3.1a, “Create Safe and Complete Communities”, was removed. This indicator was intended to track the percentage of the region living in complete communities as identified through Regional Context Statements. However, these statements did not contain sufficient quantitative information to develop a meaningful indicator.

This page is intentionally blank.

CONTENTS

Preface

At A Glance 1

1.0 Managing and Balancing Growth

- 1.1a Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 42% walk/bike/bus to work 2
- 1.1b Hectares added to the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA) growth boundary 4
- 1.2a Percentage of net new dwellings built outside the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA) 5
- 1.2b Net new dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas 7

2.0 Environment and Infrastructure

- 2.1a Total Regional Park land acquired 8
- 2.1b Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed 9
- 2.1c Compliance with Source Control Bylaw 10
- 2.1d Number of stormwater discharges with a high public health concern 11
- 2.2a Waste stream: solid waste disposal 12
- 2.2b Average residential water consumption 13

3.0 Housing and Community

- 3.2a Reduce core housing need 14
- 3.2b Average rent for a two-bedroom apartment 15
- 3.2c Vacancy rate by rental price quartiles 16
- 3.2d Increase supply of affordable housing 17

4.0 Transportation

- 4.1a Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) 18

5.0 Economic Development

- 5.1a Jobs to population ratio 20

6.0 Food Systems

- 6.1a Farm operating revenues in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) 21
- 6.1b Average age of farmer 22

7.0 Climate Action

- 7.1a Community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 23

This page is intentionally blank.

RGS INDICATORS – AT A GLANCE

1.0 Managing and Balancing Growth

1.1 Keep Urban Settlement Compact

1.1a Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 42% walk/bike/bus to work



1.1b Hectares added to the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA) growth boundary



1.2 Protect the Integrity of Rural Communities

1.2a Percentage of net new dwellings built outside the UCPA



1.2b Net new dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas



2.0 Environment and Infrastructure

2.1 Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health

2.1a Total Regional Park land acquired



2.1b Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed



2.1c Compliance with Source Control Bylaw



2.1d Number of stormwater discharges with a high public health concern*



2.2 Deliver Services Consistent with RGS Objectives

2.2a Waste stream: solid waste disposal*



2.2b Average residential water consumption*



*indicates previous years performance rating

3.0 Housing and Community

3.2 Improve Housing Affordability

3.2a Reduce core housing need



3.2b Average rent for two-bedroom apartment



3.2c Vacancy rate by rental price quartiles*



3.2d Increase supply of affordable housing



4.0 Transportation

4.1 Improve Multi-Modal Connectivity and Mobility

4.1a Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA)



5.0 Economic Development

5.1 Realize the Region's Economic Potential

5.1a Jobs to population ratio



6.0 Food Systems

6.1 Foster a Resilient Food and Agriculture System

6.1a Farm operating revenues in the GMPA



6.1b Average age of farmer



7.0 Climate Action

7.1 Significantly reduce community based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

7.1a Community GHG emissions



1.1a Number of net new dwelling units in areas where more than 42% walk/bike/bus to work



What is being measured?

This indicator tracks new dwelling units created in census Dissemination Areas where at least 42% of trips involve active transportation (walking, biking or taking transit).

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to keep urban settlement compact and directs new growth to be located where it can be efficiently serviced by transit and active transportation.

Target/Desired Trend

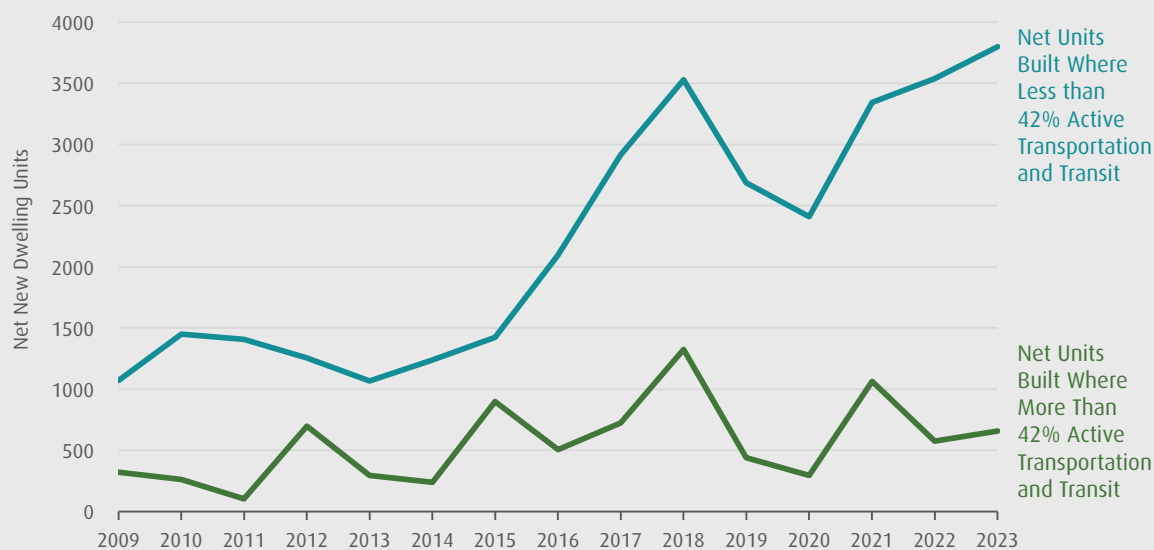
Place growth in areas conducive to walking, cycling and transit.

How are we doing?

Currently, we are not meeting the desired trend.

In the Growth Management Planning Area between 2012-2015, we saw as much as 30% of growth in net new dwelling units in areas with greater than 42% active transportation. In the last five years, 16% of growth in net new dwelling units was in areas with high active transportation.

BC Transit has adjusted its mode share target from 15% to 12%. Our target has been adjusted from 45% to 42% to reflect this change.



Source: CRD Building Permit Database and Statistics Canada Census of Population 2021

Areas with more than 42% walk/bike/bus to work

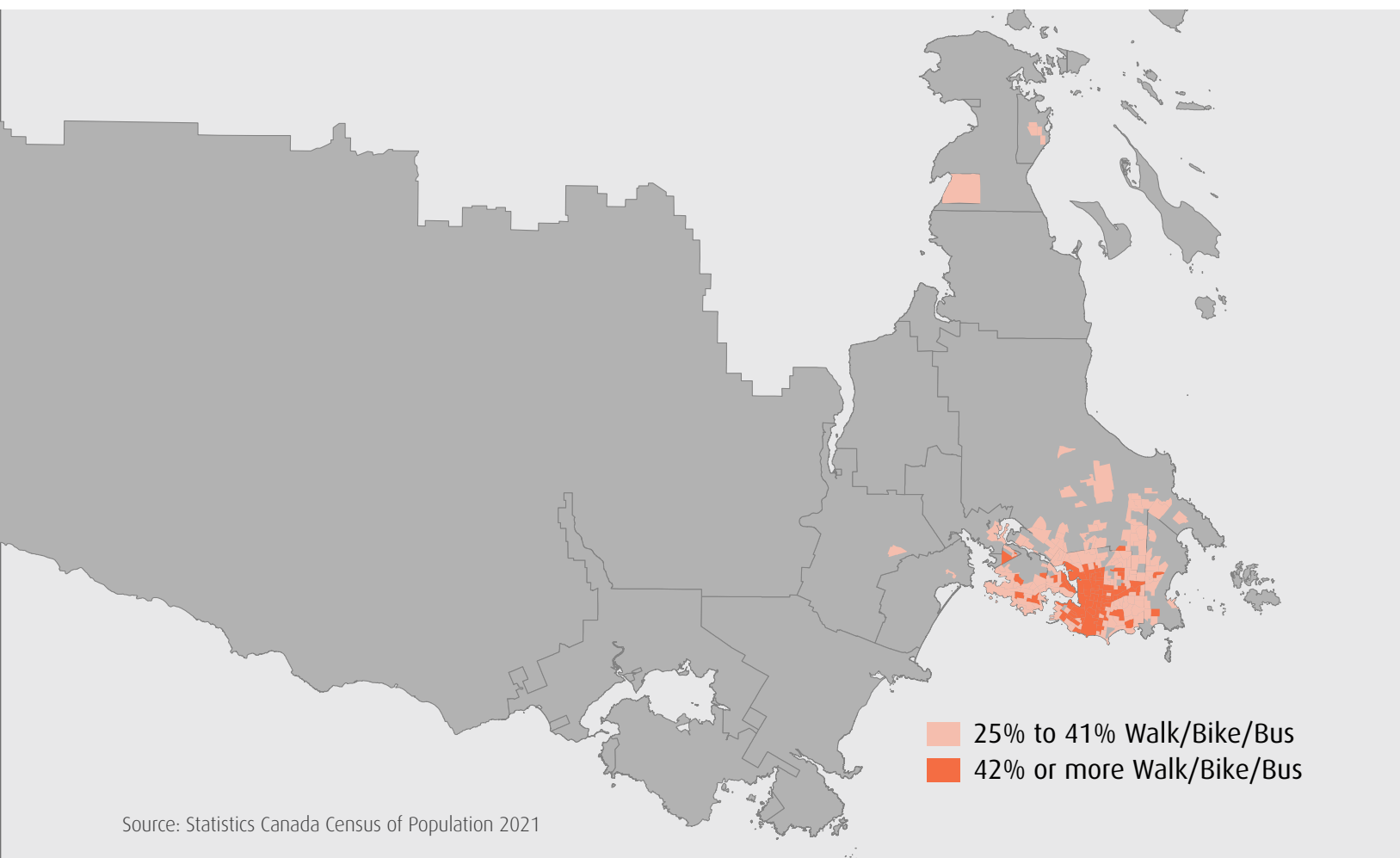
What does the map indicate?

This map shows census Dissemination Areas where more than 42% of residents walk, bike and bus to work, meeting the Regional Growth Strategy mode share target.

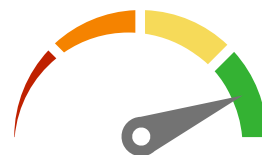
These areas are mostly located in the region's core in Victoria, and portions of Esquimalt, Oak Bay and Saanich.

Also provided for reference are the areas with between 25% to 41% walk/bike/bus to show locations that could meet the Regional Growth Strategy goal if further action was taken.

New growth in these areas is desirable as infrastructure and services are already in place to support high levels of active transportation and transit. As the region develops, the desired trend is to see more areas meeting the 42% target.



1.1b Hectares added to the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA) growth boundary



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the net change in the land area of the UCPA. The UCPA is intended to hold a land supply that will accommodate the region's population and employment growth.

Why is this indicator important?

This indicator aligns with the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) objective to keep urban settlement compact. The RGS includes a policy that generally permits amendment to the UCPA only as an outcome of a comprehensive five-year review of the RGS.

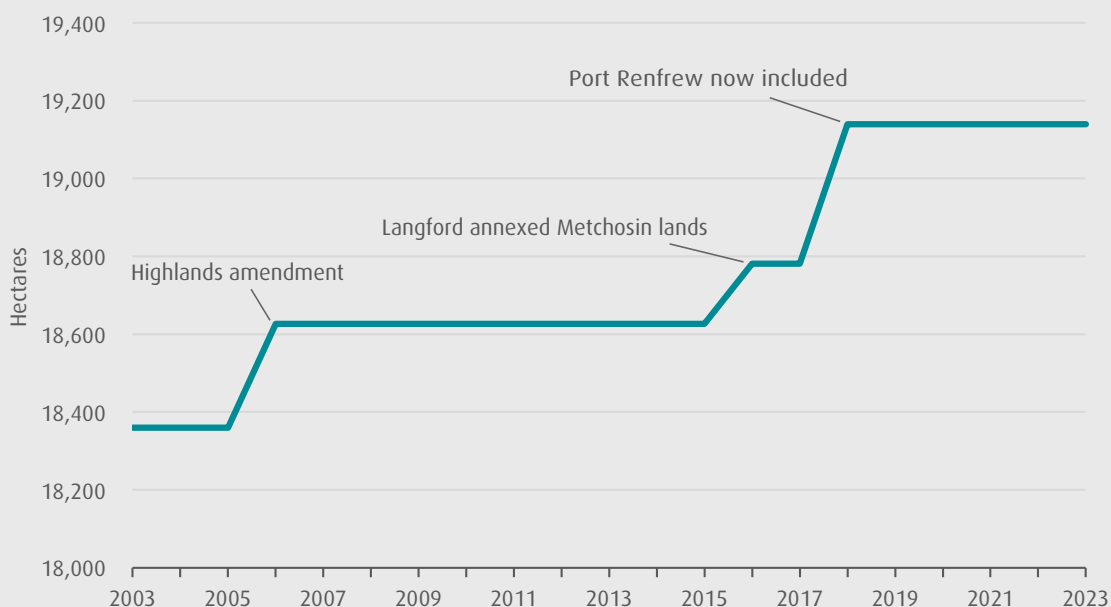
Target/Desired Trend

Minimize change to the UCPA from the date of adoption of the 2018 RGS.

How are we doing?

We are meeting the desired trend.

Since the March 2018 adoption of the RGS, there have been no changes to the UCPA.



Source: CRD Regional Planning

1.2a Percentage of net new dwellings built outside the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA)



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the annual share of net new dwelling units located outside the UCPA.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) aims to keep urban settlement compact and protect the integrity of rural communities.

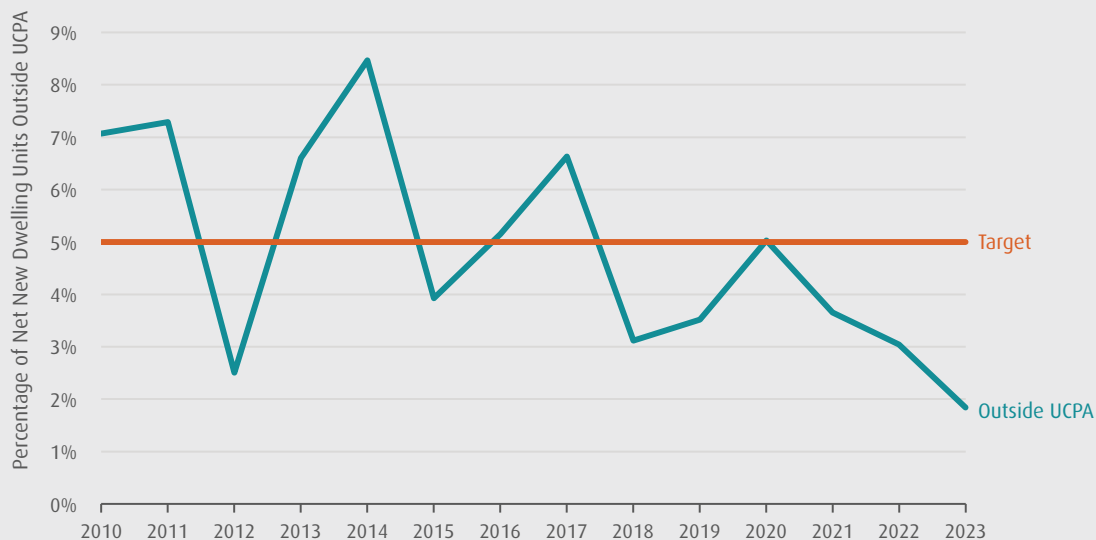
Target/Desired Trend

Accommodate a maximum of 5% of the region's net new dwelling units outside the UCPA (for a minimum 95% of net new dwelling units within the UCPA, as per RGS target).

How are we doing?

We have exceeded the target.

In the past 10 years, the average percentage growth outside the UCPA has been 4.4%.



Source: CRD Building Permit Database

Net new dwellings built outside the UCPA, by location

What does the graph indicate?

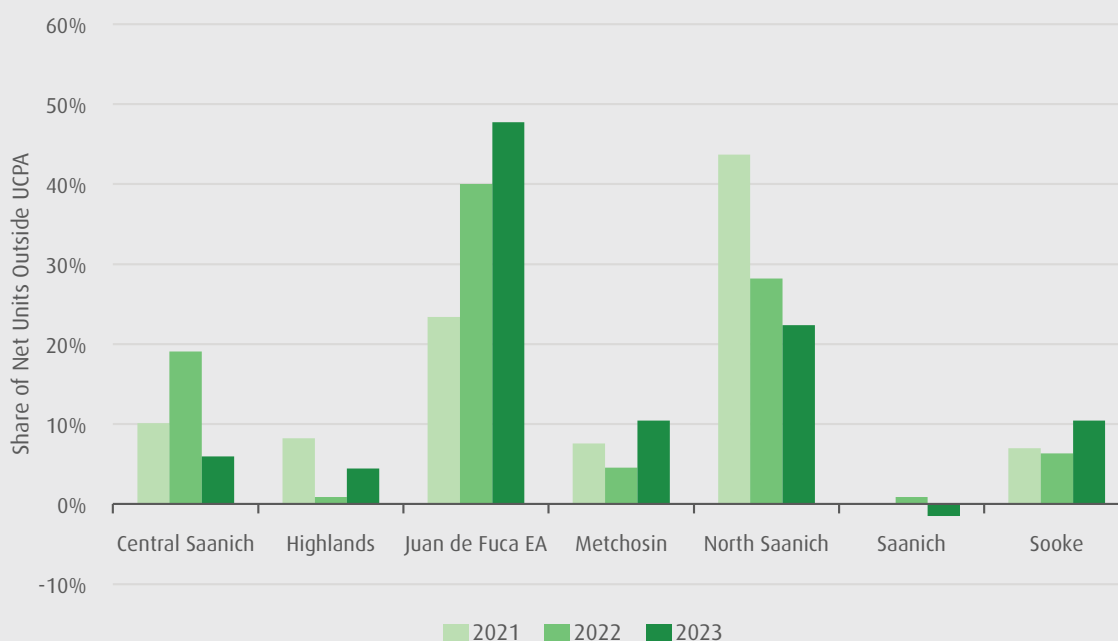
This graph shows the distribution of net new dwellings built outside the UCPA.

Only local governments that have land outside the growth boundary are included. Together these units make up the percentage of new units built outside the growth area.

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to keep urban settlement compact and protect the integrity of rural communities.

Local governments with land outside the growth boundary help achieve this goal through land use policy and decision making that avoids the creation of future urban areas.

Monitoring the distribution of net new dwelling units built outside the growth area provides insight on the performance of local government growth management policies.



Source: CRD Building Permit Database

1.2b Net new dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas



What is being measured?

This indicator measures annual net new dwelling units located in the East Sooke and Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) areas of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy allows for the possible provision of water servicing in East Sooke and Otter Point and specifies the total number of existing and new units permitted within their OCPs.

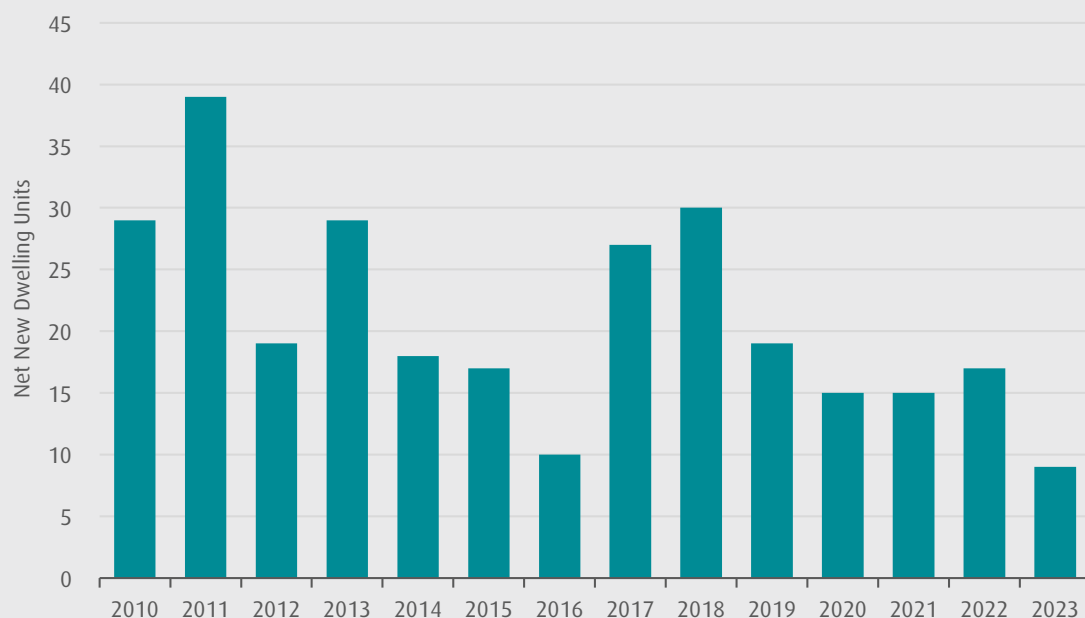
Target/Desired Trend

The total number of units in East Sooke and Otter Point is not to exceed 3,384 units. This includes both existing and new units.

How are we doing?

We are meeting the target.

As of 2023 there are 1,691 dwelling units in East Sooke and Otter Point, with an increase of nine units from 2022. There has been minimal expansion, with an average of 18 net new units per year over the past 10 years.



Source: CRD Building Permit Database

2.1a Total Regional Park land acquired



What is being measured?

This indicator tracks land protected as a Regional Park. Additionally, it shows the types of park land use and the distribution of land for conservation areas, wilderness areas and natural recreation areas. There is currently no land in conservancy areas as protection of natural and cultural features is a new area.

In previous indicator reports, the measure was the percentage of land acquired for the 1997 Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt Strategy, which was largely completed by land acquisitions during 2000-2010.

With the new Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032, measuring the total amount of CRD park land is a better indicator of progress.

Why is this indicator important?

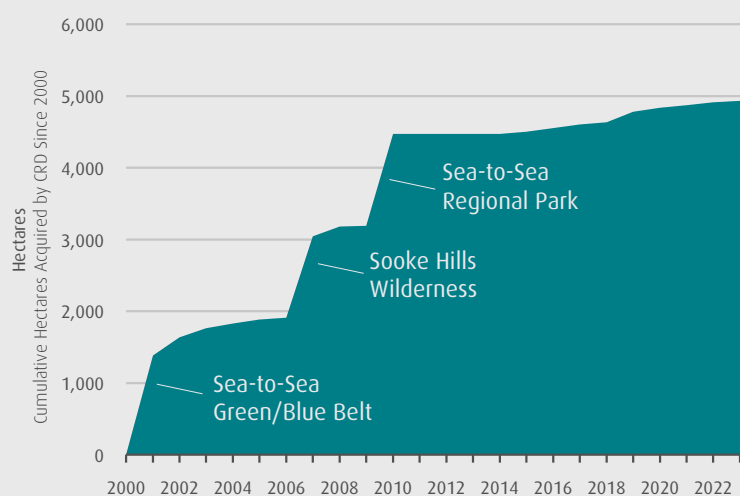
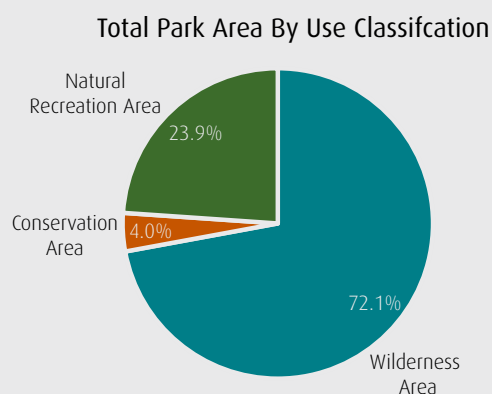
The Regional Growth Strategy aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health. This indicator is important to show growth of CRD parks and the different types of functions they perform including water catchment, natural recreation and habitat conservation.

Target/Desired Trend

Continue to acquire park land.

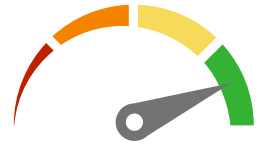
How are we doing?

We are making steady progress acquiring regional park land according to CRD's Regional Parks Land Acquisition Strategy and the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032.



Source: CRD Regional Parks

2.1b Percentage of the Regional Trail Network completed



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of the Proposed Regional Trail Network (Galloping Goose, Lochside and E&N) that has been completed at the end of 2023.

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) targets is drawn from the 2022-2032 Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan.

Why is this indicator important?

The RGS aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health, and it also strives to improve multi-modal transportation connectivity. The Regional Trail Network represents an integrated trail, active transportation corridor and linear park system linking urban areas to rural green space which helps further both of these goals.

Target/Desired Trend

Complete 100% of the Regional Trail Network as identified in the 2022-2032 Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan.

How are we doing?

We are making good progress towards the target.

In 2023, 1.3 km of connector sections were added to the E&N, bringing the total to 97.5% of the proposed 100 kilometres of the Regional Trail Network have been completed.

In August of 2023, the CRD Board approved the Regional Trestles Renewal, Trails Widening and Lighting Project. Work is underway on critical below-deck repairs to the Selkirk Trestle, with detailed design planned for 2025 and construction on the remainder of the project corridor set to begin in 2026.

97.5% of Regional Trail Network completed (2023)



Source: CRD Regional Parks

2.1c Compliance with Source Control Bylaw



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of businesses in compliance with Source Control Bylaw standards. This pollution prevention initiative aims to reduce the amount of contaminants that industries, businesses, institutions and households discharge into the region's sanitary sewer systems.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health. A high level of compliance reduces contaminants in fresh and marine regional waterways.

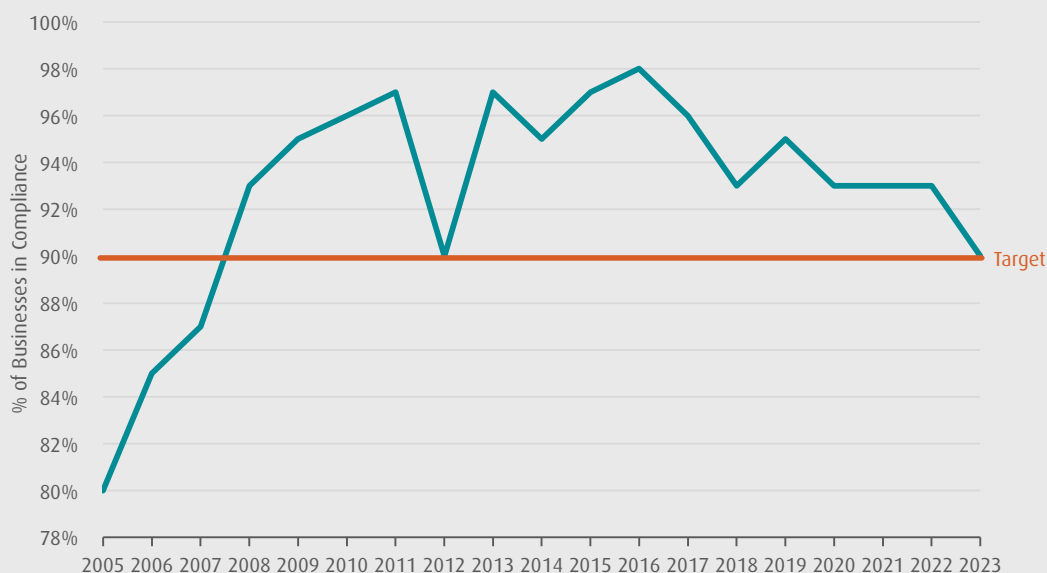
Target/Desired Trend

Maintain compliance of the standards established in the Source Control Bylaw at a rate of 90% or above.

How are we doing?

Though this indicator has dropped by 3% from 2022 to 2023, the rate is at our target of 90%.

We continue to observe high levels of compliance, successfully meeting our goal. Since 2020, inspection rates have steadily increased — rising by 18% between 2020 and 2022, followed by an additional 11% increase between 2022 and 2023. This heightened inspection coverage may have contributed to a slight decline in overall compliance.



Source: CRD Environmental Protection

2.1d Number of stormwater discharges with a high public health concern



What is being measured?

This indicator monitors the number of stormwater discharges with high public health concern.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health.

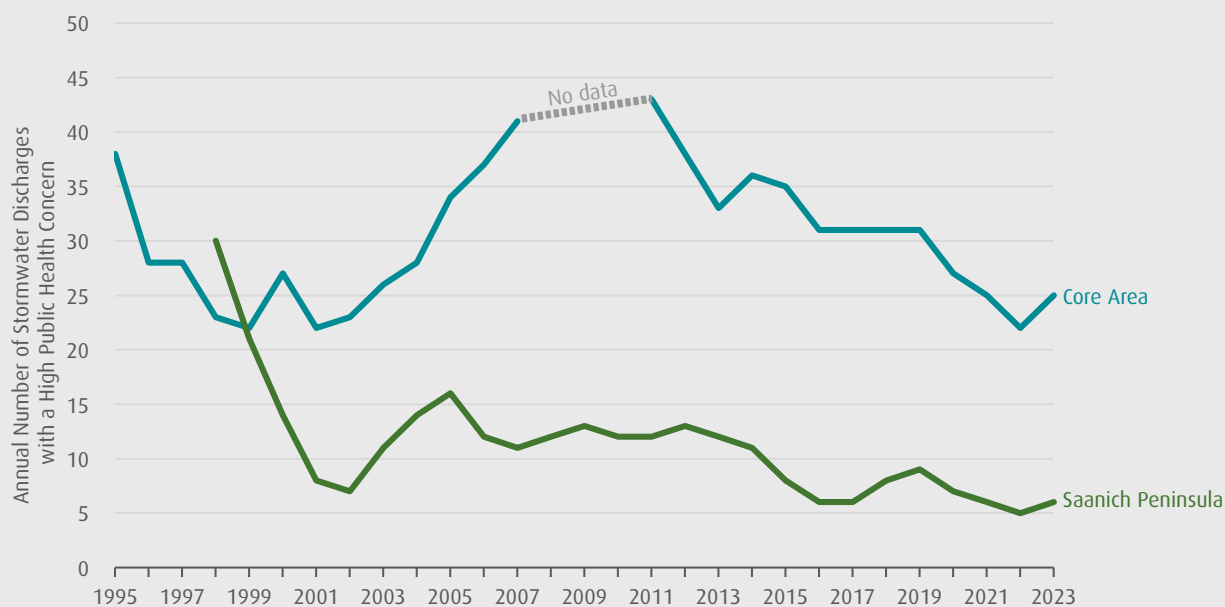
Target/Desired Trend

Reduced bacterial contamination to fresh and marine water bodies.

How are we doing?

The overall number of stormwater discharges with high public health concerns slightly increased from 2022 to 2023 in both the Core Area and the Saanich Peninsula. This marks its first increase in the Core Area since 2014 and on the Saanich Peninsula since 2019.

There were 25 discharges in the Core Area and six in the Saanich Peninsula in 2023.



Source: CRD Environmental Protection

2.2a Waste stream: solid waste disposal



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the per capita amount of solid waste disposed annually from both residential and non-residential sources.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to minimize the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources through efficient use and responsible management.

Target/Desired Trend

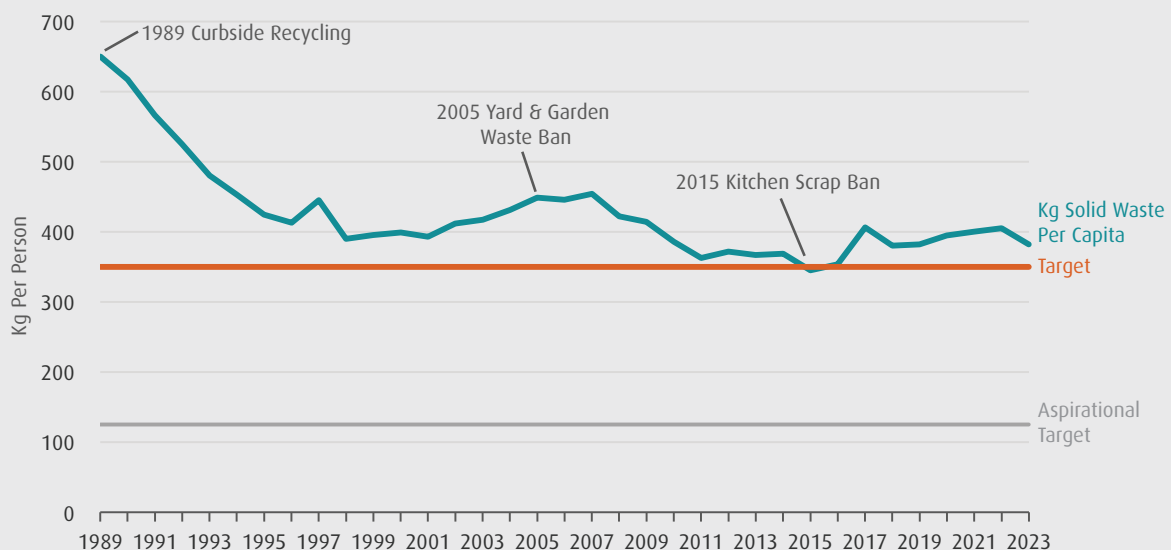
The Province's guidelines for solid waste management planning require plans to have long-term goals to be achieved as an outcome of the plan.

One of the CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan goals is to surpass the provincial per capita waste disposal target (350 kg/capita/year) and aspire to achieve a disposal rate of 125 kg/capita/year.

How are we doing?

Currently we are trending towards our goal. In 2023, the solid waste disposal rate decreased from 405 kg/capita to 382 kg/capita, bringing us closer to the 350 kg/capita goal, but not surpassing it.

We are significantly lower than the provincial average of 479 kg/person (2022). In 2023, the CRD Board approved significant Hartland Landfill policy changes. These changes were implemented in 2024 and are anticipated to reduce our per capita waste disposal numbers.



Source: CRD Environmental Resource Management

2.2b Average residential water consumption



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average daily consumption of potable water per capita for residential uses.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to minimize the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources through efficient use and responsible management.

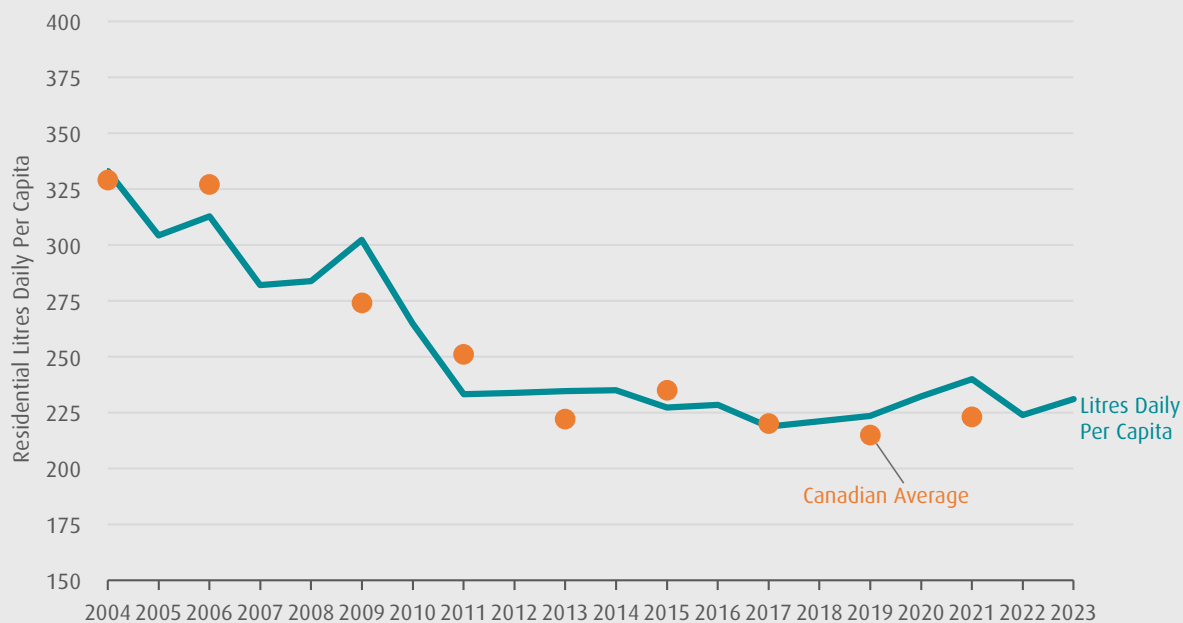
Target/Desired Trend

Decrease per capita consumption of potable water.

How are we doing?

Following a sizable reduction in per capita water consumption between 1995 to 2010 as a result of greater conservation and the introduction of efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances, rates have stabilized in the last 10 years around the Canadian average.

The average residential water consumption has increased from 2022 to 2023 by 7.2 litres daily per capita to a total of 231.1 litres daily per capita.



Source: CRD Integrated Water Services, 2004-2023 Environment Canada Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey
2011-2019 Statistics Canada Survey of Drinking Water Plants

3.2a Reduce core housing need



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of households in core housing need.

A household in core housing need falls below at least one of the housing standards: adequacy (property does not require major repairs); affordability; or suitability (number of bedrooms match household size) and it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent for housing that is acceptable.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to improve housing affordability.

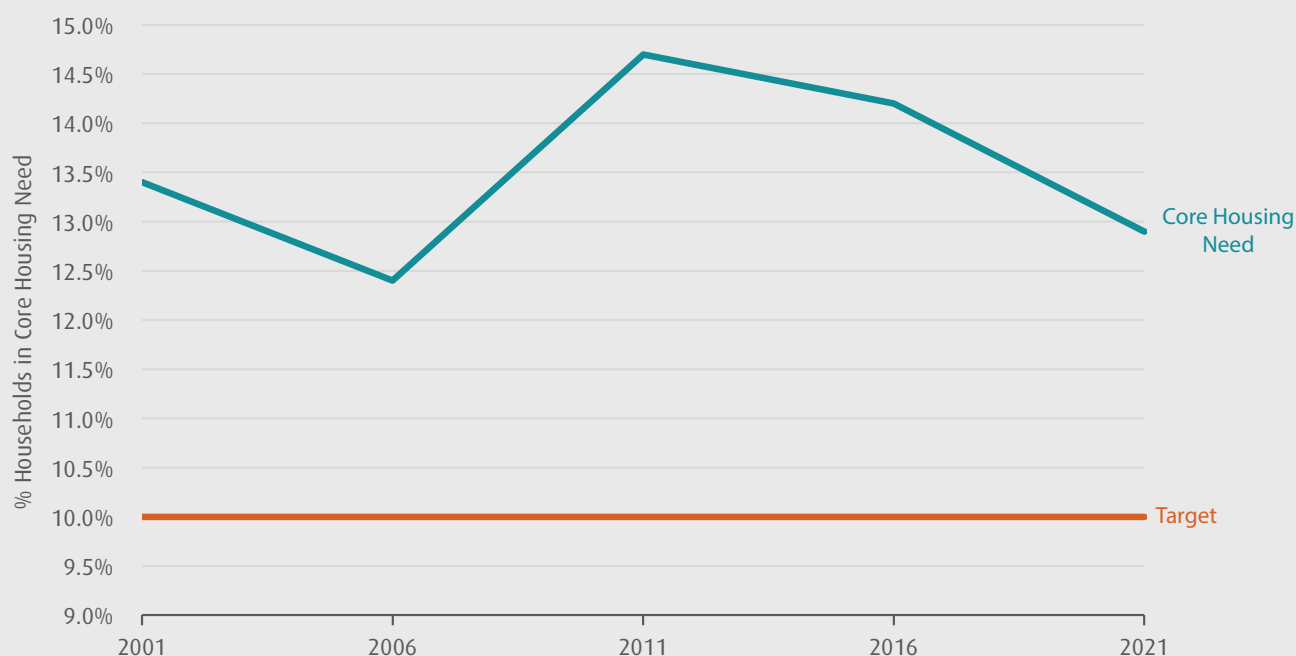
Target/Desired Trend

Reduce percentage of households in core housing need to 10%.

How are we doing?

The income measure used to calculate core housing need was from 2020. The percentage of Canadians living with low income saw the most significant decline in a five-year period since 1976. This was driven mainly by higher government transfers, especially pandemic-related benefits. These benefits primarily benefitted the working-age population, with the Canada Child Benefit helping parents and children (The Daily, Statistics Canada, July 13, 2022).

We are far from our target.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 2006, 2016 and 2021 and National Household Survey, 2011

3.2b Average rent for two-bedroom apartment



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average cost of two-bedroom rental housing in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to improve housing affordability.

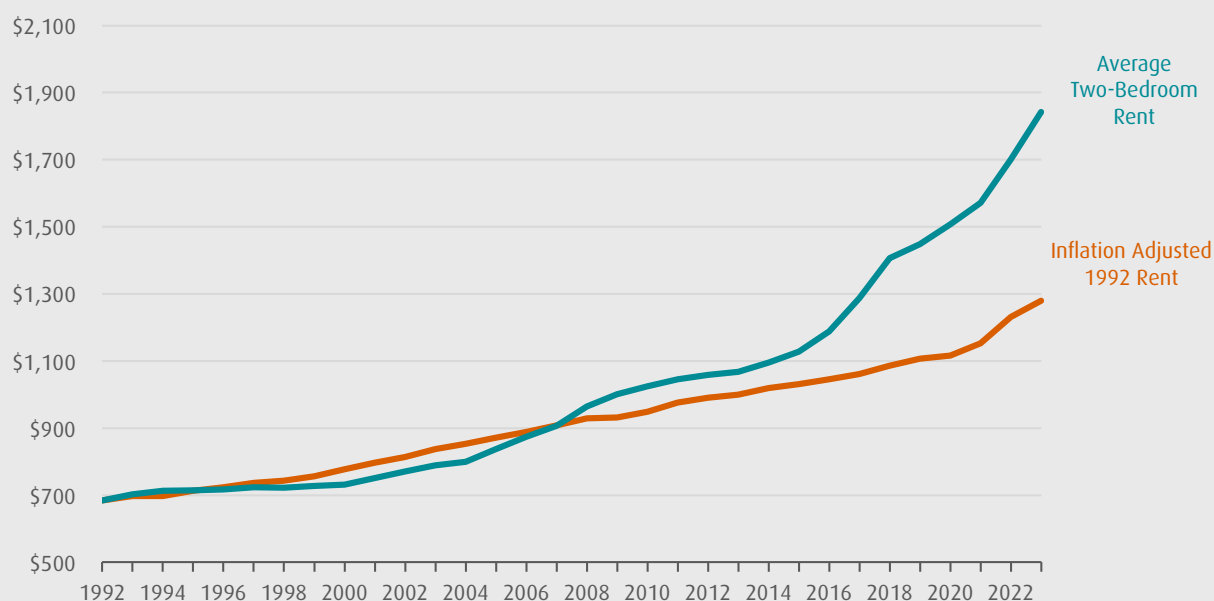
Target/Desired Trend

There is no target for the average cost of rental housing, however, cost increases at or below the level of inflation are preferable.

How are we doing?

We are currently not meeting the target.

The price of a two-bedroom rental has outpaced inflation since 2008. As of 2023, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the Victoria CMA is \$1842, while the inflation adjusted rent would be \$1279.



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Rental Market Survey

3.2c Vacancy rate by rental price quartiles



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the rental vacancy rate by rental price quartiles in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) over time.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to improve housing affordability in the region. The rental vacancy rate by rental price quartiles is an indicator of housing supply and housing affordability in the region.

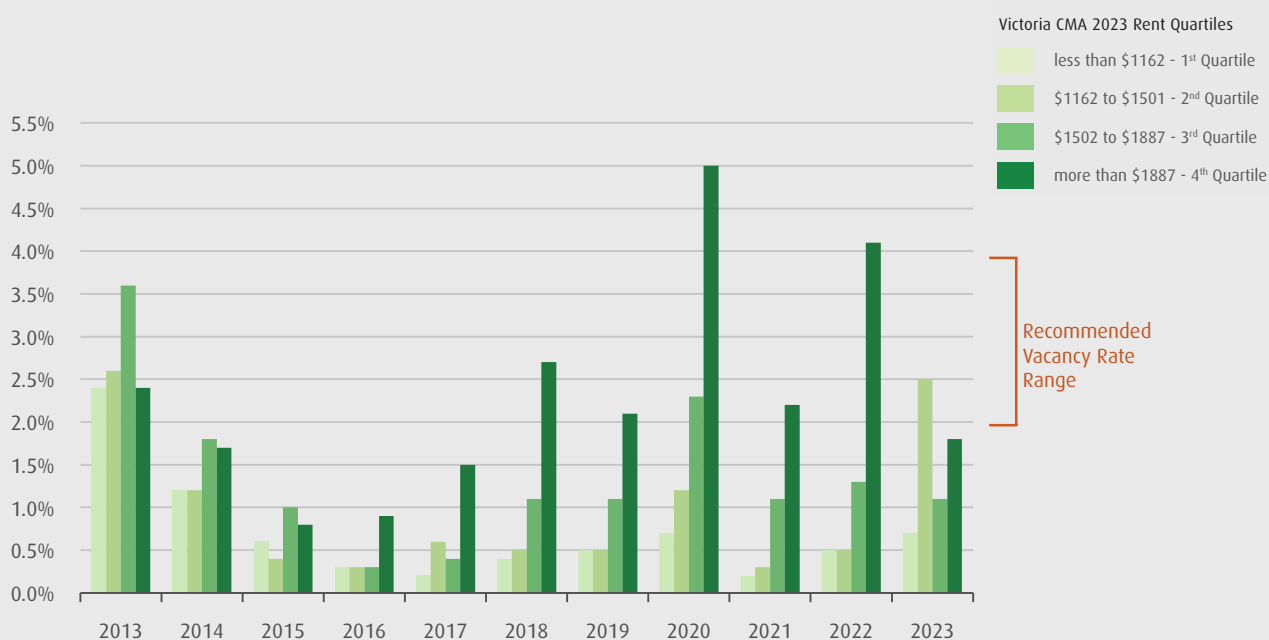
Target/Desired Trend

Higher vacancy rates across all prices are preferable. Recommended vacancy rates range between 2-4%.

How are we doing?

We are currently not meeting the desired trend. There has been a general trend of very low vacancy rates in the region, especially at the lower price quartiles.

However, there have been improvements this year. Data from 2023 indicates that the vacancy rate for Quartile 2, 2.5%, falls within recommended range for the first time since 2013, albeit at the low end. Quartile 1 has shown a modest improvement for three consecutive years.



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Rental Market Survey

3.2d Increase supply of affordable housing



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the cumulative number of subsidized housing units in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) that have a financial relationship with BC Housing. The units include emergency shelters, housing for the homeless, transitional and supported housing and assisted living, independent social housing and rent assistance in the private market.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing and to reduce the number of people who are experiencing homelessness.

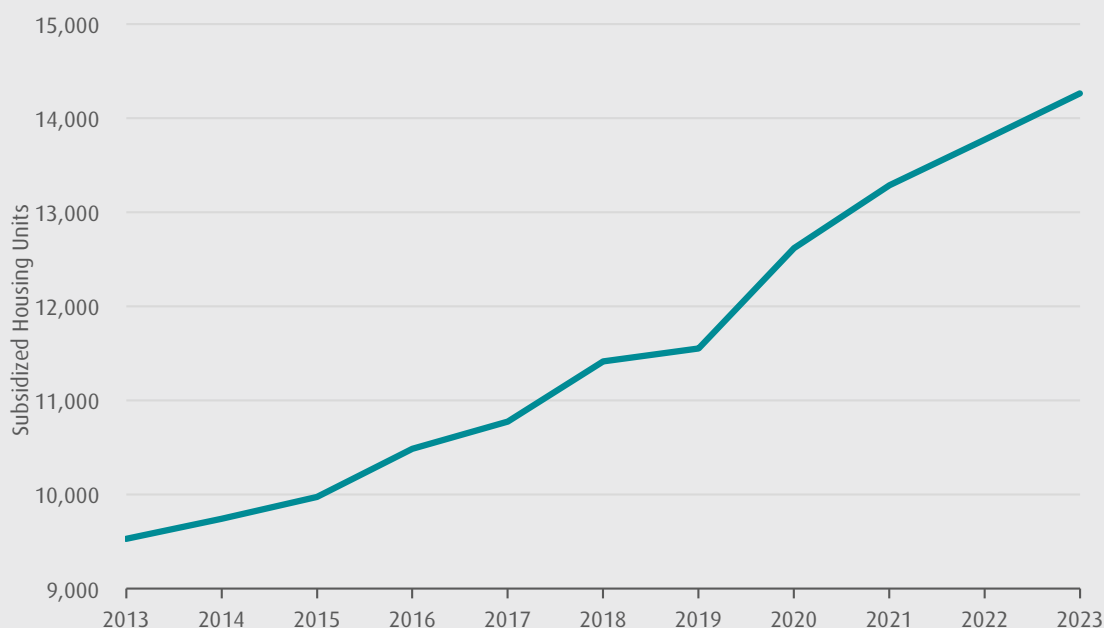
Target/Desired Trend

Increase the cumulative number of subsidized housing units that have a financial relationship with BC Housing.

How are we doing?

Progress continues to trend in a positive direction. As of March 31, 2023 there were 14,262 subsidized housing units in the GMPA, representing an increase of 490 units in this reporting period.

At the same time, despite these gains, a continued increase in the supply of affordable housing is required to meet the needs of the region



Source: BC Housing's Research & Corporate Planning Department Unit Count Report March 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

4.1a Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA)



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling and transit in the Growth Management Planning Area.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to improve multi-modal connectivity and mobility. Mode share percentages provide the necessary data to track transportation choices over time.

Target/Desired Trend

Achieve a transportation system that sees 42% of all trips made by walking, cycling and transit by 2038.

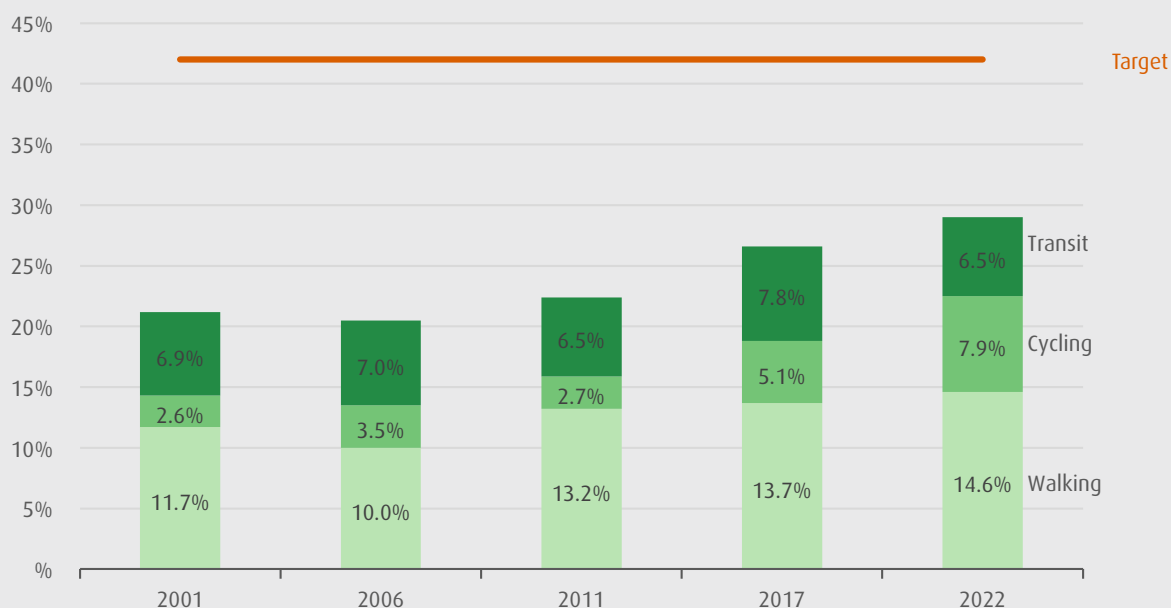
This target has been revised from 45% to 42% of all trips to align with BC Transit's revised 12% mode share target from 15%.

How are we doing?

Progress is being made toward the target.

The overall active transportation mode share has increased due to a sizeable increase in cycling trips and a steady increase in walking.

There is no data update for this year, as the Origin Destination Household Travel Survey will not be updated until 2027.



Source: CRD Origin Destination Survey 2001, 2006, 2011, 2017, 2022

Percentage of total trips made by walking, cycling, and transit in the GMPA

What does the graph indicate?

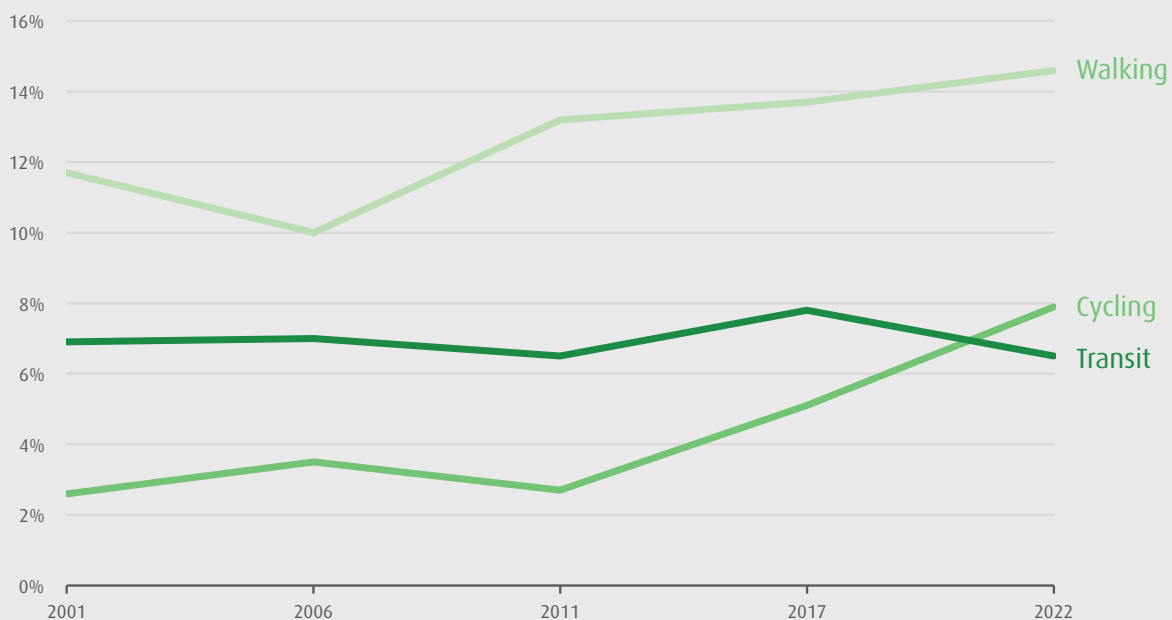
This line graph is another way to visualize the information presented in the stacked bar chart.

Rather than depicting the combined total of each mode, this graph depicts the individual contributions of walking, cycling, and transit towards achieving our goal.

The GMPA's walking and cycling mode shares have improved significantly over time. Cycling has increased threefold since 2001, particularly accelerating between 2011 and 2022.

Walking mode share has also seen a positive trend over time and has increased by 46% since 2006.

Transit mode share has remained largely static the past 20 years. It should be noted that the latest survey was conducted in 2022 and the pandemic impacted ridership. We will be closely monitoring the transit mode share in the 2027 Origin Destination Household Travel Survey.



Source: CRD Origin Destination Survey 2001, 2006, 2011, 2017, 2022

5.1a Jobs to population ratio



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the ratio of employment to population in each Capital Regional District sub-region.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to realize the region's economic potential. A balanced distribution of employment and jobs indicates economic opportunities spread across the region.

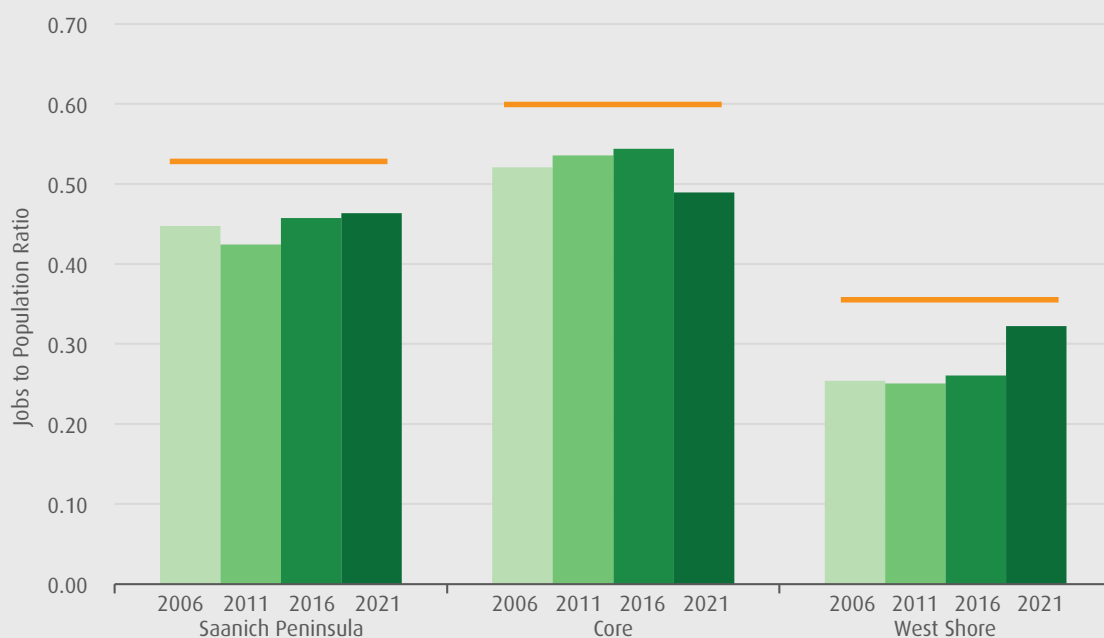
Target/Desired Trend

Achieve a jobs to population ratio of:

- 0.53 in the Saanich Peninsula
- 0.60 in the Core Area
- 0.36 in the West Shore

How are we doing?

Data from the 2021 census show a pattern of employment shifting from the core, which has historically maintained the highest job to population ratio to the West Shore which has had the lowest ratio. This trend may be influenced by the shift to working from home brought about due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no data update this year as the next Census will be conducted in 2026.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of population, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021, Place of Residence and Place of Work Tables

6.1a Farm operating revenues in the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA)



What is being measured?

Incorporated farms and communal farming organizations with total farm operating revenues equal to or greater than \$25,000, as well as unincorporated farms with total farm operating revenues of \$10,000 and over. As of 2020, a farm is defined as an operation that produces at least one agricultural product and reports revenue and expenses to the Canada Revenue Agency. Prior to 2020, a farm was defined based on its intention to sell agricultural commodities.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) aims to foster a resilient food and agricultural system. Tracking operating revenues is a way to report on the productivity of the region's farms.

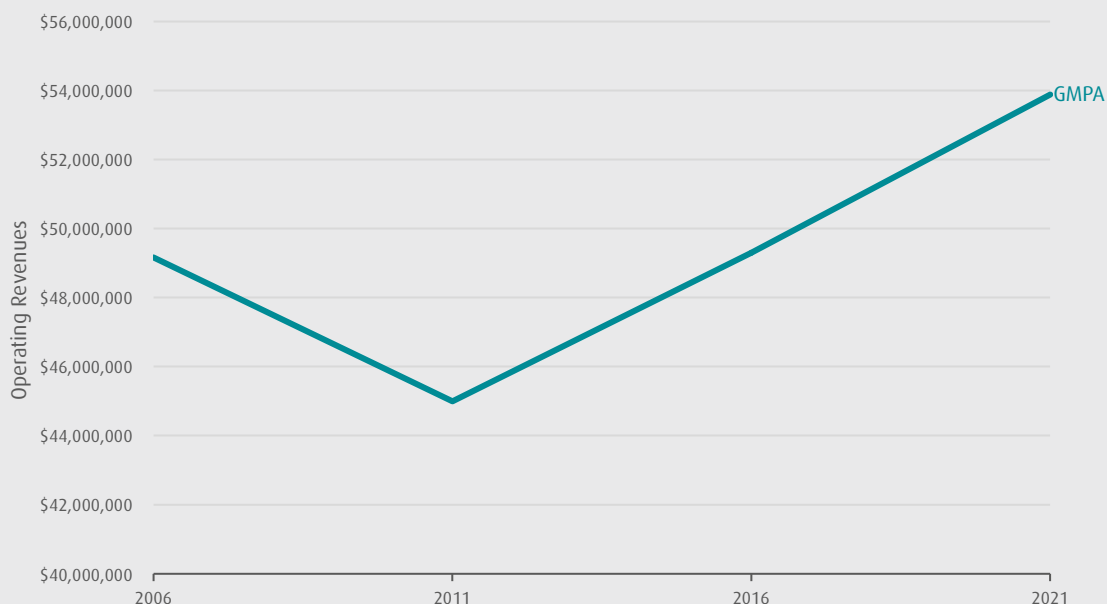
Target/Desired Trend

Increase the operating revenues.

How are we doing?

Food systems were added to the RGS in 2018. This indicator initially tracked hectares of farmland in the GMPA, however the 2021 census data wasn't available for our region due to poor data quality.

This new indicator on operating revenues from the Census of Agriculture is derived from administrative records. Caution should be used when comparing data from 2021 with prior years as operating revenues and expenses use an updated definition and different sources than previous Censuses of Agriculture. There is no data update this year as the next Census will be conducted in 2026.



Source: Statistics Canada, custom tabulation of Census of Agriculture 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021

6.1b Average age of farmer



What is being measured?

This indicator measures the average age of farm operators.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to foster a resilient food and agricultural system. A higher average age of farmers represents a warning sign for the future of food production in the region.

Target/Desired Trend

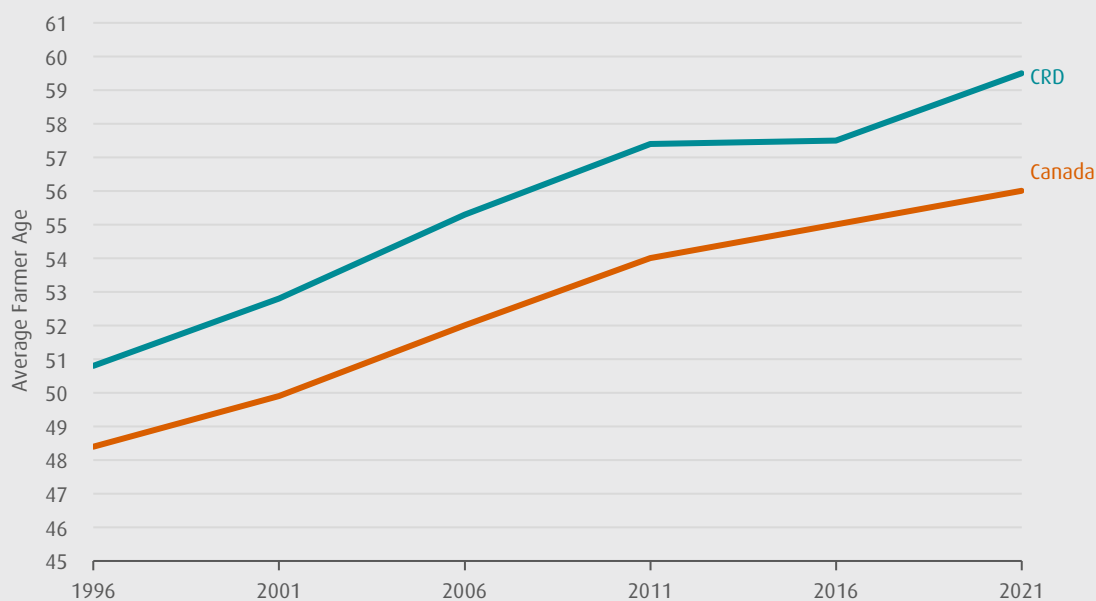
A lower average age of farmers is desirable.

How are we doing?

Progress toward this target remains static. The average age of farmers in the region remains higher than the Canadian average.

In February 2025, the Regional Foodlands Access Service was established with the goal of supporting new and young farmers entering the field.

There is no data update this year as the next Census will be conducted in 2026.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021

7.1a Community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions



What is being measured?

Community GHG emissions.

This GHG inventory represents the best available information. Following the BASIC+ Global Protocol for Community-Scale GHG emissions (GPC), the scope of emissions includes: stationary energy (e.g., buildings, construction, energy industry), transportation, waste, industrial process and product use, agriculture, forestry and other land use.

Why is this indicator important?

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to significantly reduce community GHG emissions.

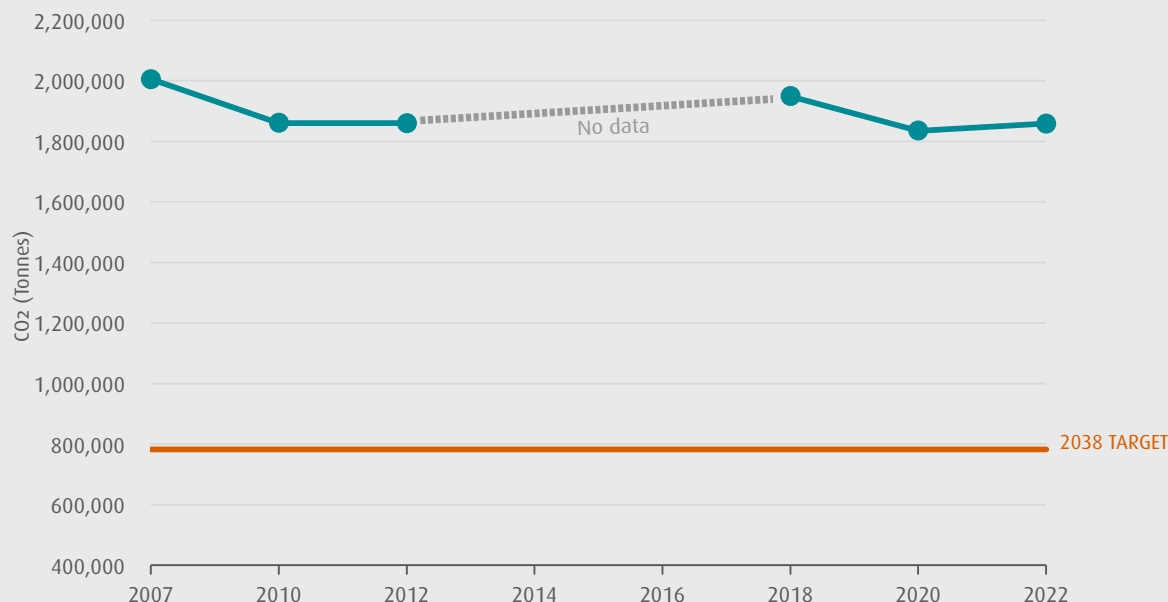
Target/Desired Trend

Decrease community GHG emissions by 33% from 2007 levels by 2020 and 61% by 2038.

How are we doing?

In 2022, the Capital Regional District's (CRD) annual GHG emissions totalled approximately 1.86 million tonnes, which represents a 7% decline from the 2007 base year GHG emissions, and a 1% increase from 2020.

Together, building and transportation-related carbon pollution continue to be the largest sources of the region's carbon pollution, (approximately 75%) in 2022. On a per capita basis there has been a decline of 25% between 2007 and 2022. This speaks to the efforts the CRD, local, provincial and federal governments have made to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions. However, the current trend suggests that we will not meet the target by 2038 unless greater effort is made. CRD Climate Action is conducting an update in 2025.



Source: CRD 2022 Greenhouse Gas Protocol BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report

