



Being Benevolent

While we often think of this time of year as the season of giving, many residents across our region are benevolent throughout the year.

According to charitable donation data just released by Statistics Canada, about 1 in 5 residents in the Columbia Basin-Boundary region make donations to charitable organizations. Residents of the Kootenay Boundary regional district show the highest percentage at 21.4% – higher than the provincial (19.5%) and national (20.5%) averages, followed by East Kootenay residents at 20.4%. 18.1% of Central Kootenay residents made charitable donations, while 17.8% and 17.6% of Fraser-Fort George and Columbia-Shuswap residents, respectively, were donors.

The data comes from the most recently available income tax returns (2016) reported to the Canada Revenue Agency and developed into a databank by the Income Statistics Division at Statistics Canada. It only includes donations made to registered charities as reported in personal income tax returns.

The median donation amount varies from a low of \$250 in the Kootenay Boundary to a high of \$430 in the Columbia-Shuswap. The median donation for Central Kootenay was higher than the Canadian average of \$300, at \$340. For the East Kootenay, the median donation was \$280 and for Fraser-Fort George it was \$330.

The average donation increases as residents' age increases, with Basin-Boundary donors over 65 showing average donations ranging from \$1,300 to \$1,900. The average donation for the 0 to 24 age group of donors varies from a low of \$170 in the Kootenay Boundary to a high of \$630 in the Central Kootenay. Information on charitable donations from past years is available in the [2017 State of the Basin report](#).

Charitable donations play an important role in community well-being, assisting with a variety of causes, from food banks to sports teams to environmental protection. Many organizations depend on charitable donations to sustain their good work.

Charitable giving reflects a capacity to give, as well as an attitude or belief in sharing and supporting others. People will give more or less depending on their personal financial situation, but also because it provides a sense of joy, contributing to their own positive sense of well-being knowing they're helping make their community, region, country, and world a better place.

Happy holidays from the RDI!

Rural Development in BC: What We Heard

The provincial government asked residents in rural communities about their needs and priorities, including the policies, programs, and services that should exist to support rural development in BC. [What We Heard](#) shares the 10 common themes that emerged from this engagement and highlights key themes for the Kootenay Development Region.

Youthful Cities Index

Check out the results from this [Canadian 2018 Index](#) which explored 13 Canadian cities, measuring 121 indicators. Data was collected by youth across the country and provides credible data and inspiration for making our communities more youthful.

Affordability of Healthy Eating in BC

How much do you spend on food each month? Check out the [infographic](#) and recently released [Food Costing in BC report](#). These resources highlight that healthy eating in BC is not affordable for many and calls for income-based solutions to address household food insecurity.

COLUMBIA BASIN

RDI

RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



Selkirk College RDI Focus is a monthly e-blast highlighting stories of well-being in our region. You are receiving this email because you have attended an RDI event or have subscribed to receive updates on RDI.

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