

RDIfocus

stories of well-being in our region

February 14, 2018

Family Facts

On Valentine's Day, we find ourselves thinking about the loved ones in our lives, often our family. The composition of Canadian families and households has evolved from the time when large families with several children were the norm. The same rings true in the Columbia Basin-Boundary, where data shows that family structure reflects overall demographic shifts and modern lifestyle choices.

There are 49,675 families in the Columbia Basin-Boundary region, and the make-up of these is varied. Most are couples. While 16,505 of these families are couples with children, far more—26,625—are couples without children. The remainder (6,535 or about 13% of all families) are lone-parent families.

The average household size ranges from a high of 3.1 people on the Kootenay 1 reserve, to a low of 1.8 in Silverton and New Denver, and the median is 2.2 people per household across all communities in the region. More than half of our communities saw a drop in average household size from the 2011 to 2016 Census.

Collectively, these statistics are indicative of the overall aging trend in our region, which is accompanied by a higher number of households occupied by retirees whose children have left home. It is also connected to declining birthrates, with some couples choosing to not have children. In comparison to BC, our region has a higher percentage of couple families without children and, conversely, a lower percentage of couple families with children. These figures reflect the fact that our region's population, in comparison to that of BC, is aging at a faster rate. They also reflect a wide scale change in the nature of our lives at home. Fifty years ago, few Canadians lived alone or apart from their families, but in 2016, almost one fifth of Columbia Basin-Boundary residents were not living as part of a family unit.

Whether celebrating love on February 14th or not, family and household structure can help us understand the social dynamics in our communities, as well as current and future service needs based on these important societal configurations.

For information or media inquiries contact Nadine Raynolds at nraynolds@selkirk.ca



Webinar: Climate Adaptation in the Columbia Basin

On February 27th, join Lauren Rethoret from the RDI and Ingrid Liepa from Columbia Basin Trust's Climate Action Program to learn about the state of climate adaptation in our region and hear lessons learned from over a decade of supporting adaptation work in rural communities.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Call for Contributions - Health & Shared Prosperity

The 2018 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation conference is in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This year's focus is Health and Shared Prosperity. The call for contributions is now open and conference organizers are encouraging anyone interested in sharing their experiences and stories to contribute.

Details are available [here](#).



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Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute
Selkirk College
301 Frank Beinder Way
Castlegar BC V1N 4L3

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