

State of the Basin Snapshot Report Released!

What's the State of our Basin? Research Initiative Offers Region-wide Check-up

Are the communities in our region growing or shrinking? What sectors are people working in, and how do our wages compare to other places? What are the trends in student enrolment and what about high school completion? How do people feel about living here, and how generous are they with their time and money? These questions and more are commonly asked by residents, organizations, and local governments.



“The goal of the State of the Basin Initiative is to monitor and report on information relating to well-being in the Columbia Basin-Boundary region”, said Dr. Terri MacDonald, Regional Innovation Chair at Selkirk College’s Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI). “This year the State of the Basin got a bit of a facelift, with some exciting changes and additions, including a series of trends analyses on themes we know are important to people – issues such as our workforce, the environment, poverty, agriculture, and tourism.”

Ten different [Trends Analysis Briefs](#) take almost 100 unique indicators of well-being and group them by theme. You can look for your area(s) of interest and find a summary and details of all the indicators related to that theme. The [Snapshot Report](#) is often the most accessed as it provides a region-wide check-up on life in the Columbia Basin-Boundary, including some of the results from the annual perception poll that asks residents about their behaviors and views on a range of subjects.

“Every day, organizations make decisions that influence our region’s future,” added MacDonald. “In order to ensure these decisions are sound, we need research on conditions and trends. The primary goal of the State of the Basin is to provide access to the data communities need to make decisions that lead to greater regional well-being”.

The State of the Basin research draws on data from a variety of sources including federal, provincial, and local governments, non-profit initiatives, and other organizations. The indicators RDI reports on have a consistent data source – meaning they can access the same information, collected in the same way, on a regular reporting cycle. As a result, indicators are largely quantitative. While these tell only part of the story, the State of the Basin indicators provide an overview of our region's well-being and point to issues that may be cause for celebration or concern.

Future releases include the *State of the Basin Long Report* which organizes the indicators by the four main pillars that RDI has been monitoring and reporting on since its inception in 2012 - economy, environment, society, and culture, the *Subjective Well-Being in the Basin-Boundary Report* which

highlights residents' perceptions of well-being in our region, and ongoing *Trends Analysis Briefs* that will include new Census data.

To view all the available State of the Basin research products visit: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/state-of-the-basin/>

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This article is a product of the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College. We are a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.



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