

## **Social Capital Differences in Urban and Rural BC and Stability Over Time**

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### **Introduction:**

This is a follow-up analyses of the Employment, Security, Community (ESC) Surveys, which surveys of social capital in Canada conducted in 1999 and 2004.. The first ESC survey was a randomized national survey of social capital conducted in 1999 and the second was a survey of the same respondents conducted in 2004. In previous work with the 1999 survey, we identified six factors (community participation, social solidarity, social trust, trust in governments institutional performance, and economic beliefs) that constituted the main dimensions of social capital in Canada. We also showed that there were systematic differences, in the national survey, in some of these basic dimensions of social capital, between respondents. In particular, we found that scores for these social capital dimensions tended to be higher among respondents residing in towns with less than 100,000 population compared to towns with 100,000 or more people. As well, for the 1999 survey, we purchased an over-sample consisting of 1,427 individuals in 7 mainly rural forestry-dependent communities in British Columbia. In this over-sample we demonstrated systematic differences for two of these 6 basic dimensions of social capital (“community participation” and “economic belief”), across the 7 over-sampled BC forestry dependent communities.

In this working paper we compare social capital scores, using this 1999 ESC survey, between respondents resident in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) (i.e., urban British Columbians) with scores for respondents in our 7 mainly rural forestry-

dependent communities. As well, in an effort to determine the stability and character of social capital scores over time in our 7 forestry-dependent communities, we intended to compare social capital scores for the sub-set of participants in our over-sample who responded to both the 1999 and 2004 ESC surveys.

**Background:**

The Equality, Security, Community (ESC) Survey is a random sample, telephone survey of Canadian adults dealing with civil society and the formation of social capital. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the study has included two over samples. The first of these is an over sample of respondents in the principal immigration destinations of greater Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. The second, purchased by our research team, is an over sample of individuals living in 7 forestry-dependent communities in BC. The seven communities for which we obtained an over-sample vary in their character and location in ways that are potentially important for the development and maintenance of social capital. Briefly, the communities are:

*Tahsis:* Tahsis is a geographically isolated, small town on the west coast of Vancouver Island. There is virtually no other economic activity in the area other than the forest industry and saw-milling in particular.

*Youbou:* Youbou was also a single industry town, but its location along Lake Cowichan in the middle of Vancouver Island makes it more amenable than Tahsis to becoming a tourism and retirement community.

*Chemainus:* Chemainus is located on the east coast of Vancouver Island, between Victoria and Nanaimo. One of the earliest of the sawmill communities to be hit by the

economic crisis in the forest industry in the early 1980s, Chemainus has actively exploited its relatively accessible location for tourism, through its now famous downtown murals and other elements of downtown renewal.

*Nanaimo:* Nanaimo is the largest of the sawmill communities, with a population in excess of 70,000, and serves as the gateway to northern Vancouver Island. Its economy originally depended upon coal but, for most of the last century, the forest industry was most important. Over the past 20 years Nanaimo has developed a large series of malls along the northern outskirts of town to provide shopping access for the northern parts of the Island.

*Port Alberni:* Port Alberni sits at the head of Barclay Sound, which comes in from the west coast of Vancouver Island. Until the early 1980s, Port Alberni was rich but polluted, with a highly unionized labour force in forestry and fishing. Both industries are in decline, but Port Alberni is now environmentally clean (thanks to the replacement of the pulp mill with a paper mill). Because of its location, it serves as a jumping off point for the popular Long Beach area and other outdoors tourism activities.

*Powell River:* Powell River is one of two mills in this sample that is on the mainland. In fact, it is along the 'Sunshine Coast', situated approximately 150 kilometers north of Vancouver, near the end of the coast highway. The region is relatively remote, and it requires taking two ferries from Vancouver, that join stretches of the highway, to get there. The old town of Powell River is a heritage site, because it is done in classic early twentieth century boom town style but, unlike Chemainus, it is not well patronized. On the other hand, a strong tradition of local community service is evident in the parks and hiking trails in the area.

*Squamish*: Squamish is situated at the head of Howe Sound along the road from Vancouver to Whistler mountain. The forest industry has predominated in Squamish but, because it is within commuting distance of both Vancouver and Whistler, it has the potential of becoming a bedroom community for both places.

We also obtained a second wave of the ESC survey, conducted in 2004, which re-sampled the original first wave participants both nationally and in our over-sample. For this re-sampling of the original 1,427 ESC respondents from our 7 forestry-dependent communities, 781 individuals (55.8% response rate) were resurveyed five years later in 2004. As well, of the 940 respondents resident in the GVRD surveyed in the 1999 ESC, 571 (60.4 %) were resurveyed five years later in 2004.

As outlined in the introduction, we conducted a factor analyses on ESC's first wave (i.e., the 1999 survey) to examine how social capital varied by individual according to socio-demographic factors in Canada, which dimensions of social capital best predicted self-reported health, and whether or not these same dimensions predicted self-reported health in the national survey and our over-sample in seven forestry dependent communities.

These data were published in a working paper and presented at the Social Policy Research Institute and they were included in our final report to CPHI.

The ESC survey consisted of hundreds of items measuring social capital as well as economic change in different ways. Table 1 shows the 6 dimensions of social capital that

were identified using factor analysis in the national ESC sample and the 21 items that constitute them.

**Table 1: The Dimensions of Social Capital in Canada According to Factor Analysis**

<b>Social Solidarity</b>
Many unemployed persons could find work if they really wanted to. Agree or disagree?
Society would be better off if more women stayed home with their children Agree or disagree?
People on welfare should be required to work for the community? Agree or disagree?
<b>Government Trust</b>
How much do you trust the government in Ottawa to do what is right? Almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?
How much do you trust the government in [PROVINCE] to do what is right? Almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?
What rating would you give the Federal Government?
What rating would you give your Provincial Government?
<b>Community Participation</b>
How many service clubs, such as Lions or Meals on Wheels, do you belong to?
How many recreational groups, such as sports leagues etc. are you involved in?
How many organizations active on political issues, such as the environment or taxpayers' rights, do you belong to?
Sometimes people give time to various types of organizations. How many youth-oriented groups, such as Girl Guides or Minor Hockey, have you given time to in the last 12 months?
How about organizations providing cultural services to the public, such as a museum or music festival. How many of these have you given time to in the last 12 months?
How about organizations that help people, such as the Cancer Society or a food bank? How many of these have you volunteered time to in the last 12 months?
<b>Social Trust</b>
If you lost a wallet or a purse that contained two hundred dollars, how likely is it to be returned with the money in it if it was found by someone who lives close by; very likely, somewhat likely or not at all likely?
If you lost a wallet or a purse that contained two hundred dollars, how likely is it to be returned with the money in it if it was found by a clerk at the nearest grocery store; very likely, somewhat likely or not at all likely?
If you lost a wallet or a purse that contained two hundred dollars, how likely is it to be returned with the money in it if it was found by a police officer; very likely, somewhat likely or not at all likely?
If you lost a wallet or a purse that contained two hundred dollars, how likely is it to be returned with the money in it if it was found by a complete stranger; very likely, somewhat likely or not at all likely?

<b>Institutional Performance</b>
What rating would you give the Business Community?
What rating would you give the Local Police?
<b>Economic Belief</b>
Thinking about the past twelve months, has your household's economic situation improved, stayed about the same, or worsened?
What about the next twelve months, do you feel your household's economic situation will improve, stay about the same, or get worse?

These results empirically identified 6 coherent dimensions of social capital in Canada. As well, they showed that educational level is Canada's most important socio-demographic determinant of access to social capital.

**Methods:**

In most surveys of social capital connection with family, neighbours, and friends is an important component of social capital. Although questions assessing close connections with family, friends, and neighbours did not constitute one of the basic dimensions of social capital in our factor analysis of the ESC we decided to add three questions utilized in the ESC on the extent of connection with family, neighbours, and friends, in order to make the results more comparable to other social capital instruments. Accordingly, using the 1999 ESC results only, we determined the differences in individual social capital measures for our six basic dimensions of social capital (plus our added close networks dimension) for residents of the GVRD compared to residents in the 7 forestry-dependent communities.

The data utilized in this comparison consisted of all the 1,427 respondents from the 1999 over-sample of 7 forestry dependent communities and the 571 respondents (obtained from the national survey) who resided in the GVRD. The number and proportion

responding to each social capital question are displayed and described in the results section. As well, we tested for any statistically significant differences in the proportions responding to each item for residents of the GVRD compared in aggregate to the 7 communities.

The next set of analyses utilized only the responses from the 7 forestry-dependent communities. Because we were interested in gauging the stability of social capital scores over the 5-year interval between the two surveys, we utilized results only from those respondents in the 7 communities who filled out both the 1999 and the 2004 ESC survey (i.e., the results from 781 respondents). First we compared, for each item, the responses in 1999 with those in 2004, in terms of proportions, in order to identify which (if any) of the seven dimensions of social capital.

While this analysis could tell us about broad changes in social capital in all 7 communities over the study interval it was not helpful in identifying and characterizing how each individual's response had changed, if at all, by 2004. Because the 2004 ESC was a re-survey of individuals originally surveyed in 1999 we could determine changes in our dimensions of social capital for each individual. We calculated these change by grouping each individual's responses for each item into three categories as follows; 1) no change in opinion; 2) change from positive to negative, and 3) change from negative to positive opinion. And, finally, we calculated the net positive change. **The net positive change. was equal to the number of individuals who changed their opinion in 2004 from negative to positive MINUS number of individuals who changed from**

**positive to negative) divided by the total number of respondents to the question.**

These are tabulated in the results and described for the entire sample of 781 respondents.

We were also interested in determining whether the change scores for individuals differed depending on the community they resided in. Accordingly we compared the net positive change scores for individual respondents across both surveys for each item and for each community and using test for proportions tested for any statistical differences in net positive change scores across the 7 communities. Finally, in order to further this comparison we compared net positive change scores for each community with the community average scores for each item in an attempt to identify those communities which were outliers (in terms of net positive change

**Results:**

**1. The differences in social capital scores between residents of the GVRD and residents of the 7 forestry-dependent communities in 1999.**

The proportion of residents in the 7 communities likely to see close friends and neighbours was greater than it was among residents in the GVRD (Table 2). These differences were statistically significant and were particularly notable for “how often talk to neighbours” as about 70 percent of residents in the 7 communities compared to about 55 percent in the GVRD talked to neighbours once a week or more.

**Table 2: Family & Social Connections**

	<b>Total N 7 Comm.</b>	<b># Respon dents 7 Comm.</b>	<b>% Resp. 7 Comm.</b>	<b>Total N GVRD</b>	<b># Respon dents GVRD.</b>	<b>% Resp. GVRD.</b>
How often see family not living with you						



<i>Once a week or more</i>	1420	801	56.41%	566	258	45.58%
<i>Once a month or less</i>	1420	619	43.59%	566	308	54.42%
P Value						0.23
How often see close friends						
<i>Once a week or more</i>	1424	1154	81.04%	567	428	75.49%
<i>Once a month or less</i>	1424	270	18.96%	567	139	24.51%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>
How often talk to neighbour						
<i>Once a week or more</i>	1416	989	69.84%	564	312	55.32%
<i>Once a month or less</i>	1416	427	30.16%	564	252	44.68%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>

There were four questions on social trust. All showed statistically significant differences between respondents from the GVRD compared with those from the 7 communities.

Differences are quite large. For example, asked if it is very likely that a clerk in a grocery store might return a lost wallet, 47.6% of respondents from GVRD felt it was very likely compared to 73.4% of rural residents (Table 3).

**Table 3: Social Trust**

	<b>Total N 7 Comm.</b>	<b># Respondents 7 Comm.</b>	<b>% Resp. 7 Comm.</b>	<b>Total N GVRD</b>	<b># Respondents GVRD.</b>	<b>% Resp. GVRD.</b>
Lost wallet - someone close by						
<i>Very likely</i>	1398	795	56.87%	543	181	33.33%
<i>Somewhat likely</i>	1398	476	34.05%	543	269	49.54%
<i>Not at all likely</i>	1398	127	9.08%	543	93	17.13%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>
Lost wallet-clerk grocery store						
<i>Very likely</i>	1404	1031	73.43%	555	264	47.57%
<i>Somewhat likely</i>	1404	316	22.51%	555	224	40.36%
<i>Not at all likely</i>	1404	57	4.06%	555	67	12.07%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>
Lost wallet-police officer						
<i>Very likely</i>	1391	1149	82.60%	555	374	67.39%
<i>Somewhat likely</i>	1391	218	15.67%	555	152	27.39%
<i>Not at all likely</i>	1391	24	1.73%	555	29	5.23%
P Value						0.00
Lost wallet-complete stranger						
<i>Very likely</i>	1376	177	12.86%	557	58	10.41%

<i>Somewhat likely</i>	1376	783	56.90%	557	263	47.22%
<i>Not at all likely</i>	1376	416	30.23%	557	236	42.37%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>

There were four questions on trust in governments. Respondents from the GVRD and the 7 communities did not differ in their attitude towards the provincial government. About 20 percent of respondents from both types of community trusted the provincial government “most of the time”. However, respondents from the GVRD were more likely than those from the 7 communities to trust the federal government. This difference was statistically significant (Table 4).

**Table 4: Trust in Federal and Provincial Governments**

Trust Government in Ottawa	Total N 7 Comm.	# Respondents 7 Comm.	% Resp. 7 Comm.	Total N GVRD	# Respondents GVRD.	% Resp. GVRD.
<i>Most of the time or more</i>	1385	337	24.33%	545	169	31.01%
<i>Some of the time</i>	1385	694	50.11%	545	258	47.34%
<i>Almost never (includes never)</i>	1385	354	25.56%	545	118	21.65%
P Value						<b>0.01</b>
Trust Provincial Government						
<i>Most of the time or more</i>	1249	227	18.17%	550	110	20.00%
<i>Some of the time</i>	1249	541	43.31%	550	231	42.00%
<i>Almost never (includes never)</i>	1249	481	38.51%	550	209	38.00%
P Value						0.65
Rating the Federal Government						
<i>Favourably (51-100)</i>	1368	575	42.03%	537	259	48.23%
<i>50</i>	1368	292	21.35%	537	118	21.97%
<i>Unfavourably (0-49)</i>	1368	501	36.62%	537	160	29.80%
P Value						<b>0.01</b>
Rating the Provincial						

Gov						
<i>Favourably (51-100)</i>	1268	416	32.81%	541	163	30.13%
50	1268	243	19.16%	541	102	18.85%
<i>Unfavourably (0-49)</i>	1268	609	48.03%	541	278	51.39%
P Value						0.46

Of the ten questions on community participation, five showed statistically differences between respondents from the GVRD compared to the 7 communities. In four of these five cases residents in the 7 communities showed greater levels of community participation. In the fifth case (attending religious services) a higher proportion of respondents from the GVRD attended religious services every week (33.1%) compared to the 7 communities (19.3%). A total of 16.2% of rural community residents belonged to one or more service clubs compared to 8.4% of respondents from the GVRD. A higher proportion of rural respondents belonged to one or more youth groups, volunteered more than 10 hours a week, and gave some money to charity relative to respondents from the GVRD (Table 5).

**Table 5: Community Participation**

	<b>Total N 7 Comm.</b>	<b># Respondents 7 Comm.</b>	<b>% Resp. 7 Comm.</b>	<b>Total N GVRD</b>	<b># Respondents GVRD.</b>	<b>% Resp. GVRD.</b>
How many service clubs						
<i>None</i>	1416	1187	83.83%	557	510	91.56%
<i>One or more</i>	1416	229	16.17%	557	47	8.44%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>
How many youth groups						
<i>None</i>	1419	948	66.81%	568	408	71.83%
<i>One or more</i>	1419	471	33.19%	568	160	28.17%
P Value						<b>0.02</b>
How many cultural Group						
<i>None</i>	1422	1159	81.50%	567	469	82.72%
<i>One or more</i>	1422	263	18.50%	567	98	17.28%
P Value						0.29
How many helping Groups						

<i>None</i>	1423	987	69.36%	569	405	71.18%
<i>One or more</i>	1423	436	30.64%	569	164	28.82%
P Value						0.23
Do you belong/volunteer any other group						
<i>Yes</i>	1421	338	23.79%	570	125	21.93%
<i>No</i>	1421	1083	76.21%	570	445	78.07%
P Value						0.20
How many recreational groups						
<i>None</i>	1422	723	50.84%	566	287	50.71%
<i>One or more</i>	1422	699	49.16%	566	279	49.29%
P Value						0.50
How many political groups						
<i>None</i>	1417	1215	85.74%	561	501	89.30%
<i>One or more</i>	1417	202	14.26%	561	60	10.70%
P Value						0.02
How often attend religious services						
<i>Never</i>	891	228	25.59%	335	50	14.93%
<i>Some</i>	891	491	55.11%	335	174	51.94%
<i>Every week</i>	891	172	19.30%	335	111	33.13%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>
How many hours did you volunteer						
<i>None</i>	1372	503	36.66%	522	229	43.87%
<i>1-10 hrs</i>	1372	462	33.67%	522	179	34.29%
<i>&gt; 10 hrs</i>	1372	407	29.66%	522	114	21.84%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>
How many \$\$\$ charity						
<i>None</i>	1319	262	19.86%	521	124	23.80%
<i>Some</i>	1319	1057	80.14%	521	397	76.20%
P Value						0.04

Both social solidarity questions showed differences that were statistically significant for the GVRD relative to the 7 communities. Respondents from the GVRD were more likely to agree that people on welfare should be required to work and that many unemployed could find work if they wanted. These differences, while statistically significant, were not large (e.g., 71.6% of respondents from the GVRD agreed that people on welfare should

be required to work compared to 67.6% from the 7 communities). However, they indicate a slight trend for “greater social solidarity” (or at least greater empathy for those who may be disadvantaged) in the rural communities (Table 6).

**Table 6: Social Solidarity**

People on welfare should be required to work	<b>Total N 7 Comm.</b>	<b># Respondents 7 Comm.</b>	<b>% Resp. 7 Comm.</b>	<b>Total N GVRD</b>	<b># Respondents GVRD.</b>	<b>% Resp. GVRD.</b>
<i>Agree</i>	1416	957	67.58%	566	405	71.55%
<i>Disagree</i>	1416	326	23.02%	566	129	22.79%
<i>Neither agree or disagree</i>	1416	133	9.39%	566	32	5.65%
P Value						<b>0.02</b>
Many unemployed could find work if they wanted to						
<i>Agree</i>	1422	953	67.02%	565	425	75.22%
<i>Disagree</i>	1422	392	27.57%	565	116	20.53%
<i>Neither agree or disagree</i>	1422	77	5.41%	565	24	4.25%
P Value						<b>0.00</b>

There were two questions on economic belief. One of these, about respondent’s economic situation over the past year, showed borderline statistical difference with 24.2 % of respondents from the 7 communities indicating worsened situation compared to 19.8% of respondents from the GVRD. About one third of respondents from both community types felt things would improve in the next year (Table 7).

**Table 7: Economic Belief**

Past 12 months household economic situation	<b>Total N 7 Comm.</b>	<b># Respondents 7 Comm.</b>	<b>% Resp. 7 Comm.</b>	<b>Total N GVRD</b>	<b># Respondents GVRD.</b>	<b>% Resp. GVRD.</b>
<i>Improved</i>	1409	271	19.23%	556	127	22.84%

<i>Stayed about the same</i>	1409	797	56.56%	556	319	57.37%
<i>Worsened</i>	1409	341	24.20%	556	110	19.78%
P Value						0.05
What about next 12 months						
<i>Improved</i>	1375	404	29.38%	546	167	30.59%
<i>Stayed about the same</i>	1375	736	53.53%	546	303	55.49%
<i>Worsened</i>	1375	235	17.09%	546	76	13.92%
P Value						0.24

Finally, no statistically significant differences were observed between respondents from the GVRD and the 7 communities for self-rated health and for life satisfaction. (Table 8)

**Table 8: Health Status & Life Satisfaction**

Self-rated Health	Total N 7 Comm.	# Respondents 7 Comm.	% Resp. 7 Comm.	Total N GVRD	# Respondents GVRD.	% Resp. GVRD.
<i>Poor/Fair</i>	1418	237	16.71%	559	78	13.95%
<i>Good/Excellent</i>	1418	1181	83.29%	559	481	86.05%
P Value						0.07
Life Satisfaction						
<i>Dissatisfied 1-5</i>	1408	146	10.37%	330	41	12.42%
<i>Satisfied 6-10</i>	1408	1262	89.63%	330	289	87.58%
P Value						0.16

**2. Using both the 1999 and 2004 ESC results for the 781 respondents who filled out both surveys in our 7 forest-dependent communities we compared the aggregate responses in 1999 with responses in 2004.**

This analysis is concerned with the stability, on aggregate, of social capital scores. These were remarkably stable for all the dimensions of social capital except for ratings of provincial and federal government. Compared to 1999, in 2004, respondents were less trusting of both the provincial and federal governments. Considering that elections

occurred between the two surveys this latter result may not be so surprising. Although poor/fair rating for health increased among respondents from about 15 to 20 percent this may be partly explained by aging of the respondents over this time period. In general this survey indicates a remarkable stability in assessments of social capital, health status, and life satisfaction in these communities over this four year period (Table 9).

**Table 9: Comparison of Social Capital Scores for Respondents in 1999 and 2004 in 7 Forestry-dependent Communities.**

How often see family not living with you	ESC 1999	ESC 2004
<i>Once a week or more</i>	56.54%	54.62%
How often see close friends		
<i>Once a week or more</i>	80.41%	79.13%
How often talk to neighbour		
<i>Once a week or more</i>	69.73%	75.94%
Lost wallet -someone close by		
<i>Very likely</i>	59.55%	59.55%
<i>Somewhat likely</i>	33.77%	34.03%
<i>Not at all likely</i>	6.68%	6.41%
Lost wallet-clerk grocery store		
<i>Very likely</i>	21.56%	22.73%
<i>Somewhat likely</i>	75.32%	73.90%
<i>Not at all likely</i>	3.12%	3.38%
Lost wallet-police officer		
<i>Very likely</i>	84.42%	83.12%
<i>Somewhat likely</i>	14.27%	15.71%
<i>Not at all likely</i>	1.31%	1.18%
Lost wallet-complete stranger		
<i>Very likely</i>	12.48%	14.09%
<i>Somewhat likely</i>	61.07%	62.42%
<i>Not at all likely</i>	26.44%	23.49%
P Value		
Trust Government in Ottawa		
<b><i>Most of the time or more</i></b>	<b>24.74</b>	<b>20.4</b>
<i>Some of the time</i>	51.71%	44.74%
<i>Almost never (includes never)</i>	23.55%	34.87%
Trust Provincial Government		
<b><i>Most of the time or more</i></b>	<b>16.94</b>	<b>14.32</b>
<i>Some of the time</i>	45.51%	36.67%
<i>Almost never (includes never)</i>	37.56%	48.01%

Rating the Federal Government		
<b>Favourably (51-100)</b>	<b>43.16</b>	<b>34.36</b>
50	19.54%	20.22%
<b>Unfavourably (0-49)</b>	<b>37.31</b>	<b>43.42</b>
Rating the Provincial Gov		
<b>Favourably (51-100)</b>	<b>33.87%</b>	<b>23.98%</b>
50		
<b>Unfavourably (0-49)</b>	<b>49.56</b>	<b>60.90</b>
How many service clubs		
<i>None</i>	83.57%	82.28%
<i>One or more</i>		
How many youth groups		
<i>None</i>	64.91%	73.01%
<i>One or more</i>		
How many cultural Group		
<i>None</i>	80.46%	78.80%
<i>One or more</i>		
How many helping Groups		
<i>None</i>	67.35%	66.71%
<i>One or more</i>		
Do you belong/volunteer any other group		
<i>Yes</i>	72.98%	77.21%
<i>No</i>		
How many recreational groups		
<i>None</i>	46.86%	46.86%
<i>One or more</i>		
How many political groups		
<i>None</i>	82.84%	83.87%
<i>One or more</i>		
How often attend religious services		
<i>Never</i>	24.43%	23.28%
<i>Some</i>		
<i>Every week</i>	23.47%	21.95%
How many hours did you volunteer		
<i>None</i>	19.53%	19.53%
<i>1-10 hrs</i>	42.19%	47.14%
<i>&gt; 10 hrs</i>	38.28%	33.33%
How many \$\$\$ charity		
<i>None</i>	15.17%	16.20%
<i>Some</i>		
People on welfare should be required to work		
<i>Agree</i>	66.85%	72.75%



<i>Disagree</i>	24.83%	24.30%
<i>Neither agree or disagree</i>	8.32%	2.95%
Many unemployed could find work if they wanted to		
<i>Agree</i>	66.58%	68.19%
<i>Disagree</i>	29.38%	29.92%
<i>Neither agree or disagree</i>	4.04%	1.89%
Past 12 months household economic situation		
<i>Improved</i>	20.03%	20.29%
<i>Stayed about the same</i>	55.14%	54.88%
<i>Worsened</i>	24.84%	24.84%
What about next 12 months		
<i>Improved</i>	27.08%	28.28%
<i>Stayed about the same</i>	55.36%	55.36%
<i>Worsened</i>	17.56%	16.35%
Self-rated Health		
<i>Poor/Fair</i>	14.85%	19.97%
<i>Good/Excellent</i>	85.15%	80.03%
Life Satisfaction		
<i>Dissatisfied 1-5</i>	8.87%	6.94%
<i>Satisfied 6-10</i>	91.13%	93.06%

**Bolded =P<0.01.**

While these results mainly demonstrate stability for social capital scores this gross comparison does not capitalize on the unique opportunity presented by re-survey of the same individuals after 5 years which allows us to determine change of each individual's score over the study period. We have tracked changes among the 781 individuals by recording, for each item, the proportion of individuals with unchanged opinion, with negative change in opinion, positive change in opinion, and net positive change (Table 10).

**Table 10: Proportion of respondents in 2004 with opinion unchanged, changed from positive to negative, from negative to positive, and the proportion of respondents with net positive shift in opinion in 2004 relative to opinions held in 1999.**

	% unchanged	% from +ve to -ve	% from -ve to +ve	% net +ve
How often see family not living	44.10%	30.26%	25.64%	-4.62%

How often see close friends	39.95%	33.93%	26.12%	-7.81%
How often talk to neighbour	35.45%	29.50%	35.06%	5.56%
<b>Average Close Networks</b>	<b>39.83%</b>	<b>31.23%</b>	<b>28.94%</b>	<b>-2.29%</b>
Lost wallet -someone close by	65.05%	17.41%	17.54%	0.13%
Lost wallet-clerk grocery store	66.62%	17.40%	15.97%	-1.43%
Lost wallet-police officer	79.97%	10.60%	9.42%	-1.18%
Lost wallet-complete strange	64.30%	15.70%	20.00%	4.30%
<b>Average Social Trust</b>	<b>70.0%</b>	<b>15.28%</b>	<b>15.73%</b>	<b>0.46%</b>
Trust Government in Ottawa	53.68%	30.53%	15.79%	-14.74%
Trust Provincial Government	46.39%	32.40%	21.21%	-11.19%
What rating would you give the Federal Government	41.93%	35.82%	22.25%	-13.57%
What rating would you give the Provincial Gov	34.74%	41.57%	23.69%	-17.88%
<b>Average Govt. Trust</b>	<b>44.19%</b>	<b>35.08%</b>	<b>20.74%</b>	<b>-14.35%</b>
How many service clubs	79.59%	9.11%	11.30%	2.18%
How many youth groups	66.71%	20.69%	12.60%	-8.10%
How many cultural Groups	76.76%	10.73%	12.52%	1.79%
How many helping Groups	62.23%	17.41%	20.36%	2.94%
Do you belong/volunteer any other group	70.68%	16.77%	12.55%	-4.23%
How many recreational groups	56.47%	20.23%	23.30%	3.07%
How many political groups	81.56%	9.35%	9.09%	-0.26%
How many hours did you volunteer	40.10%	33.07%	26.82%	-6.25%
<b>Average Helping</b>	<b>70.57%</b>	<b>14.90%</b>	<b>14.53%</b>	<b>-0.37%</b>
<b>Average Religious</b>	<b>51.53%</b>	<b>25.57%</b>	<b>22.90%</b>	<b>-2.67%</b>
<b>Average Charity</b>	<b>31.37%</b>	<b>27.69%</b>	<b>40.94%</b>	<b>13.25%</b>
People on welfare should be required to work	75.70%	10.07%	14.23%	4.16%
Many unemployed could find work if they wanted to	76.15%	11.59%	12.26%	0.67%
<b>Average Social Solidarity</b>	<b>75.93%</b>	<b>10.83%</b>	<b>13.25%</b>	<b>2.42%</b>
Past 12 months household economic situation	51.50%	24.45%	24.06%	-0.39%
What about next 12 months	54.96%	22.52%	22.52%	0.00%

<b>Average Econ. Belief</b>	<b>53.23%</b>	<b>23.49%</b>	<b>23.29%</b>	<b>-0.20%</b>
<b>Average for SC</b>	<b>57.90%</b>	<b>22.17%</b>	<b>19.93%</b>	<b>-2.25%</b>
Self-rated Health	84.12%	10.50%	5.38%	-5.12%
Life Satisfaction	89.59%	4.24%	6.17%	1.93%

On average just under 60 percent of individuals surveyed in 2004 had unchanged response to items measuring social capital. And, net positive change across this 5-year interval was just over -2 percent. The dimensions that changed least were social solidarity (average proportion of respondents with unchanged opinion equal to 75.93%), the average helping component of community participation (70.57%), and social trust (average proportion of respondents with unchanged opinion equal to 70.0%). For the remaining four dimensions, approximately from 40 to 50 percent of respondents had unchanged opinions over the two time periods. The most changed dimension was close networks as approximately 60 % of respondents had changed the frequency with which they visited close family, neighbours and friends. For family and friends the net positive change was negative (respectively -4.62%. and -7.81%) whereas visits to neighbours increased (5.56%). The item with the most positive net change was dollars donated to charity as the net positive increase was 13.25%. The item with the least positive change was trust in government with net positive increase of -14.35%. Finally, the opinions that changed least from 1999 to 2004 were in relation to self-rated health status and life satisfaction. For these items over 85% did not change their opinion.

**3. We determined the change in the proportion of positive social capital responses over this five year period for each of the seven communities in order determine whether there were major differences in the stability of social capital scores across these communities.**

There are statistically significant differences across the seven communities for the frequency of visiting family ( $p=0.04$ ). The proportion of net positive change in family contacts is the least in Chemainus (-21.6%) followed by Port Alberni and Squamish (both with net positive change of -11.1%). The most positive net change in frequency of visits with close family not living close by was in Powell River (11.8%). In six of seven communities the sum of net positive change in close network scores from 1999 and 2004 decreased. The declines in close networks in these six communities range from -0.02% (Tahsis) to -25.23% (Squamish). Only Powell River (20.10%) recorded an increase from 1999 to 2004 (Table 11).

**Table 11: Net Positive Changes in Scores for Family and Social Connections 1999 to 2004**

	<b>Family</b>	<b>Friend</b>	<b>Neighbour</b>	<b>Sum Close Networks</b>
All communities	-4.62%	-7.81%	5.56%	<b>-6.86%</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-7.84%	-7.81%	6.80%	<b>-8.86%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	11.76%	-7.77%	16.10%	<b>20.10%</b>
<i>Port Alberni</i>	-11.11%	-10.08%	8.77%	<b>-12.42%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	-11.11%	-6.03%	-8.08%	<b>-25.23%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	0.00%	-2.02%	2.00%	<b>-0.02%</b>
<i>Yobou</i>	0.49%	-24.00%	3.96%	<b>-19.55%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	-21.59%	-7.28%	6.90%	<b>-21.98%</b>
<i>p-value</i>	<b>0.04</b>	0.69	0.48	

No statistically significant differences were observed across communities for the wallet questions. After summing the net positive change scores across the three wallet questions the range was from 9.8% (Yobou) to -7.0% (Squamish) (Table 12).

**Table 12: Net Positive Changes in Scores for Wallet Questions 1999 to 2004**

	<b>someone close by</b>	<b>clerk grocery store</b>	<b>police officer</b>	<b>complete stranger</b>	<b>Sum Lost Wallet</b>
All communities	0.13%	-1.43%	-1.18%	4.30%	<b>1.82%</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-1.94%	-5.94%	4.95%	10.00%	<b>7.07%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	-1.71%	3.39%	-1.71%	0.00%	<b>-0.03%</b>
<i>Port Alberni</i>	0.89%	-7.21%	-4.55%	5.66%	<b>-5.20%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	0.00%	-9.09%	1.03%	1.03%	<b>-7.03%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	0.00%	4.26%	-2.00%	-4.26%	<b>-2.00%</b>
<i>Youbou</i>	1.00%	1.46%	-4.39%	11.73%	<b>9.80%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	2.35%	3.41%	2.38%	-7.06%	<b>1.08%</b>
<i>p-value</i>	0.99	0.44	0.57	0.12	

No statistically significant differences were observed across communities for “trust in governments”. Also, the trend was the same with all communities demonstrating a decrease in government trust. After summing across the net positive change scores for government trust, the range was from -80.8% (Port Alberni) to -32.1% (Nanaimo) (Table 13).

**Table 13: Net Positive Changes in Scores for Trust in Federal and Provincial Governments 1999 to 2004**

	<b>Trust Ottawa</b>	<b>Trust Victoria</b>	<b>Rate Ottawa</b>	<b>Rate Victoria</b>	<b>Sum Govt Trust</b>
All communities	-14.74%	-11.19%	-13.57%	-17.88%	<b>-57.38%</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-14.14%	1.06%	-14.58%	-4.44%	<b>-32.11%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	-17.24%	-19.80%	-3.64%	-26.42%	<b>-67.09%</b>
<i>Port Alberni</i>	-18.18%	-15.53%	-25.00%	-22.12%	<b>-80.83%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	-10.10%	-23.26%	1.06%	-12.64%	<b>-44.94%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	-4.00%	-6.52%	-20.41%	-28.89%	<b>-59.82%</b>
<i>Youbou</i>	-20.50%	-12.29%	-14.57%	-19.10%	<b>-66.46%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	-5.81%	5.71%	-20.99%	-12.82%	<b>-33.91%</b>
<i>p-value</i>	0.56	0.14	0.14	0.34	

No statistically significant differences were observed across communities for community participation questions. After summing across the helping questions, the trend was the same with all communities demonstrating a decrease in helping except Tahsis which was an extreme outlier. Differences for charity behaviours were also not statistically significant across communities and trend was also the same showing increases ranging from 5.41% (Chemainus) to 23.26% (Tahsis). (Table 14a, b).

**Table 14a): Net Positive Changes in Scores for Community Participation 1999 to 2004**

	<b>Service Clubs</b>	<b>Youth Groups</b>	<b>Cultural Groups</b>	<b>Helping Groups</b>	<b>Volunteer Groups</b>	<b>Rec. Groups</b>
All communities	2.18%	-8.10%	1.79%	2.94%	-4.23%	3.07%
<i>Nanaimo</i>	4.00%	-9.80%	0.00%	-4.85%	-4.90%	-0.98%
<i>Powell River</i>	-0.84%	-7.63%	-3.36%	12.61%	-3.36%	0.85%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	8.70%	-1.71%	6.84%	11.21%	-12.07%	0.85%
<i>Squamish</i>	1.98%	-1.01%	8.91%	6.00%	-13.86%	2.00%
<i>Tahsis</i>	6.00%	2.00%	2.00%	8.00%	6.00%	-8.00%
<i>Youbou</i>	-3.40%	-8.78%	2.43%	-3.41%	-1.94%	9.22%
<i>Chemainus</i>	6.82%	-27.59%	-5.68%	-3.41%	5.75%	6.82%
<i>p-value</i>	0.27	0.06	0.32	0.11	0.10	0.64

**Table 14b): Net Positive Changes in Scores for Community Participation 1999 to 2004 (continued)**

	<b>Political Groups</b>	<b>Hours Volunteer</b>	<b>Sum Helping</b>	<b>Sum Church</b>	<b>Sum Charity</b>
All communities	-0.26%	-6.25%	-8.84%	-2.67%	13.25%
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-2.94%	-2.27%	-21.75%	4.29%	6.67%
<i>Powell River</i>	-1.68%	-13.64%	-17.05%	6.58%	12.75%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	1.72%	-15.00%	0.54%	-1.22%	20.00%
<i>Squamish</i>	-1.98%	-4.26%	-2.22%	-9.86%	21.74%
<i>Tahsis</i>	0.00%	31.82%	47.82%	-14.29%	23.26%
<i>Youbou</i>	1.46%	-5.61%	-10.04%	-5.11%	9.84%

<i>Chemainus</i>	0.00%	-10.53%	<b>-27.82%</b>	<b>-3.77%</b>	<b>5.41%</b>
<i>p-value</i>	0.97	0.34		<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.74</b>

Statistically significant differences were observed across communities for social solidarity for the unemployed but not for the welfare question. The trend for the sum of these two questions was a decrease in social solidarity expect in the case of Chemainus (net positive change score 4.54%) and Squamish (9.08%) (Table 15).

**Table 15: Net Positive Changes in Scores for Social Solidarity 1999 to 2004**

	<b>Welfare work</b>	<b>Unemployed work</b>	<b>Sum Solidarity</b>
All communities	-4.16%	-0.67%	<b>-4.83%</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-7.14%	-12.50%	<b>-19.64%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	-7.27%	4.63%	<b>-2.64%</b>
<i>Port Alberni</i>	1.75%	-2.63%	<b>-0.88%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	-1.02%	10.10%	<b>9.08%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	-8.70%	-4.17%	<b>-12.86%</b>
<i>Youbou</i>	-5.67%	-4.74%	<b>-10.41%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	-2.35%	6.90%	<b>4.54%</b>
<i>p-value</i>	0.71	<b>0.01</b>	

Both questions on economic belief showed statistically significant differences across communities. There was no real trend. Instead, respondents in about half the communities felt optimistic (Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Tahsis) and the remainder felt pessimistic about economic change in the past and future (Table 16).

**Table 16: Net Positive Changes in Scores for Economic Belief 1999 to 2004**

	<b>Past 12 months</b>	<b>Next 12 months</b>	<b>Sum Economic</b>
All communities	-0.39%	0.00%	<b>-0.39%</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	6.06%	9.38%	<b>15.44%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	-4.24%	-13.04%	<b>-17.28%</b>

<i>Port Alberni</i>	3.48%	18.35%	<b>21.83%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	-4.08%	2.08%	<b>-2.00%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	28.00%	17.39%	<b>45.39%</b>
<i>Youbou</i>	-2.49%	-8.50%	<b>-10.99%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	-14.77%	-8.33%	<b>-23.11%</b>
<i>p-value</i>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.01</b>	

There were no statistically significant differences in health status and life satisfaction scores across the 7 communities. There was, however, a decline in net positive scores for self-rated health status in all communities whereas for six of seven communities life satisfaction increased (Table 17).

**Table 17: Net Positive Changes in Scores for Self-Reported Health Status and Life Satisfaction 1999 to 2004**

	<b>Health Status</b>	<b>Life Satis</b>
All communities	-5.12%	1.93%
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-0.98%	0.99%
<i>Powell River</i>	-4.20%	0.00%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	-6.90%	3.48%
<i>Squamish</i>	-6.93%	-2.97%
<i>Tahsis</i>	-18.00%	2.00%
<i>Youbou</i>	-3.40%	3.40%
<i>Chemainus</i>	-3.45%	5.75%
<i>p-value</i>	0.58	0.45

Tables 18a and 18b summarize the net positive changes for each major dimension of social capital for each of the 7 communities. As well, for each community a total social capital score was calculated by summing across the net positive change scores for each dimension. These total social capital scores indicate that individuals living in Chemainus and Youbou exhibited the least net positive change in social capital from 1999 to 2004. In



contrast, in Tahsis, net positive change in total social capital was Plus 58.41%. Nanaimo, Powell River, and Squamish, exhibited decreased net positive change in total social capital (of approximately Minus 25%). Among respondents in Port Alberni, little overall change in social capital scores was noted.

**Table 18a: Summary Table for Net Positive Change Scores**

	<b>Sum Close Networks</b>	<b>Sum Lost Wallet</b>	<b>Sum Govt Trust</b>	<b>Sum Helping</b>	<b>Sum Church</b>
All communities	-6.86%	1.82%	-17.88%	-8.84%	-2.67%
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-8.86%	7.07%	-4.44%	-21.75%	4.29%
<i>Powell River</i>	20.10%	-0.03%	-26.42%	-17.05%	6.58%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	-12.42%	-5.20%	-22.12%	0.54%	-1.22%
<i>Squamish</i>	-25.23%	-7.03%	-12.64%	-2.22%	-9.86%
<i>Tahsis</i>	-0.02%	-2.00%	-28.89%	47.82%	-14.29%
<i>Youbou</i>	-19.55%	9.80%	-19.10%	-10.04%	-5.11%
<i>Chemainus</i>	-21.98%	1.08%	-12.82%	-27.82%	-3.77%

**Table 18b: Summary Table for Net Positive Change Scores (continued)**

	<b>Sum Charity</b>	<b>Sum Solidarity</b>	<b>Sum Economic</b>	<b>Total Positive Change in Social Capital Score</b>
All communities	13.25%	-4.83%	-0.39%	-26.40%
<i>Nanaimo</i>	6.67%	-19.64%	15.44%	-21.22%
<i>Powell River</i>	12.75%	-2.64%	-17.28%	-23.99%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	20.00%	-0.88%	21.83%	0.53%
<i>Squamish</i>	21.74%	9.08%	-2.00%	-28.16%
<i>Tahsis</i>	23.26%	-12.86%	45.39%	58.41%
<i>Youbou</i>	9.84%	-10.41%	-10.99%	-55.56%
<i>Chemainus</i>	5.41%	4.54%	-23.11%	-78.47%

**4. We determined, for this same pool of respondents, the extent to which community's social capital change scores deviated from the average change in social capital across this 5 year time period**

Tables for each item are shown in Appendix B. Table 19a and b show summary results for differences. These indicate that Youbou and Chemainus were had declines in social capital relative to the other communities and that Tahsis had major increases relative to the average for all 7 communities.

**Table 19a: Difference Scores Summary Table**

	<b>Close networks</b>	<b>Wallet scores</b>	<b>Trust govt.</b>	<b>Helping</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Charity</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-1.99%	5.25%	25.27%	12.91%	6.96%	-6.59%
<i>Powell River</i>	26.96%	-1.85%	-9.72%	-8.21%	9.25%	-0.51%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	-5.56%	-7.02%	-23.45%	9.38%	1.45%	6.75%
<i>Squamish</i>	-18.36%	-8.85%	12.44%	6.62%	-7.19%	8.48%
<i>Tahsis</i>	6.84%	-3.82%	-2.44%	56.66%	-11.61%	10.00%
<i>Youbou</i>	-12.69%	7.98%	-9.09%	-1.19%	-2.44%	-3.42%
<i>Chemainus</i>	-15.11%	-0.74%	23.47%	18.98%	-1.10%	-7.85%

**Table 19b: Difference Scores Summary Table (continued)**

	<b>Soc Solidarity</b>	<b>Economic Belief</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Life Satisfac.</b>	<b>Total Positive Difference in Social Capital Score</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-14.81%	15.83%	4.14%	-0.94%	17.01
<i>Powell River</i>	2.19%	-16.89%	0.92%	-1.93%	1.22
<i>Port Alberni</i>	3.96%	22.22%	-1.77%	1.55%	7.73
<i>Squamish</i>	13.92%	-1.61%	-1.81%	-4.90%	5.45
<i>Tahsis</i>	-8.03%	45.78%	-12.88%	0.07%	93.38
<i>Youbou</i>	-5.57%	-10.60%	1.72%	1.47%	-37.02
<i>Chemainus</i>	9.38%	-22.72%	1.67%	3.82%	-33.65

**Discussion:**

A greater proportion of respondents from the 7 communities were more connected than GVRD residents to family, neighbours and friends. Similarly, a greater proportion of respondents from the 7 communities exhibited social trust than did residents of GVRD. However, respondents for the 7 communities were less trusting of the federal government than respondents from the GVRD. Respondents from the 7 communities all showed greater levels of community participation except in the case of regular attendance at religious services. They also showed greater social solidarity. Levels of economic optimism were similar in the GVRD and rural communities as were levels of poor/fair self-reported health status and life satisfaction.

On average just under 60 percent of individuals surveyed in 2004 had unchanged response to items measuring social capital. Somewhat surprisingly, the most changed dimension was close networks as approximately 60 % of respondents had changed the frequency with which they visited close family, neighbours and friends. The item with the least positive change was trust in government with net positive increase of -14.35%.

When looking at changes in individual's scores community by community, statistically significant differences across communities were noted only for frequency of visits to close family, one of the social solidarity questions (unemployment) and both economic belief questions.

When net positive change scores were summed for each dimension individuals living in Chemainus and Youbou exhibited the least net positive change in social capital from

1999 to 2004. In fact, in these two communities, located about 100 kilometers apart in mid-East coast Vancouver Island, net positive change in total social capital was Minus 78.47% in Chemainus and Minus 55.56% in Youbou. In contrast, in Tahsis, an extremely isolated community located in central west coast Vancouver Island, net positive change in total social capital was Plus 58.41%. The stable largely forestry-dependent towns of Nanaimo, Powell River, and Squamish, exhibited decreased net positive change in total social capital (of approximately Minus 25%). Among respondents in Port Alberni, little overall change in social capital scores was noted.

In summary, these results indicate:

1. social capital is likely higher in rural compared to urban communities in BC;
2. the dimensions of social capital most subject to change (at least in our 7 forestry communities) was trust in the federal and provincial government and frequency of close network contacts.
3. the dimensions of social solidarity remained least subject to change over the 5-year study period
4. the mid-east coast Vancouver Island communities of Chemainus and Youbou had the greatest decline in social capital over the period between surveys.
5. the isolated mid-island community of Tahsis had the greatest increase in social capital.

While the greatest declines in social capital were noted for Youbou and Chemainus these are very different towns with very different trajectories over the past 20 years so that the

reasons for these declines in the two towns may be quite different. Chemainus was the site of a “state-of-the-art” sawmill constructed during the recession of the early 1980s. This sawmill, was contentious when it was built as approximately 600 men in the town and outlying area lost their jobs when the new more efficient mill went into production in 1985. Then, several years ago this mill was closed causing further job losses. In response, the local community converted the town into a tourist destination by developing community art’s projects of various kinds. These were supposed to rejuvenate the town economically.

In contrast, Youbou, located about 100 kilometers inland from Chemainus on the shores of Lake Cowichan, had a viable mill (with many employed) until the turn of the century when it too closed down. Unlike Chemainus, which is located along the main coastal highway, Youbou is isolated and had no local community projects to attract tourists. However, the common element to both communities has been the closure of the main employer (sawmill) in the town.

Tahsis is extremely isolated (10 hour drive from Vancouver with the last 2 hours of the drive across a gravel road). As well, this town had a two mills operating a full capacity and employing several hundred workers until the late 1980s. One mill closed in 1988 and the last mill closed in 1998. The town has decreased in population.

The ESC survey in Tahsis was first conducted in 1999. Thus, the people contacted in this survey were likely those who had decided to stay on after the final mill closure. This is

likely a unique group (mainly older, mainly home owners etc) who decided to stay on for the “lifestyle” values offered in this remote and rather beautiful community. The increase in social capital across almost all dimensions is interesting and likely is a response to the opening up of this area to eco-tourism and other related ventures.

## APPENDIX A



January 25, 2007

Dr. Aleck Ostry  
Faculty of Human and Social Development  
University of Victoria  
PO Box 3050  
Victoria, BC V8W 3P5

Dear Dr. Ostry,

You requested an update regarding the status of Ministry of Health approvals of your project titled **The Effects of Labour Market and Community Change on the Health of Sawmill Workers and their Children.**

To recap, your application to the Ministry of Health occurred on April 27, 2005, and involved a) a request for extension of the time frame on a pre-existing approved health data extract (Ostry 01-010), and b) permission to link these data to education data through use of the Education – Health crosswalk. Ethical review is in place, as are approvals from the Ministry of Education and peer-reviewed funding from the Canadian Population Health Initiative. The only remaining missing component is the Ministry of Health approval.

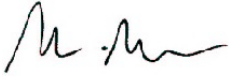
We have been diligently following up with the Ministry of Health (MOH) regarding this application, but it continues to be held up because of disputes over the authority to use the crosswalk (i.e. for UBC to do the linkage).

We have resolved that if the following two components are in place, the Ministry will support a review of the case: 1) a formalized agreement between the Population Health and Learning Observatory (PHLO) and the MOH, and 2) support from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). Both of these are currently in play. Regarding (1): we have a meeting with the MOH on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> to review what we hope is a near-final draft of an agreement. Regarding (2): PHLO and MOH have drafted a letter that is jointly being sent to the OIPC to solicit input on UBC's authority to do linkage.

We are very optimistic of success on both requirements, however the primary concern is that of time frames. We know you have been waiting an unrealistic and unacceptably long period of time; while we try to push, control over these timeframes is out of our hands.

Please let me know if you need further information.

Yours truly,



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Population Health and Learning Observatory  
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## APPENDIX B

**Table 1: Difference Scores for Close Networks**

	<b>Visit Close Family</b>	<b>Visit Friends</b>	<b>Visit Neighbour</b>	<b>Sum Close Networks</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-3.23%	0.00%	1.23%	<b>-1.99%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	16.38%	0.04%	10.54%	<b>26.96%</b>
<i>Port Alberni</i>	-6.50%	-2.27%	3.21%	<b>-5.56%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	-6.50%	1.78%	-13.64%	<b>-18.36%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	4.62%	5.79%	-3.56%	<b>6.84%</b>
<i>Youbou</i>	5.10%	-16.19%	-1.60%	<b>-12.69%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	-	0.53%	1.33%	<b>-15.11%</b>

**Table 2: Difference Scores for Wallet Questions**

	<b>Person close by</b>	<b>Grocery clerk</b>	<b>Policeman</b>	<b>Stranger</b>	<b>Sum lost wallet</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-2.07%	-4.51%	6.13%	5.70%	<b>5.25%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	-1.84%	4.82%	-0.53%	-4.30%	<b>-1.85%</b>
<i>Port Alberni</i>	0.76%	-5.78%	-3.37%	1.37%	<b>-7.02%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	-0.13%	-7.66%	2.21%	-3.26%	<b>-8.85%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	-0.13%	5.68%	-0.82%	-8.55%	<b>-3.82%</b>
<i>Youbou</i>	0.86%	2.88%	-3.21%	7.44%	<b>7.98%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	2.22%	4.84%	3.56%	-11.35%	<b>-0.74%</b>

**Table 3: Difference Scores for Government Trust**

	<b>Trust Federal</b>	<b>Trust Provincial</b>	<b>Rate Federal</b>	<b>Rate Provincial</b>	<b>Sum Govt Trust</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	0.60%	12.26%	-1.01%	13.43%	<b>25.27%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	-2.50%	-8.61%	9.93%	-8.54%	<b>-9.72%</b>
<i>Port Alberni</i>	-3.44%	-4.34%	-11.43%	-4.24%	<b>-23.45%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	4.64%	-12.06%	14.63%	5.23%	<b>12.44%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	10.74%	4.67%	-6.84%	-11.01%	<b>-2.44%</b>
<i>Youbou</i>	-5.76%	-1.10%	-1.00%	-1.22%	<b>-9.09%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	8.92%	16.91%	-7.42%	5.06%	<b>23.47%</b>

**Table 4a) : Difference Scores for Community Participation**

	<b>Service Clubs</b>	<b>Youth Groups</b>	<b>Cultural Groups</b>	<b>Helping Groups</b>	<b>Volunteer Groups</b>	<b>Recreational Groups</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	1.82%	-1.71%	-1.79%	-7.80%	-0.68%	-4.05%
<i>Powell River</i>	-3.02%	0.47%	-5.15%	9.66%	0.86%	-2.23%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	6.51%	6.39%	5.05%	8.26%	-7.84%	-2.22%
<i>Squamish</i>	-0.20%	7.09%	7.12%	3.06%	-9.64%	-1.07%
<i>Tahsis</i>	3.82%	10.10%	0.21%	5.06%	10.23%	-11.07%
<i>Youbou</i>	-5.58%	-0.68%	0.64%	-6.36%	2.28%	6.15%
<i>Chemainus</i>	4.64%	-19.49%	-7.47%	-6.35%	9.97%	3.75%

**Table 4b) : Difference Scores for Community Participation (continued)**

	<b>Political Groups</b>	<b>Hours Volunteer</b>	<b>Sum Helping</b>	<b>Sum Church</b>	<b>Sum Charity</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	-2.69%	3.98%	<b>-12.91%</b>		
<i>Powell River</i>	-1.42%	-7.39%	<b>-8.21%</b>	6.96%	-6.59%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	1.98%	-8.75%	<b>9.38%</b>	9.25%	-0.51%
<i>Squamish</i>	-1.72%	1.99%	<b>6.62%</b>	1.45%	6.75%
<i>Tahsis</i>	0.26%	38.07%	<b>56.66%</b>	-7.19%	8.48%
<i>Youbou</i>	1.71%	0.64%	<b>-1.19%</b>	-11.61%	10.00%
<i>Chemainus</i>	0.26%	-4.28%	<b>-18.98%</b>	-2.44%	-3.42%

**Table 5: Difference Scores Economic Belief**

	<b>Economy past 12 mo.</b>	<b>Economy future</b>	<b>Sum Economy</b>
<i>Nanaimo</i>	6.45%	9.38%	<b>15.83%</b>
<i>Powell River</i>	-3.85%	-13.04%	<b>-16.89%</b>
<i>Port Alberni</i>	3.87%	18.35%	<b>22.22%</b>
<i>Squamish</i>	-3.69%	2.08%	<b>-1.61%</b>
<i>Tahsis</i>	28.39%	17.39%	<b>45.78%</b>
<i>Youbou</i>	-2.10%	-8.50%	<b>-10.60%</b>
<i>Chemainus</i>	-14.38%	-8.33%	<b>-22.72%</b>

**Table 6: Difference Scores Health and Life Satisfaction**

	<b>Health Status</b>	<b>Life Satisfaction</b>
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<i>Nanaimo</i>	4.14%	-0.94%
<i>Powell River</i>	0.92%	-1.93%
<i>Port Alberni</i>	-1.77%	1.55%
<i>Squamish</i>	-1.81%	-4.90%
<i>Tahsis</i>	-12.88%	0.07%
<i>Youbou</i>	1.72%	1.47%
<i>Chemainus</i>	1.67%	3.82%