



# SURVEY SUMMARY YOUTH



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February 2019

# THE PERSPECTIVE

*"Our education is slowly going downhill, less population. Kids need more programs and more options for courses in school."*

Many survey participants (28%) expressed concerns about an aging and declining population. Youth out-migration was linked with a perceived lack of opportunities for youth within their communities.

The community is concerned about loss of youth, both in terms of community vibrancy as well as community and family connections; 19% of survey participants emphasized the importance of family ties.

People raised concerns about the education system and whether it is meeting the needs of young people in the community. Nevertheless, several survey participants emphasized positive

developments within the educational system and the importance also of extra curricular activities available through the schools.

Many participants are worried about the lack of activities available for youth, but others suggested there are lots of activities available.

Only a small number of participants identified a concern about gaps in services for children and youth.

When asked what good things are happening in the community, very few respondents mentioned good services for children and youth.

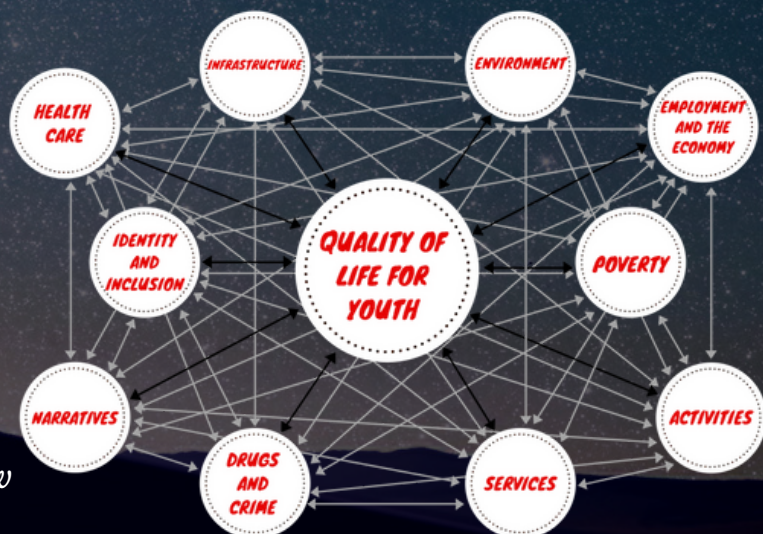
*"There is a lack of opportunity for youth - mental health, academic health and for "decent pay" jobs/careers."*

## CROSSING THEMES

The Youth theme is closely interrelated with most other themes, including:

- An aging population, combined with youth out-migration, also means a loss of supports for seniors, loss of family ties and connectedness;
- Youth issues are closely connected with employment and education;
- Access to recreational and educational opportunities are likely to be affected by poverty.

*"The education system is in fact worse than the health care system because it has for too long been mired in low expectations linked to the fragile resource economy."*

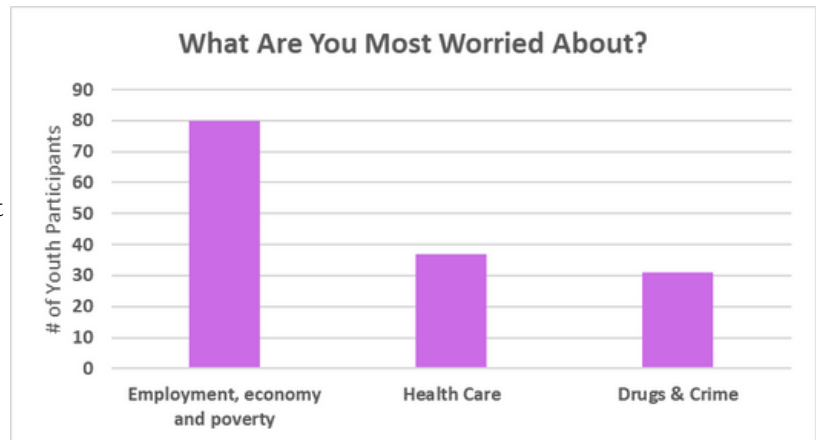


# WHAT ARE YOU MOST WORRIED ABOUT?

Survey participants aged 0-19 were most worried about:

- Employment Issues;
- Health Care; and
- Drugs & Crime

15 participants (11%) were concerned about Education.

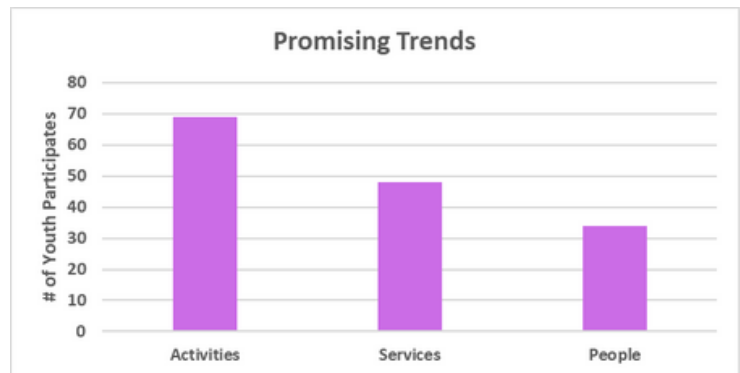


## PROMISING TRENDS

### POSITIVES FOR YOUTH

Top answers from participants aged 0-19 when asked what good things were happening in the community:

- Activities (69 participants);
- Services (48 participants);
- People (34 participants); and
- Employment (15 participants)



61 participants felt optimistic about good things happening within the educational system, including extra curricular activities, development of the new trade school & NSCC.

## SUGGESTIONS TO SHIFT THE THEME

### INTERESTING IDEAS FROM PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED...

Several people mentioned that young people need a safe place to “hang out” and socialize. The development of a community centre and/or a youth-friendly café were suggested as a place for young people to get together, study and socialize.

Youth respondents (19 and under) suggested their community would be better if there were improvements to activities(47%), attitudes (22%), services (21%) and employment opportunities (19%).