

DAUPHIN & DISTRICT

Vital Signs®

Community Well-Being Report 2025:
Taking the Pulse of Dauphin



About the Dauphin & District Community Foundation

The Dauphin & District Community Foundation (DDCF) connects the generosity of donors with local priorities. By building permanent endowment funds and supporting vital projects, the Foundation helps strengthen well-being across the City and RM of Dauphin, and the surrounding area. Since its creation, DDCF has granted more than \$3.5 million to local organizations, enriching life for residents today and for generations to come.



A Message from the Dauphin & District Community Foundation

In early 2025, the Dauphin & District Community Foundation invited residents to share their experiences and ideas through the Vital Signs survey – to help shape a stronger, more vibrant future for Dauphin and the surrounding area.

This report reflects what we heard, alongside data from federal, provincial and local sources. It's a tool to help local governments, businesses, organizations and residents better understand our community's strengths and challenges, and to plan accordingly.

We hope it sparks conversation, reflection and action. Thank you to everyone who contributed your time, stories and perspectives. You are helping shape the future of our community.

A Message from Endow Manitoba

Endow Manitoba, a program of The Winnipeg Foundation, was established in 2018 to “advance the sustainability, growth, and impact of Manitoba’s community foundation network.” As Canada’s most generous province, Manitoba exemplifies the spirit of giving, with the work of community foundations serving as a testament to this generosity.

Community foundations hold a special place within their communities. They represent a “meeting space” between smart and caring donors and the organizations undertaking critical community work, creating lasting impact that enhances community well-being now and into the future. These foundations embody the heart and soul of their communities, reflecting the shared values and aspirations of the people they serve.

The Dauphin & District Community Foundation’s efforts are not just strengthening the fabric of their community but also setting an inspiring example for others across our province and across our nation. Together, community foundations are building a brighter future for Manitoba.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are in Treaty 2 Territory, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Dakota, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation. We affirm our commitment to working in partnership with Indigenous communities in the spirit of truth and reconciliation to enhance quality of life in our community.

Dauphin & District’s Vital Signs Team and Contributors

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Community Contributions: See Acknowledgements, next page





What is VitalSigns®?

VitalSigns® is a community check-up, conducted by community foundations across Canada, that measures the vitality of communities and identifies significant trends in areas that are critical to quality of life. The Dauphin & District Community Foundation's 2025 Vital Signs report reflects local voices and data. It highlights strengths, identifies areas that need attention, and supports informed, community-led action.

This initiative draws on a comprehensive well-being framework and community engagement to reflect what matters most to the people of Dauphin and the surrounding area. Community surveys, youth surveys, and focus groups, combined with federal, provincial, and local data sources, provide a fuller picture of how our community is doing.

Using the evidence-based approach of this report, local leaders and residents can better understand both the challenges and the opportunities before us. For the Dauphin & District Community Foundation, Vital Signs will inform our governance, guide responsive grant-making and foster collaborative partnerships.

The goal of the report is to empower decision-makers, policymakers, and community members to take action, helping to improve quality of life across Dauphin and district.



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Active Transportation Committee, Assiniboine College, City of Dauphin, Dauphin & Area Welcoming Communities Coalition, Dauphin & District Food Bank, Dauphin & District Handi-Van, Dauphin Co-op, Dauphin Friendship Centre, Dauphin Magical Horizons, Dauphin Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (DNRC), Dauphin Railway Museum & CNR Station, Dauphin Recreation Services, Dauphin School Age Day Care, Dauphin Super Thrifty Pharmacy, DNRC DIVERSEcity, Ducks Unlimited, Fort Dauphin Museum, Go Beyond Games, Happy Face Children's Centre, Ken's No Frills, Michif Children's Place and Day Care, Mountain View School Division, Parkland Campus Kids, Parkland Regional Library, Parkland Source for Sports, Peter Pan Day Nursery, Prairie Mountain Health, Regional Connections, RM of Dauphin, Safesidewalks Canada Inc., Sport Tourism Canada, The Bloom 'n Bean, Tourism Dauphin.

We are also grateful to Endow Manitoba for their support and to Community Foundations of Canada for coordinating the national Vital Signs program.



How to Read the Report

This Vital Signs report highlights important data and insights to help understand our community's strengths and areas for growth. Here's a guide to navigating the content.

Key Indicators

These are marked with a key icon and are crucial to calculating the overall grade for each domain. They provide essential insights into the most important aspects of each well-being domain.

Domain

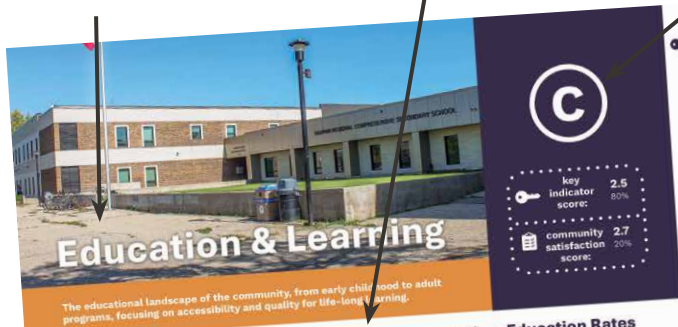
A domain is an area, or category of community life that contributes to the overall well-being of the community. While there are multiple domains, they are all overlapping and interlinked, creating a robust picture of well-being.

Grade

Each domain is assigned a letter grade based on the assessment of key indicators (80%) combined with community survey scores (20%).

Contextual Indicators

Some indicators, listed without key icons, are included to provide additional context and background information. While they help paint a fuller picture of the domain, they do not directly affect the grade.



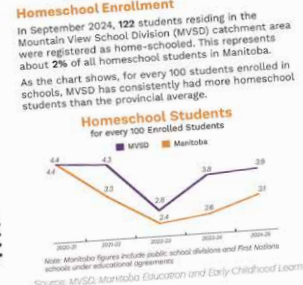
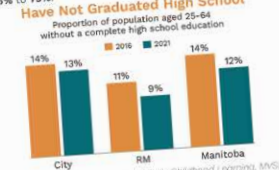
Student-to-Educator Ratio
In 2022/23, the student-to-educator ratio for Mountain View School Division (MVSD) was 12.8, unchanged from 2018/19, and slightly better than the Manitoba ratio of 13.1 in 2022/23.
This ratio includes all staff contributing to students' education, such as classroom teachers and school-based administrative staff (e.g., department heads, principals), offering a broader view of educational support. A lower ratio does not necessarily mean more educational support per student, which can enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.
Source: Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

Licensed Childcare Spaces
Access to licensed childcare is not only crucial for supporting working parents but also plays a significant role in early childhood development. According to the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW), "high-quality childcare is shown to positively influence children's social, emotional, developmental and educational outcomes," with especially strong impacts for children from families with lower income or education levels or who are otherwise disadvantaged.
Across five centres in Dauphin, there are 281 provincially funded, subsidized spaces: 48 for infants (0-2 years), 158 for preschoolers (2-6 years), and 75 for school-aged children (6-12 years). All centres report being full with active wait lists, meaning families continue to face challenges accessing affordable care. A new centre, Prairie Park Place, is expected to open in the future.
Note: Additional licensed spaces by private operators exist in the community but are not reflected in these numbers.
Source: local childcare centres

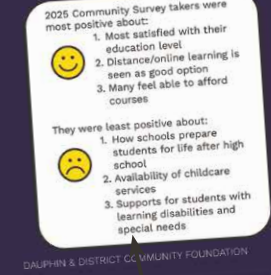
Assiniboine College - Dauphin/Parkland Campus
Student Enrollment: 203 in 2023-24
Graduates: 64 in 2023-24
Indigenous students and mature learners comprise a significant percentage of the Parkland campus population.
Graduate Outcomes (2021-22 to 2023-24 cohorts, aggregated):
94% employed within nine months of graduation
89% working in jobs related to their training
97% remain in Manitoba
Programs offered locally: About 30 different programs were offered at Parkland Campus between 2019 and 2024. The Campus regularly offers diploma and certificate programs in: Practical Nursing, Health Care Aide, Early Childhood Education, Skilled Trades (Carpentry, Business Administration, Mature Student High School — and plumbing, electrical), Mature Student High School — and more, depending on local interest and need.
Note on data: Enrollment includes all Parkland Campus programs (diploma, certificate, continuing education, adult learning, upgrading). Graduation rates may understate participation since some learners aren't captured in traditional statistics, and total faculties because certain programs run on alternating two-year cycles.
Source: Assiniboine College



High School Graduation Rates
In 2023, the 6-year high school graduation rate for Mountain View School Division (MVSD) was 77%, meaning that 77% of students who started grade nine in 2017 graduated in a public or funded independent school in Manitoba by 2023. This is below the provincial rate of 89%, and slightly lower than the 2018 MVSD rate of 81%.
Graduation rates vary across the division. While not directly comparable, 74% of the 182 Grade 12 students enrolled at Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School (DRCSS) in 2024-25 graduated. Over the past five years, DRCSS graduation rates have ranged from 66% to 75%.



Community Insight
In the focus groups, residents highlighted education as both a strength and an area with challenges. Many spoke positively about extracurricular activities, sports and arts programs that give young people opportunities to grow, and expressed pride in Dauphin's language offerings in English, French and Ukrainian. Cultural diversity in the schools was described as a strength for the future. Access to Assiniboine College (Parkland Campus) was also valued, providing post-secondary training close to home.
At the same time, families with lower incomes often face barriers to participation, with costs for supplies, activities, or transportation making access uneven. Concerns were raised that not all students graduate prepared for post-secondary education or the workforce. Suggestions included more local focus on literacy and basic skills, clearer communication about existing opportunities, evening or distance learning for adults, and better transportation for students.



Quotes
"Our five children graduated from DRCSS and went on to pursue higher education. Their needs were met, though we also made sure to support their learning at home."

Quotes

Throughout the report, you will find quotes from community reflection sessions and survey responses. These quotes provide personal insights that help bring the data, and the story of our community, to life.

Community Insight

After analysing the data and survey results, we hosted focus groups with residents to discuss preliminary findings and to gather feedback. The Community Insights sections include insights and experiences shared during these discussions, as well as some responses collected in the surveys, offering a local perspective on the findings.

Community Perspective

Survey responses are ranked using average positive response levels, from high (very satisfied or strongly agree) to low (very dissatisfied or strongly disagree). High-scoring areas reflect aspects that residents take pride in, while low-scoring areas highlight opportunities for improvement.

Legend

- MVSD:** Mountain View School Division
- PMH:** Prairie Mountain Health (regional health authority)
- City of Dauphin:** Dauphin (Census Subdivision), sometimes referred to as "City"

Rural Municipality of Dauphin: Rural Municipality of Dauphin (Census Subdivision), sometimes referred to as "RM"

Dauphin & District: Region served by the Dauphin & District Community Foundation, including the City and RM of Dauphin, and the surrounding area



Our Framework of Community Well-being

Measuring well-being provides a “big picture” of a community’s health, resilience and vitality. The results of this research can then be used to develop policies and practices that support community well-being in the long-term.



These domains are interconnected, and investing in all of them in a balanced manner is important to a community’s overall health, resilience and vitality.

As you read through the report, ask yourself:

1. What gives you hope?
2. How can you get involved in making our community stronger?
3. Why is this area important to you and your family?



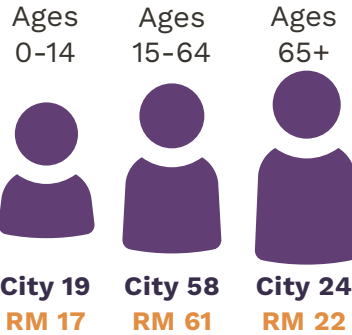
If Dauphin was a VILLAGE of 100



Citizenship

City 95 citizens 5 non-citizens
 RM 96 citizens 4 non-citizens

Age Groups

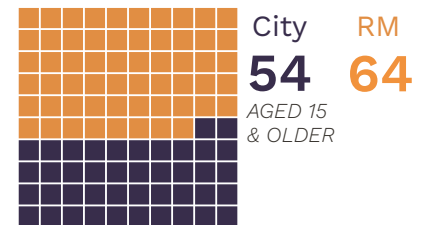


Indigenous Identity

First Nations or Métis: 28 (RM: 10)



Employment Rate



2 Languages

City 17 RM 16

1 Language

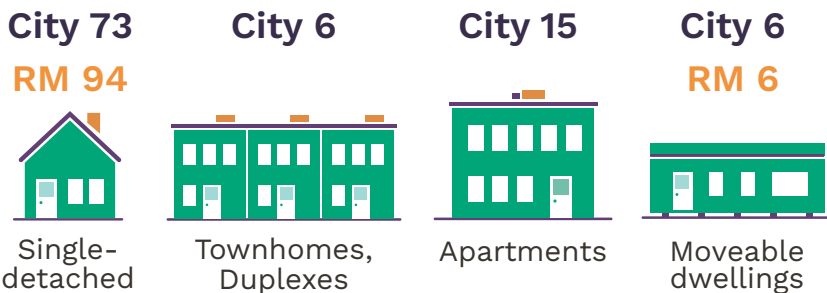
City 80 RM 83

3+ Languages

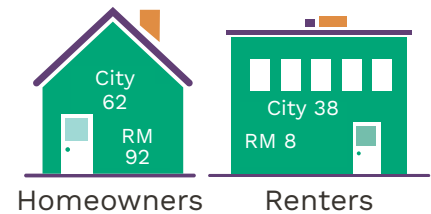
City 3 RM 1

Number of Languages Known

Home Dwellings



Housing Type by Tenure



Other household configuration*
 City 8% RM 4%

Household by Type

Couples without children
 City 23% RM 38%

Couples with children
 City 17% RM 28%

Single parents with children
 City 13% RM 6%

One-person households
 City 39% RM 25%

* "Other household configuration" includes multigenerational households, multiple-census-family households, one-census-family households with additional persons, and two-or-more-person non-census-family households

The City of Dauphin and RM of Dauphin each saw population increases of 1% from 2014 to 2024.



(Source: Statistics Canada – Table 17-10-0155-01)

Village of 100 shows the proportion of the population for each characteristic, and is based on Statistics Canada's 2021 Census data, except where noted otherwise.





How is Dauphin & District doing?

Overall, the **Dauphin & District region scored a B** across the eight domains of well-being, reflecting steady, at-benchmark performance in most areas of community life. Strong results in recreation, affordability and environmental stewardship balance areas of lower satisfaction in health and community resilience.

Environment	This domain captures the community’s commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The key indicator score of 3.4 reflects steady performance in conservation and sustainable practices. The community satisfaction score of 3.4 ranks Environment 4th out of 8 well-being areas.	B
Community Resilience	This domain measures the community’s ability to adapt and thrive amid challenges, focusing on safety, employment and the economy. The key indicator score of 3.2 reflects strong business activity and low unemployment, though concerns about safety continue. The community satisfaction score of 2.6 ranks Community Resilience 7th out of 8 well-being areas.	B-
Education & Learning	This domain measures access to and quality of lifelong learning opportunities. The key indicator score of 2.5 reflects modest post-secondary attainment and graduation rates below the provincial average. The community satisfaction score of 2.7 ranks Education & Learning 6th out of 8 well-being areas.	C
Standard of Living	This domain reflects economic stability, affordability and balance between work and home life. The key indicator score of 3.9 reflects low commute times, affordable housing, and low poverty rates across both the City and RM. The community satisfaction score of 4.3 ranks Standard of Living 2nd out of 8 well-being areas.	A-
Health & Wellness	This domain assesses physical and mental health, as well as access to health care. The key indicator score of 3.5 reflects strong access to family doctors and high immunization rates. The community satisfaction score of 2.1 ranks Health & Wellness 8th out of 8 well-being areas.	B-
Culture & Belonging	This domain focuses on inclusion, representation and participation in community life. The key indicator score of 2.5 reflects moderate to low levels of civic inclusion and representation, while residents express a strong sense of belonging. The scores are tempered by reports of discrimination and low membership in groups. The community satisfaction score of 3.8 ranks Culture & Belonging 3rd out of 8 well-being areas.	C+
Arts & Recreation	This domain assesses opportunities for participation in arts, leisure and sports activities, including shows, events, clubs and recreational facilities. The key indicator score of 3.9 reflects strong City investment in Arts & Recreation, good local amenities and high satisfaction with access to programs and facilities. The community satisfaction score of 4.6 ranks Arts & Recreation 1st out of 8 well-being areas.	A-
Civic & Democratic Engagement	This domain assesses civic participation, volunteerism and engagement in democratic life. The key indicator score of 3.4 reflects steady voter turnout and high levels of charitable giving and volunteerism. The community satisfaction score of 3.2 ranks Civic & Democratic Engagement 5th out of 8 well-being areas.	B

Want to learn more?

Read on for detailed information about how Dauphin is doing in each domain of well-being, and to explore opportunities for community action





Environment

Reflects care for nature, community spaces and natural resources, and includes resource conservation, waste management and readiness for environmental challenges.



key indicator score: **3.9**

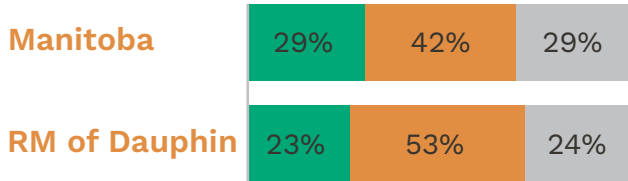
community satisfaction score: **4.0**

Soil Conservation and Carbon Storage

In 2021, **76% of farmland in the RM of Dauphin used conservation tillage practices**, up from **57% in 2016**. This increase reflects a strong shift toward practices that protect and rebuild soil health. By comparison, **71% of Manitoba farmland used conservation tillage methods in 2021**.

% of land area seeded, 2021

■ zero tillage ■ minimum tillage ■ conventional tillage



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 32-10-0367-01

Conservation tillage is a farming technique that minimizes soil disturbance and leaves more plant material on the surface, helping to maintain soil health and moisture. It offers several environmental benefits:

- **Reduces soil erosion** by preventing soil from washing or blowing away.
- **Improves sustainability** by keeping soil productive over time.
- **Supports biodiversity** by creating a healthier environment for insects and microorganisms.
- **Helps retain moisture**, making fields more drought resistant.
- **Stores carbon in the soil**, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

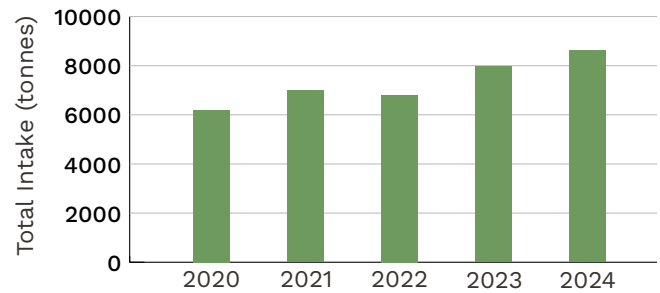
“Dauphin Lake is a natural resource we don’t care for enough. It should be a priority.”

“Flooding is an annual concern, and it’s time to look at long-term solutions that protect homes and trails.”

Waste Management and Diversion Efforts

In 2024, the Dauphin Waste Disposal Grounds took in **8,618 tonnes** of waste, representing a **39% increase** over 2020.

Annual Landfill Intake
Dauphin Waste Disposal Ground



In 2023, most of Dauphin’s landfill intake came from residential (**43%**), commercial (**35%**), and construction and demolition waste (**22%**), reflecting both steady local activity and continued growth. Beyond household garbage, the Diversion Centre also handled electronics, used oil, tires and mattresses, helping keep additional materials out of landfill (see “What stayed out of the landfill” sidebar).

The City continues to expand waste diversion options. A community compost program collected more than **680 tonnes** of organic material in 2024, and recycling volumes are tracked separately through contracted collection services. Together, these programs show steady progress toward reducing landfill volumes and extending the life of the site.

Source: City of Dauphin Waste Disposal Grounds Annual Report (2023) and City correspondence, 2025.



Tree Planting and Riparian Restoration

Since 2020, the City of Dauphin has given away more than **550 trees** to residents to help grow the city's urban forest. The program, which runs most years, encourages people to plant and care for trees that improve air quality, provide shade and add green space throughout neighbourhoods and parks. Over the years, tree giveaways have helped strengthen the local canopy and raised awareness about the value of maintaining healthy trees in the community.

Tree Giveaway - City of Dauphin



Local groups have also played a major role in protecting green spaces. The Vermillion Park Trail Maintenance Fund, established in 1999 by Dauphin's Countryfest and administered by the Dauphin & District Community Foundation, supports trail upkeep and accessibility year-round.

The DDCF has also supported larger restoration projects, including a grant of **\$11,500** to the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve to restore the Vermillion River's natural buffer zone. More than **20,000 trees and shrubs** have been planted across **six hectares** near the Sportsplex and park. The project improves water quality, stabilizes riverbanks and enhances habitat for local wildlife.

Together, these local efforts show a shared commitment to conservation and the protection of natural areas that make Dauphin a healthy and welcoming place to live.

Source: City of Dauphin, Dauphin & District Community Foundation

Emergency Planning & Local Knowledge

The City and RM of Dauphin maintain dedicated webpages with emergency preparedness resources, including local emergency plans, a 72-hour kit checklist, flood forecasts, lake level updates, and links to provincial and national guidance.

Nearly **72%** of 2025 Community Survey respondents said they knew little or nothing about local plans for environmental emergencies (flooding, tornadoes, drought, heatwaves). **53%** felt the community is at least moderately prepared to handle these emergencies.

What Stayed Out of the Landfill

City of Dauphin, 2023 (Source: City of Dauphin)



Used Oil

4,000 litres collected



Tires

4,295 recycled



Mattresses

385 diverted



Plastic Pails

160 processed



Scrap Metal

13.79 tonnes recovered

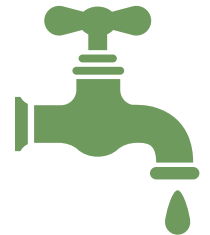


Electronics

46 skids processed

Safe Drinking Water

In 2022, the City of Dauphin installed a state of the art treatment system to enhance drinking water safety. The system delivers nearly four times the required safety level.



Source: City of Dauphin

"We need to replace the trees that have been lost. They're part of what makes this community beautiful."

Community Insight

In the focus groups, residents described Dauphin as a community with strong environmental assets. People expressed confidence in drinking water and noted progress on sustainability, including trails and parks, tree planting and yard waste and recycling.

Awareness and preparedness emerged as gaps. Participants said it is not always clear where to find information for floods, heat or storms, or how to sign up for alerts. They asked for clear guidance, muster locations and notice before pesticide or mosquito fogging.

Survey respondents added practical concerns. They called for consistent replacement of removed boulevard trees and losses to Dutch elm disease, safer active transport routes and more frequent recycling. Some sought clearer stewardship of Lake Dauphin and the Vermillion River, and better communication on emergency planning.

Overall, people were proud of what works and clear where coordination would help. Better communication and small fixes would strengthen preparedness and environmental care.

2025 Community Survey takers were most positive about:



1. Access to nature
2. Air quality and drinking water quality
3. Garbage and recycling services

They were least positive about:

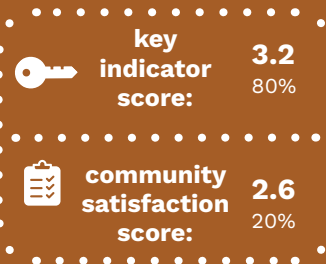


1. Gardening opportunities
2. Walking path connectivity
3. Local water conservation awareness



Community Resilience

The community's ability to withstand challenges and prosper, with a focus on access to services, a robust local economy and job market, public safety and transportation infrastructure



🔑 Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate, which is the percentage of people in the workforce who would like to have jobs but do not, is a key indicator of economic health and resilience. In 2021, the unemployment rates were **6.6%** (City) and **5.0%** (RM), significantly lower than the Manitoba rate of **8.3%**, and lower than the 2016 local rates of **6.7%** (City) and **7.2%** (RM).

Source: Statistics Canada

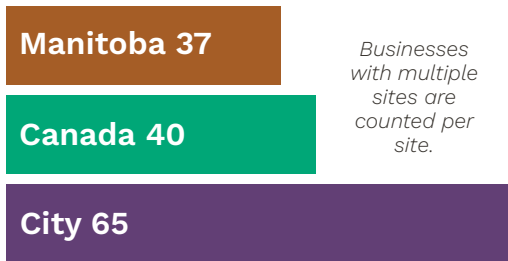
Self-Employment

In 2021, **12%** (City) and **22%** (RM) of local workers were self-employed, compared to **12%** in Manitoba.

Source: Statistics Canada

🔑 Businesses with Employees, per Capita

Businesses with employees per 1,000 people aged 15+, 2024



Businesses with multiple sites are counted per site.

This is an indicator of the health of the local economy, reflecting the density and diversity of businesses in the area. In June 2024, there were **469** businesses with employees in the City of Dauphin (RM data unavailable).

Source: Statistics Canada

Economic Impact of Dauphin's Major Festivals

Combined, Dauphin's Countryfest and Canada's National Ukrainian Festival made a strong economic contribution to the local and provincial economy (2024):



\$8.3 million in initial expenditures



56 local jobs supported



\$2.2 million in local wages and salaries



13,056 visitors from outside Dauphin



\$4.7 million in visitor spending



\$9.2 million in overall economic activity across Manitoba



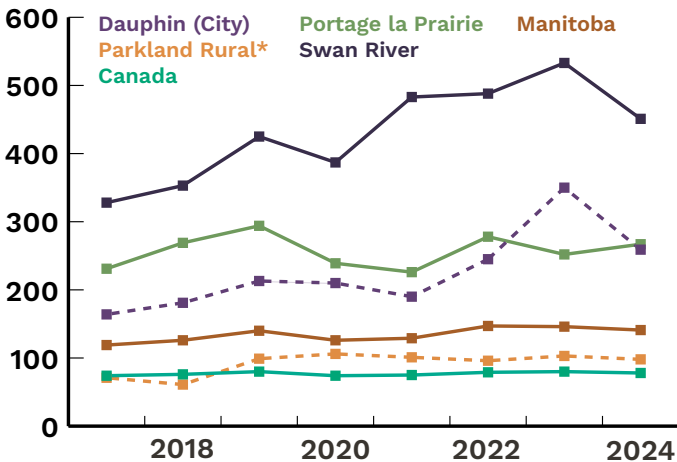
“People talk a lot about crime on Facebook, but it doesn’t always match what’s really happening in the community.”

“We don’t wait for bigger centres. We figure it out.”

Crime Severity Index

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) measures police-reported severe crimes, providing insight into the community’s policing, safety and security. In 2024, the CSI score for Dauphin Municipal (City) was **259** and Parkland Rural was **98**.

By comparison, in 2024, Manitoba’s CSI was **141** and Canada’s was **78**.



*Parkland Rural includes Dauphin RM, Ashville, Gilbert Plains, Grandview, Ethelbert, Sifton and Ochre River.

Source: Statistics Canada



Winter Maintenance and Snow Clearing

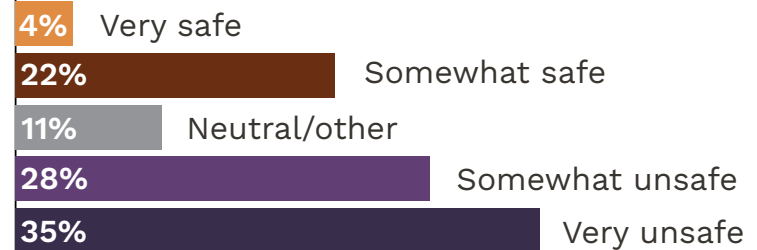
64% satisfied and **18%** dissatisfied with winter maintenance and snow clearing on roads and streets

53% satisfied and **27%** dissatisfied with winter maintenance of sidewalks and paths

Source: 2025 Community Survey

Perceptions of Safety

When asked “How safe do you feel walking or being outside alone at night”, only 26% of survey takers felt very safe or somewhat safe.



Source: 2025 Community Survey

“If you’re new or don’t have family here, it’s tough to know what services are even available. Put all the benefits and supports in one plain-language list so people can actually use them.”

Community Insight

In the focus groups, residents spoke about public safety, with some saying they feel comfortable downtown and others pointing to break-ins, visible drug use and concerns about youth. Social media was seen as amplifying fear and sometimes painting a darker picture than lived experience.

Infrastructure was a recurring theme. Sidewalk maintenance, snow clearing and transportation for seniors and those with mobility needs were described as inconsistent. The Handi-Van is valued but not always available, and winter conditions make access more difficult. Residents also raised concerns about the lack of overnight shelter space, noting that warm-up areas are not a long-term solution.

Despite these challenges, people emphasized Dauphin’s long-standing resilience. Many described the community as “scrappy,” noting that being far from larger centres has meant doing things themselves and finding creative ways to adapt. Neighbours looking out for one another, volunteers stepping in to fill gaps and festivals that bring people together were all seen as defining strengths. Still, participants identified clear gaps that need to be addressed: expanding housing and shelter capacity, improving winter accessibility, enhancing public safety and strengthening organizational partnerships.

2025 Community Survey takers were most positive about:



1. Their work
2. Their connection and access to the internet
3. Winter maintenance and snow clearing of streets and roads

They were least positive about:



1. Public transportation options
2. Being able to meet shopping and supply needs locally
3. Job opportunities for young adults



Education & Learning

The educational landscape of the community, from early childhood to adult programs, focusing on accessibility and quality for life-long learning.



key indicator score: 2.5
80%

community satisfaction score: 2.7
20%

“Trades, arts, and academics all matter. Students need genuine choice.”

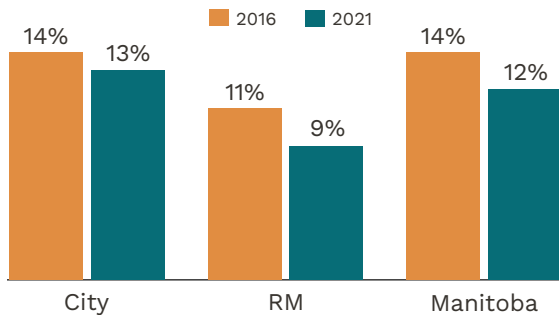
High School Graduation Rates

In 2023, the 6-year high school graduation rate for Mountain View School Division (MVSD) was **77%**, meaning that 77% of students who started grade nine in 2017 graduated in a public or funded independent school in Manitoba by 2023. This is below the provincial rate of **89%**, and slightly lower than the 2018 MVSD rate of **81%**.

Graduation rates vary across the division. While not directly comparable, **74%** of the 182 Grade 12 students enrolled at Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School (DRCSS) in 2024-25 graduated. Over the past five years, DRCSS graduation rates have ranged from **66%** to **75%**.

Have Not Graduated High School

Proportion of population aged 25-64 without a complete high school education



Source: Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, MVSD

“Our five children graduated from DRCSS and went on to pursue higher education. Their needs were met, though we also made sure to support their learning at home.”

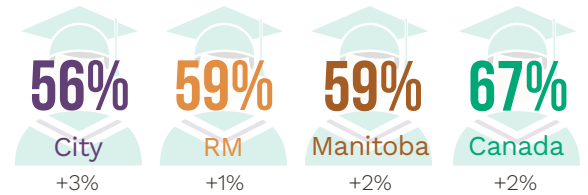
Post-Secondary Education Rates

Post-secondary attainment provides people with greater mobility and access to higher-paying employment opportunities, making this an important area for community development.

Source: Statistics Canada

Post-Secondary Certificate, Diploma or Degree

% of population aged 25-64, 2021



Compared to 2016 (Source: Statistics Canada)

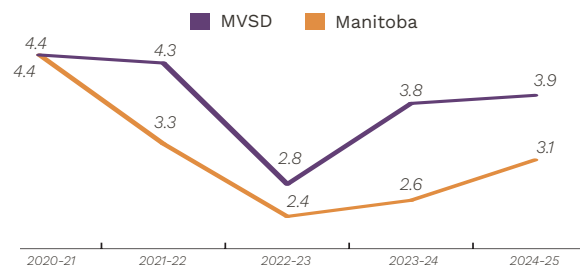
Homeschool Enrollment

In September 2024, **122** students residing in the Mountain View School Division (MVSD) catchment area were registered as home-schooled. This represents about **2%** of all homeschool students in Manitoba.

As the chart shows, for every 100 students enrolled in schools, MVSD has consistently had more homeschool students than the provincial average.

Homeschool Students

for every 100 Enrolled Students



Note: Manitoba figures include public school divisions and First Nations schools under educational agreements

Source: MVSD, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning



🔑 Student-to-Educator Ratio

In 2022/23, the student-to-educator ratio for Mountain View School Division (MVSD) was **12.8**, unchanged from 2018/19, and slightly better than the Manitoba ratio of **13.1** in 2022/23.

This ratio includes all staff contributing to students' education, such as classroom teachers and school-based administrative staff (e.g., department heads, principals), offering a broader view of educational support.

This ratio does not represent average classroom size. A lower ratio generally means more educational support per student, which can enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.

Source: Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

Licensed Childcare Spaces

Access to licensed childcare is not only crucial for supporting working parents but also plays a significant role in early childhood development. According to the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW), "high-quality childcare is shown to positively influence children's social, emotional, developmental and educational outcomes," with especially strong impacts for children from families with lower income or education levels or who are otherwise disadvantaged.

Across **five** centres in Dauphin, there are **281** provincially funded, subsidized spaces: **48** for infants (0-2 years), **158** for preschoolers (2-6 years), and **75** for school-aged children (6-12 years). All centres report being full with active wait lists, meaning families continue to face challenges accessing affordable care. A new centre, Prairie Park Place, is expected to open in the future

Note: Additional licensed spaces by private operators exist in the community but are not reflected in these numbers.

Source: local childcare centres

Assiniboine College – Dauphin/Parkland Campus

Student Enrollment: 203 in 2023–24

Graduates: 64 in 2023–24

Indigenous students and mature learners comprise a significant percentage of the Parkland campus population.

Graduate Outcomes (2021–22 to 2023–24 cohorts, aggregated):

- 94%** employed within nine months of graduation
- 89%** working in jobs related to their training
- 97%** remain in Manitoba

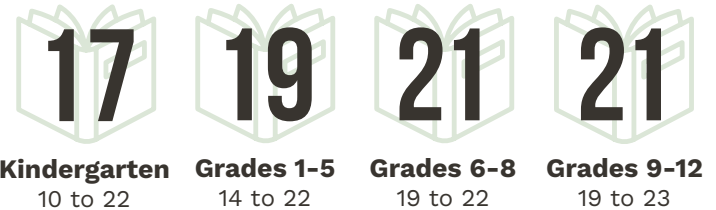
Programs offered locally: About 30 different programs were offered at Parkland Campus between 2019 and 2024. The Campus regularly offers diploma and certificate programs in: Practical Nursing, Health Care Aide, Early Childhood Education, Social Service Workers, Business Administration, Skilled Trades (carpentry, plumbing, electrical), Mature Student High School — and more, depending on local interest and need.

Note on data: Enrolment includes all Parkland Campus programs (diploma, certificate, continuing studies, adult learning, upgrading). Graduation rates may understate participation since some learners aren't captured in traditional statistics, and totals fluctuate because certain programs run on alternating two-year cycles.

Source: Assiniboine College

Average Class Size

Dauphin Schools, 2024-25



Note: Averages are calculated across schools, not by the number of individual classes.

Community Insight

In the focus groups, residents highlighted education as both a strength and an area with challenges. Many spoke positively about extracurricular activities, sports and arts programs that give young people opportunities to grow, and expressed pride in Dauphin's language offerings in English, French and Ukrainian. Cultural diversity in the schools was described as a strength for the future. Access to Assiniboine College (Parkland Campus) was also valued, providing post-secondary training close to home.

At the same time, residents identified gaps. Childcare spaces are limited, and families with lower incomes often face barriers to participation, with costs for supplies, activities, or transportation making access uneven. Concerns were raised that not all students graduate prepared for post-secondary education or the workforce. Suggestions included more local trades and bridging programs at Assiniboine College, stronger focus on literacy and basic skills, clearer communication about existing opportunities, evening or distance learning for adults, and better transportation for students.

2025 Community Survey takers were most positive about:



1. Most satisfied with their education level
2. Distance/online learning is seen as good option
3. Many feel able to afford courses

They were least positive about:



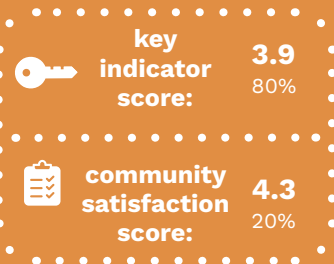
1. How schools prepare students for life after high school
2. Availability of childcare services
3. Supports for students with learning disabilities and special needs



Standard of Living

This domain reflects economic stability, affordability of living essentials, and the balance between work and leisure.

A⁻



Average Household Income

Average after-tax income grew faster than the rate of inflation between 2015 and 2020. The average after-tax income of households in the City of Dauphin grew to **\$64,300** in 2020*, which was **17%** higher than in 2015, after adjusting for inflation. The income in the RM of Dauphin was **\$79,800** in 2020, which was **14%** higher than in 2015. The Manitoba average after-tax income was higher, at **\$80,400**, but grew by **5%** over the same time period.

*Covid-19 income support benefits are included in 2020 income.

Source: Statistics Canada

Housing Affordability

In 2021, **15%** of City households and **7%** of RM households spent **30% or more of their before-tax income** on shelter, compared to the Manitoba average of **17%**. The City rate has held steady since 2016, while the RM rate declined from **13%** in 2016. Shelter costs include rent, utilities and municipal services for renters, and mortgage payments, property taxes, condo fees and utilities for homeowners.

Source: Statistics Canada

Poverty Rates, 2020

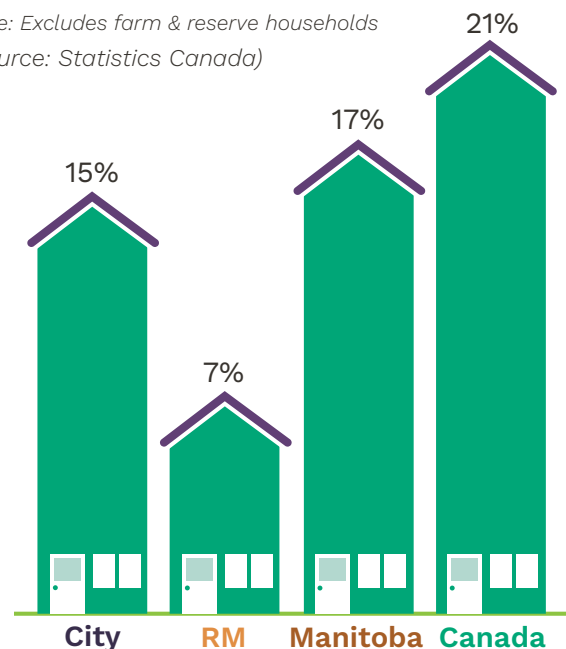
Percent of people with incomes below the poverty line (Market Basket Measure – cost of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and other basic needs)



Source: Statistics Canada

Households Spending over 30% of Income on Housing

Note: Excludes farm & reserve households
(Source: Statistics Canada)



"We are able to afford everything we need to live comfortably as long as we live within our means. It's great that Dauphin is walkable and there is a medical centre that will care for you."



“Groceries, fees, rent... everything is up. You start cutting the extras for your kids.”

Housing Costs, 2021

Average value of dwellings:

City \$189,600 (↑9% since 2016)

RM \$237,200 (↑16% since 2016)

Median Monthly Shelter Costs (Owner):

RM \$650 (↑4% since 2016)

Median Monthly Shelter Costs (Tenant):

City \$770 (↑23% since 2016)

RM \$705 (flat since 2016)

Source: Statistics Canada

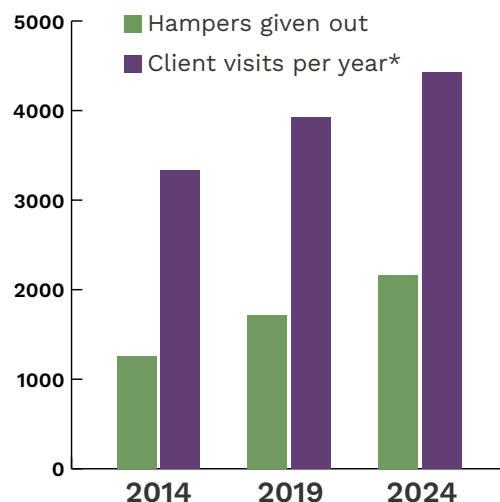
“If you don’t drive, basic errands get complicated fast.”



Growing Demand at the Dauphin & District Food Bank

Client visits count each individual at each visit; household members are counted separately.

(Source: Dauphin & District Food Bank)



Commute Time

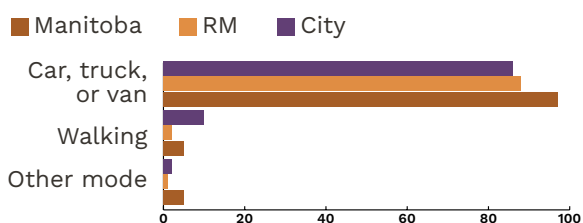
30 minutes or less, 2021



City 93% **Manitoba 73%** **RM 95%**

How We Commute

% of the working population, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada

Community Insight

In the focus groups, residents repeatedly raised housing as one of the most pressing challenges. Few felt there were enough affordable options to rent or buy and long wait lists for seniors’ housing were described as a major barrier. Participants also spoke about the lack of supportive housing for people with disabilities, saying that many are forced to move away to access the care they need. Rising mortgage rates and food costs were described as straining already tight household budgets, with some families relying heavily on food banks and school nutrition programs.

Employment opportunities exist, but several residents noted that wages have not kept pace with the cost of living. Younger participants, in particular, worried about being able to remain in the community if housing shortages and high costs continue.

At the same time, participants emphasized that Dauphin remains relatively affordable compared to larger centres. The community offers short commute times, a highly walkable city, and easy access to nature through local trails and parks. People noted that you don’t have to travel far to enjoy recreation, which saves both time and money. Residents agreed that addressing gaps in housing, child care, and food security, while ensuring that local jobs keep pace with household costs, would strengthen this foundation.

2025 Community Survey takers were most positive about:



1. Their own housing
2. Commute times and transportation
3. Community support organizations

They were least positive about:

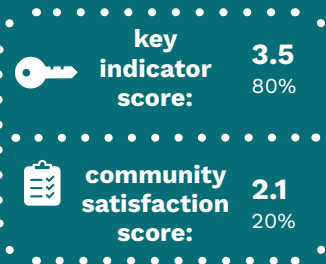


1. Seniors’ housing availability
2. General housing availability to rent or buy
3. Supportive housing for people with disabilities



Health & Wellness

Reflects the physical and mental health of community members and aspects of the local health care system, including access to healthcare, home care and long-term care.



Local Health System

Dauphin is located in the Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) region, with the Dauphin Regional Health Centre serving as the local hospital. The centre provides 24/7 emergency services, maternity care, inpatient and rehabilitation beds, as well as full diagnostic services including lab, X-ray, CT, MRI and ultrasound through Shared Health’s provincial diagnostic network.

As of August 2025, the College of Physicians and Surgeons listed **37** physicians and surgeons in Dauphin, practicing in family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, primary care, dermatology, general surgery, psychiatry and diagnostic radiology.

Prairie Mountain Health also operates a Primary Care Outreach Clinic in Dauphin, designed to support patients who face barriers to accessing care.

Source: Prairie Mountain Health, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba

Family Physicians per 100,000 Population

In the Prairie Mountain Health region, the ratio of family physicians declined from **117 per 100,000** people in 2018 to **108** in 2023. By comparison, in 2023 Manitoba’s ratio was **107** and Canada’s was **120** family doctors per 100,000 people. The median age of PMH family physicians also dropped slightly, from **48** years in 2018 to **47** in 2023.

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Active Transportation

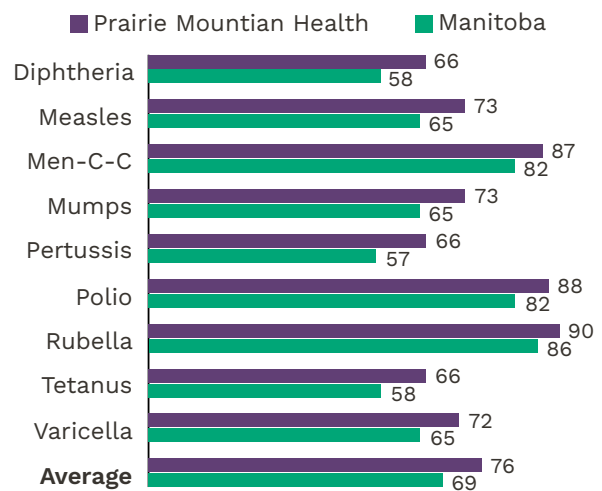
The City of Dauphin has approximately **11 km** of active transportation routes

Source: Dauphin City Plan, 2023



Childhood Immunization Rate

Childhood Immunization Coverage (Age 7) - 2023



The Childhood Immunization Rate measures the average percentage of children immunized by age 7 for nine critical childhood diseases. In 2023, the average coverage in Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) was **76%**, above the provincial average of **69%** and the highest regional rate in Manitoba. PMH’s coverage dropped from **81%** in 2017.

Source: Manitoba Health - Report of Immunization Surveillance

Access to Medical Care

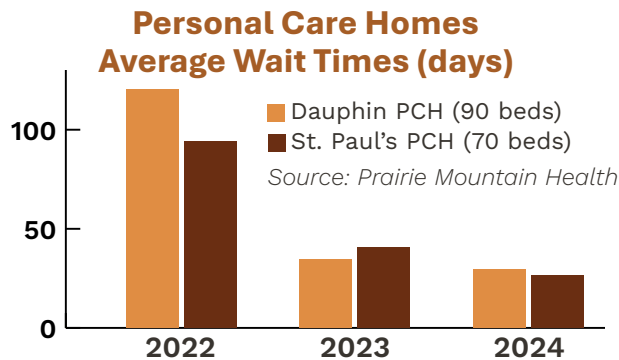
89% of the 2025 Community Survey respondents had a family doctor or primary care provider.

“There’s strength in the way this community supports people, especially when they’re struggling with health or life issues.”



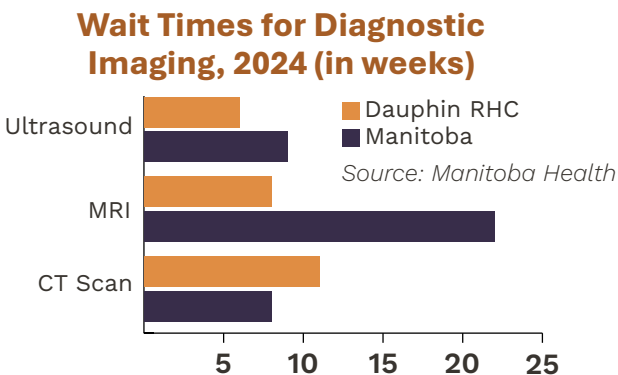
Personal Care Homes

Dauphin has two personal care homes: Dauphin PCH with 90 beds (one respite) and St. Paul's Home with 70 beds. Average wait times have dropped sharply, from **over 100 days** in 2022 to **under 40 days** in 2024.



Wait Times for Diagnostic Imaging

In 2024, wait times at Dauphin Regional Health Centre were shorter than the provincial average for CT scans (6 vs. 9 weeks) and MRIs (8 vs. 22 weeks), but longer for ultrasounds (11 vs. 8 weeks). Compared to 2022, Dauphin saw improvements in CT scans (down from 7 weeks) and MRIs (down from 15 weeks), while ultrasound waits increased (up from 8 weeks).



Community Insight

Residents highlighted Dauphin's health facilities and workforce as a major asset, including the hospital, clinic and some specialty and diagnostic services. At the same time, many reported long waits for doctors, emergency care and physiotherapy. Specialist appointments often mean traveling to Brandon or Winnipeg, which is expensive for seniors and difficult without transportation.

Mental health and addictions were raised in focus groups and in survey comments. Counselling is limited, waits are long and youth services are not keeping pace with local needs. People asked for stronger prevention and recovery supports.

Health and housing were often seen as linked. Participants described gaps in supportive housing, pressure on long-term care beds and strain on emergency services. Seniors noted barriers with online booking and traveling for care.

Suggestions included evening walk-in clinic hours, better transportation options for out-of-town medical appointments, affordable fitness programs, expanded mental health counselling and youth supports, and stronger recruitment and retention of health professionals.

Perceived Mental Health

According to Statistics Canada, in 2020, **64%** of the population in PMH rated their mental health as "very good" or "excellent," slightly above the provincial average of **63%**. This is down from **68%** in PMH in 2018.

Sources: Statistics Canada

Perceived Overall Health

In PMH, 61% of the population rated their overall health as "very good" or "excellent" in 2020, similar to the provincial average of 60%. This also marks an increase from 2018 when 58% of PMH residents rated their overall health as "very good" or "excellent".

Sources: Statistics Canada

Teen Health Services

Several students responded to the question about how teen health services could be improved. Suggestions included adding more mental health counsellors, reducing the cost of therapy, providing government support, increasing awareness of available services and having more people available to help in different ways.

Examples of responses:

- "I think more mental health counsellors would be beneficial."
- "We need more people who you don't have to pay for therapy... maybe then there would be less suicides."

Source: 2025 Youth Survey

Foundation Fridays at the Walking Track

From October to March, the Dauphin & District Community Foundation sponsors free admission to the Dauphin Clinic Pharmacy Indoor Walking Track every Friday. In winter 2024, **1,441** people took part, making use of this safe, accessible space to stay active through the colder months.

2025 Community Survey takers in were most positive about:



1. Care and access to primary care providers
2. Walk-in or clinic care availability during weekdays
3. Local clinic and hospital facilities

They were least positive about:

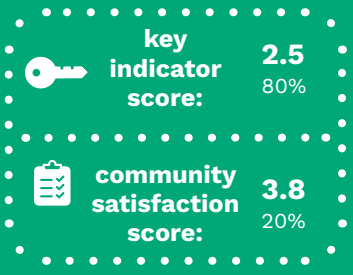


1. Addictions and substance use treatment programs
2. Mental health services
3. Home care services



Culture & Belonging

Building a close-knit community and welcoming community through events, activities celebrating culture, identity and faith, and public spaces that make everyone feel like they belong



Sense of Belonging

A strong sense of belonging is important for personal well-being and the overall health of a community. People who feel connected are more likely to volunteer, participate in civic life and support local initiatives.

“I feel like I belong here in our community”



68% of adults surveyed agreed

In Dauphin and area, **78%** of community survey takers said they can be themselves in public places, **73%** said they are treated fairly in the community and about **64%** said they feel comfortable being open about their culture, identity and beliefs. Just over half, **56%**, said there are enough activities to support their cultural and spiritual needs.

Source: 2025 Community Survey

“Online comments make people feel unwelcome. We can do better.”

Local Political Representation

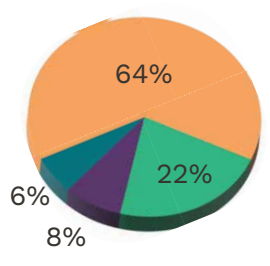
In 2025, **14%** of the city’s and **29%** of the RM’s political representatives were women. In 2023, women represented **31%** of municipal elected officials in Canada and **20%** in Manitoba.

Ron Kostyshyn represents Dauphin in the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, while nationally, **Dan Mazier** is the Member of Parliament for Riding Mountain.

Having a balanced political representation is important for including different viewpoints in decision-making. Having leadership of all one gender could limit the variety of ideas and solutions considered in local governance, which could mean that issues affecting other groups are overlooked.

Source: Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Participation in Cultural, Faith and Community Groups



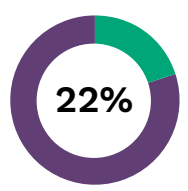
Are you an active member of a local cultural, faith or community group? How often do you participate?

- 10+ times per year
- 3-10 times per year
- 1-2 times per year
- Not at all

Source: 2025 Community Survey

Discrimination

About **22%** of respondents said they or someone in their household experienced discrimination in the past year, most often based on race or ethnic origin (**70%**), gender (**19%**), disability (**14%**), sexual orientation (**14%**) or age (**13%**)



Source: 2025 Community Survey

“Some people are open and welcoming, others are still learning. It helps when we keep the conversation going.”

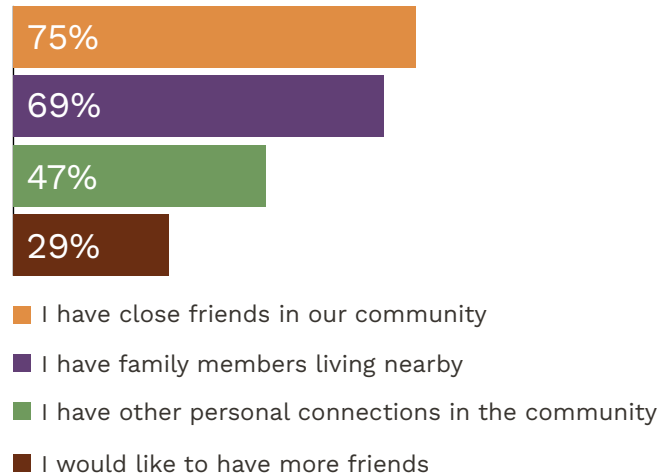


Welcoming and Supporting Newcomers

In 2024, the Regional Connections office in Dauphin welcomed **172** newcomers from **33** countries to the area, with top countries of origin including India, Ukraine, the Philippines, Mexico, and Nigeria. Overall, they worked with **422** total clients.

Source: Regional Connections

Community Connections



Source: 2025 Community Survey

“When we show up together at festivals, school events or cultural days, that’s when Dauphin feels most like home.”

“I see more people wanting to connect across cultures, to share food, music and stories. It feels like we’re learning to appreciate each other more.”

Indigenous Experiences

In the 2025 Community Survey, **17%** of respondents identified as Indigenous.

By comparison, the 2021 Census shows Indigenous peoples make up **28%** in the City of Dauphin and **10%** in the RM of Dauphin

Of Indigenous respondents in the 2025 Community Survey:

- **61%** attended Indigenous-led events in the Dauphin area
- **69%** say there is not enough Indigenous representation in leadership roles and community boards
- **70%** say there are too few opportunities to learn about Indigenous culture and history
- **76%** say there is too little acknowledgement and education on the area’s full history, including colonization and residential schools
- **80%** say the community is not fully inclusive toward people of all backgrounds

Community Insight

Residents described both strengths and tensions in belonging. Many celebrated Dauphin’s cultural diversity, pointing to festivals, faith communities, and local organizations that help people connect. In focus groups, newcomers said it can take time to feel at home, and that some social circles are difficult to enter. Belonging is not experienced equally, with survey comments noting that immigrants who are not white can face added barriers.

When asked about reconciliation, survey takers spoke of the need for more learning about local history, Indigenous language, and traditions. Clearer invitations were seen as important, so non-Indigenous residents know they are welcome. Some called for more Indigenous leadership. Others expressed fatigue or resistance to reconciliation. Several pointed to school board controversies as a barrier to progress. Still, many emphasized reconciliation and inclusion as important for Dauphin’s future.

Residents suggested building on what is already here by promoting multicultural festivals more widely and making invitations clear that all are welcome. They also suggested workshops where people can share skills from different traditions, such as Métis beadwork and Filipino cooking. Other ideas included land-based learning, public art that reflects all cultures, and a central place, accessible online and in the community, to share events and volunteer opportunities.

2025 Community Survey takers were most positive about:



1. Being myself in public places (such as parks, libraries, downtown)
2. Fair treatment in the community
3. Feeling like I belong here

They were least positive about:

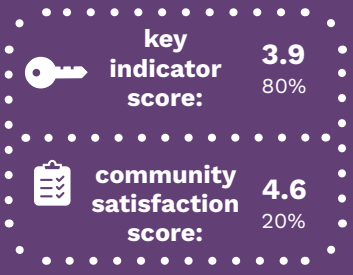


1. Ease of meeting new people and making friends
2. Likelihood of receiving emergency help from strangers
3. Activities to support cultural and spiritual needs



Arts & Recreation

Opportunities for participation in arts, leisure and sports activities including shows, events, clubs, and recreational facilities



Per Capita Spending on Recreation and Cultural Services

In 2024, the City of Dauphin spent **\$267 per capita** on operating expenses for recreation and cultural services, representing a **27%** increase since 2019. This level is nearly identical to the six-city average of **\$268**, which includes Steinbach, Morden, Winkler, Selkirk, Thompson, and Portage la Prairie. The comparison shows that Dauphin is investing competitively in recreation and cultural services relative to similar Manitoba communities.

The RM of Dauphin recorded **\$206** per capita in 2024.

Source: Municipal Financial Plans, available online

Employment

In 2021, **80 people (2.1%** of the labour force aged 15 years and over) in the City of Dauphin and **30 people (2.5%)** in the RM of Dauphin were employed in arts, culture, recreation, or sport occupations. Provincially, **2.3%** of workers were employed in these fields, compared with **3.1%** across Canada.

While the share of employment in these sectors is small, it reflects a core group of workers who contribute to community life through cultural programming, recreation, and the arts.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Aquatics

In 2024, aquatic fitness sessions drew **2,474** visits. The Aquatic Centre had **29,100** visits across all programs.

Source: Dauphin Recreation Services



“As a newcomer from another country, when I first came here everything was new, and I didn’t know what was available. But then I tried the pool and joined a volleyball game. It really helped me feel more connected, and now I’ve got ideas for what else to try.”

Indoor Arts and Recreation Facility Use by Age Group

Ages 18-39: Kin Aquatic Centre (40%), Indoor Rinks (33%), Watson Art Centre (28%), Private Fitness Centres and Gyms (27%)

Ages 40-64: Watson Art Centre (38%), Dauphin Clinic Pharmacy Walking Track (28%), Dauphin Public Library (26%), Kin Aquatic Centre (25%)

Ages 65+: Watson Art Centre (34%), Dauphin Public Library (32%), Dauphin Clinic Pharmacy Walking Track (31%), Kin Aquatic Centre (15%)

Source: 2025 Community Survey

Outdoor Arts and Recreation Facility Use by Age Group

These outdoor arts and recreation facilities were used frequently or a moderate amount by survey respondents of different age groups over the past year. The top four facilities for each age group are ranked by highest percentage of use.

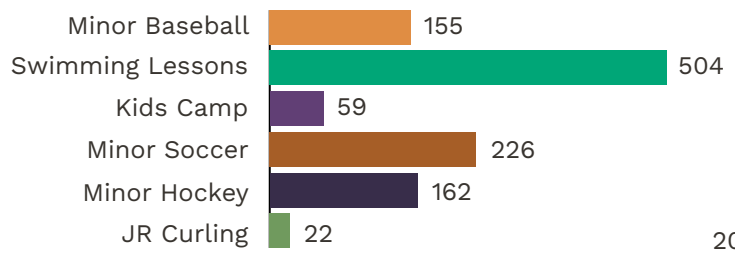
Ages 18-39: Local Parks, Playgrounds, and Walking Paths (65%), Riding Mountain National Park (56%), Northgate Trail (42%), Dauphin Lake (42%)

Ages 40-64: Riding Mountain National Park (49%), Local Parks, Playgrounds, and Walking Paths (48%), Dauphin Lake (39%), Northgate Trail (32%)

Ages 65+: Local Parks, Playgrounds, and Walking Paths (43%), Riding Mountain National Park (37%), Dauphin Lake (25%), Northgate Trail (19%)

Source: 2025 Community Survey

Youth Rec Participation



Barriers to Youth Participation

4 in 10 people surveyed couldn't register themselves or family members for all the activities they wanted last year.

Among those who missed out, the top barriers were:

- 48% affordability
- 33% programs were full
- 14% physical barriers/lack of accommodations
- 9% transportation
- 31% other

Source: 2025 Community Survey

Community Wish List

Survey participants and focus group members shared ideas for strengthening arts and recreation in Dauphin. Some noted that venues like the Watson Art Centre could play an even larger role with stronger promotion and more arts programming. Others asked for more adult art classes, family paint nights, pottery, woodworking, gardening, and quilting. Suggestions also included new fitness options such as yoga, Zumba, spin, Pilates, and chair exercise for seniors. Parents called for more swimming lessons, gym space, and affordable leagues, while youth asked for volleyball and hockey camps, an archery club, and more music opportunities such as singing or drum lessons. Residents also suggested casual live music nights, theatre, and cultural events, alongside programs that support mental wellness, self-defence, or technology learning for seniors.

"I love going to the aquatic centre for aquacise and just being active. We're lucky to have the opportunity to do this in the winter."

Childcare & Recreation

In the 2025 Community Survey, among respondents who answered the question, **54% of women** and **30% of men** disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement: "Childcare is available when I need it so I can attend or participate in arts and recreation activities."

Most respondents replied, "no answer" (69% of women and 62% of men), suggesting that they did not find the question applicable to their situation.

Source: 2025 Community Survey

Dauphin Recreation Users

Out of 4,245 total user accounts:
76% have city addresses

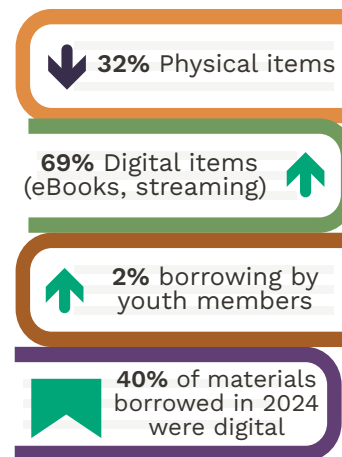
24% have RM addresses

Note: PO box usage may mean some RM residents are undercounted.

Source: Dauphin Recreation Services

Library Circulation

Changes from 2019 to 2024:



Source: Parkland Regional Library

Library Memberships

- 2,711 members in 2024, ↑8% since 2021
- Includes 2,259 city residents and 452 RM residents

Source: Parkland Regional Library

"It's hard to get to events if you don't drive or have a ride. That's why some of us just stay home."

Community Insight

Residents said Dauphin benefits from strong arts and recreation assets, including the Watson Art Centre, arenas, trails, the Aquatic Centre, and the indoor walking track, particularly when community sponsors make it free to use. Volunteers were praised for keeping many programs running, and families noted there is a lot to enjoy locally.

Still, barriers keep some people out. Survey participants pointed to affordability, long waitlists, and program times that conflict with work or family routines. Lack of childcare and limited transportation reduce access, while scattered promotion means some people miss registration windows. Online systems that require credit cards add another hurdle. People also noted the need for adaptive programming, warmer pool facilities, easier building access, and more gym space and resources for activities beyond hockey. Some residents noted that venues like the Watson Art Centre could play an even larger role in the community with more consistent promotion and expanded arts programming.

Overall, people expressed pride in Dauphin's recreation facilities and programs and urged action to make them more inclusive. Suggestions included lowering costs, offering childcare during activities, improving transportation assistance, expanding drop-in and fitness options, and making sure programs are clearly promoted so no one misses out.

2025 Community Survey takers were most positive about:



1. Nearby parks and playgrounds
2. How accessible and welcoming facilities are
3. Opportunities to enjoy music and the fine arts

They were least positive about:



1. Childcare availability during recreation hours
2. Affordability of activities and equipment
3. Convenience of program times



Civic & Democratic Engagement

Involvement in democratic processes, government responsiveness and generosity with charitable giving and volunteering



key indicator score:	3.6	80%
community satisfaction score:	3.2	20%

Volunteering Activity

In 2025, **64%** of survey respondents reported volunteering (including coaching, instructing, and committee or board participation) in the past year, and **65%** plan to volunteer in the coming year. By comparison, **49%** of Manitobans and **41%** of Canadians reported volunteering in 2018.

Residents in Dauphin and area show a strong commitment to supporting local programs, services, and events through volunteering. For the survey takers who volunteered in the past year, participation was highest among long-term residents (**67%** of those living in the area more than ten years), compared to just over half of newer residents. Rates are similar across most age groups (**61%–68%**), dipping slightly among those aged 75 and older (**54%**). Households with children were particularly active, with **70%** reporting volunteering compared to **61%** of those without children.

These findings should be interpreted with caution, as they reflect only those who completed the survey and answered the question. Individuals more inclined to volunteer may also be more likely to participate in the survey, and smaller group sizes limit the statistical reliability of some comparisons.

Charitable Donations

Charitable giving continues to reflect Dauphin's strong sense of community. In 2022, the median charitable donation per tax filer was **\$540** in the City of Dauphin and **\$200** in the RM of Dauphin, compared to **\$590** across Manitoba and **\$380** across Canada. The median represents the midpoint of all donations, meaning half of donors gave more and half gave less. From 2020 to 2022, donation amounts increased by **26%** in the City (from \$430 to \$540) but decreased by **35%** in the RM (from \$310 to \$200). Manitoba had the highest median charitable donation in the country in 2022.

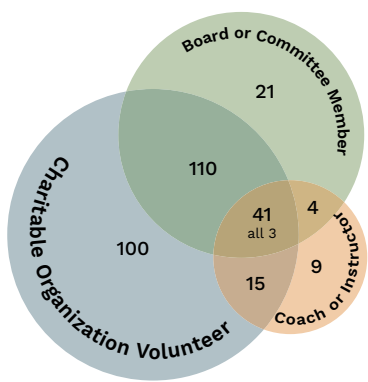
Source: Statistics Canada – T1 Family File (Reference 25016 – 1187557)



Charitable Giving
1 in 6 Dauphin tax filers made a **charitable donation** in 2022

(Source: Statistics Canada - T1 Family File)

"We've got amazing volunteers and public servants doing the work. What we need now is to keep building a wider circle of people who feel part of it."



Volunteering Roles

300 survey takers volunteered in the past year, some in more than ways than one.

Source: 2025 Community Survey



🔑 Voter Turnout

Voter turnout is a key indicator of civic engagement and reflects the health of a democracy. Higher turnout suggests a more active and involved community where citizens feel empowered to influence decisions that shape their lives. Conversely, lower turnout can signal disengagement, disenfranchisement, or barriers to participation.



Election Participation

2025 Federal Election

Riding Mountain 66%

Up from 61% in 2021

2023 Provincial Election

Dauphin Riding 60%

compared to 55% Manitoba average

2022 Municipal Elections

Every position was contested in both the City and RM of Dauphin

(Sources: Elections Manitoba, CBC Manitoba, Association of Manitoba Municipalities)

Community Participation in Civic & Democratic Activities

Engagement is important for community well-being because it empowers residents to influence decisions, hold leaders accountable, and ensure diverse voices guide the future. Without active participation, people may miss the chance to contribute to local issues and be part of key conversations shaping their community.

2025 Community Survey respondents reported various ways they engaged and participated in the past two years:

- **23%** Wrote to or spoke with a Provincial or Federal official
- **23%** Joined social media discussion on a local issue
- **21%** Wrote to or spoke with a Municipal official about a local issue
- **16%** Attended a neighbourhood community meeting
- **14%** Attended a local community planning meeting/open house
- **9%** Attended a local/municipal council meeting
- **7%** Participated in a local public demonstration/protest
- **4%** Wrote about an issue to the local media

Source: 2025 Community Survey

“The climate for civic engagement is getting more hostile. It keeps good people from putting their names forward.”

Community Insight

Residents shared both appreciation and concerns about civic and democratic life in Dauphin. Several praised the mayor, council, and city staff for their leadership and responsiveness, noting pride in how the city is run. Others felt there is too much talk and not enough action, or that communication is lacking. Some said that without relying on social media, it can be hard to know what’s happening.

At the same time, people described barriers to taking part. Seniors mentioned winter travel and safety as reasons they avoid evening meetings. Parents said childcare can be a challenge, and others pointed to the same familiar faces in volunteer roles, making it difficult for new people to join in. Several participants pointed to school board controversies as a reminder that civic engagement matters, since local elections and governance decisions have real impacts on the community.

Residents suggested more consistent communication through online and non-digital channels, clear and accessible listings of volunteer opportunities and efforts to make meetings and events easier to attend. Others called for better collaboration between the City and RM, more opportunities for youth leadership, and ongoing encouragement for a broader cross-section of residents to get involved.

2025 Community Survey takers were most positive about:



1. Future plans to volunteer
2. Future plans to donate to a local charity
3. The generosity of fellow community members

They were least positive about:



1. Feeling well-informed about local government projects
2. Ease of reaching city and municipal officials



Why Does Data Matter in a Community?

In today's world, claims and "facts" are often thrown around casually, but finding reliable evidence to back them up is not always straightforward. This can lead to confusion or even division within a community. However, when a community relies on data, it creates a shared understanding that everyone can trust.

One way to foster this unity is through this Vital Signs report – a report full of measurable indicators of a community's well-being. These are metrics that everyone can get behind. This shared knowledge helps build stronger connections among community members by providing a clear picture of what's actually happening. For example, tracking data on health, education, employment or housing can reveal trends and challenges that may otherwise go unnoticed.

By focusing on evidence-based insights, a community becomes more informed and better equipped to make decisions that benefit everyone, especially when viewed through an equity lens. This means ensuring policies and actions promote fairness and support for all community members, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

So, why should you care?

Because the truth matters. In a community where decisions are based on real data, political agendas are set aside and the voices of citizens take center stage. This empowers individuals and leaders alike to take meaningful action. With accurate information, you can make choices that improve the quality of life for everyone in the community, driving positive change that is rooted in facts rather than assumptions.

Find Your Passion & Take Action!

Committed to building a safe and welcoming community?

Your children freely explore your community, building friendships and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Your community is more than a place to live. However, you know not everyone has this same experience. Your community is growing and you want to contribute to a sense of belong for all.

Here are some things you can do today, to help build a safe and welcoming community:

- Introduce yourself and build relationships with those around you to foster a sense of trust and community. Seeing your neighbours builds a sense of social capital. Why not take it one step further by collaborating with your neighbours to plan a block party!
- Reach out to community outreach groups that are focused on providing neighbourhood support. Learn about their work and see how you can join them in their community support.
- Participate in programming and support businesses within your community. Communities feel safer when you see lots of people on the streets. Be one of those people who gets out in community.
- Use social media to spread positive messages and promote community initiatives.
- Leave your front door light on at night! This will make your community brighter and increase perceptions of safety.
- Did you know good green space makes a community safer? Advocate for the protection and renewal of our tree canopy, ask for increased municipal spending on green spaces, and maintain your own yard.



Dedicated to breaking down the stigma around mental health?

You struggled with anxiety and depression throughout much of your teenage years. And now, after seeking help and building a strong support system, you are passionate about using your own experience to break down the stigma surrounding mental health in your community.

Here are things you can do today to create a safe space where others can feel empowered to seek help without fear of judgment:

- Connect with schools and volunteer to share your story with the students.
- Volunteer to organize a peer support group through a local organization offering mental health support services.
- Raise your voice and educate those around you about the realities of mental health.
- Write letters to the editors in local papers and post positive messages of support on social media.
- Make a donation to charities working in this area.

Passionate about the environment?

You feel alive when your feet are in the grass and the wind in your hair. Being in nature fills you up and restores your passion. However, you feel a heavy weight on your shoulders when you think about climate change. How can your actions make a dent in such large and complex challenges affecting the beautiful green spaces and clean fresh air you love to enjoy?

Here are some things you can do today, to support a healthy environment for the future:

- Write to your elected official. Share insights noted in this Vital Signs report and advocate for policy changes that protect our environment.
- Participate in local environmental efforts like clean-ups, tree-planting events or sustainability projects.
- Contribute financially to organizations that are working to combat climate change, support water conservation or enhance waste management.
- Offer your time and expertise (e.g., graphic design, event planning, social media) to help environmental groups spread their message and grow their impact.
- Share your passion for the outdoors with your community by mentoring or sharing your experiences with others.

Motivated to reduce the impact of the rising cost of living?

You are a local business owner who has seen firsthand how the rising cost of living is affecting your customers and employees. You want to be a part of the solution and support your community.

Here are some things you can do today to help your community thrive by ensuring basic needs remain accessible, despite the economic challenges:

- Ask questions and learn more about the drivers and effects of the rising cost of living in your community.
- Volunteer to help provide essential services like food, clothing, and shelter to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or economic hardship.
- Organize or contribute to events that raise money for organizations working to ensure essential services remain accessible.
- Share stories, statistics and information about economic challenges in your community to inspire collective action and compassion.
- Collaborate with local businesses to create greater opportunity for community to access essentials.

Enthusiastic about giving back to your community?

Your community has given you so much during the time you have called it home. Now you are excited to give back. You have been told that your enthusiasm for helping others is boundless! You believe staying active and engaged keeps you young at heart.

Here are some things you can do today to make a positive impact on the lives of those around you:

- Volunteer your time and skills to local charities, schools, shelters or community centres.
- Organize or participate in community events like potlucks, sports games or neighborhood clean-ups to build stronger connections among neighbors.
- Donate to or participate in a local charity event, fundraiser or community project to help address immediate needs.
- Consider leaving a gift to your favourite charity in your will or estate plan.
- Do something thoughtful for a neighbor, friend or stranger, such as buying coffee for someone, leaving a kind note or helping someone with their groceries.
- Share uplifting, kind, or encouraging content on social media to spread positivity and inspire others.





Local Voices

What are the five best things about living in the Dauphin area?

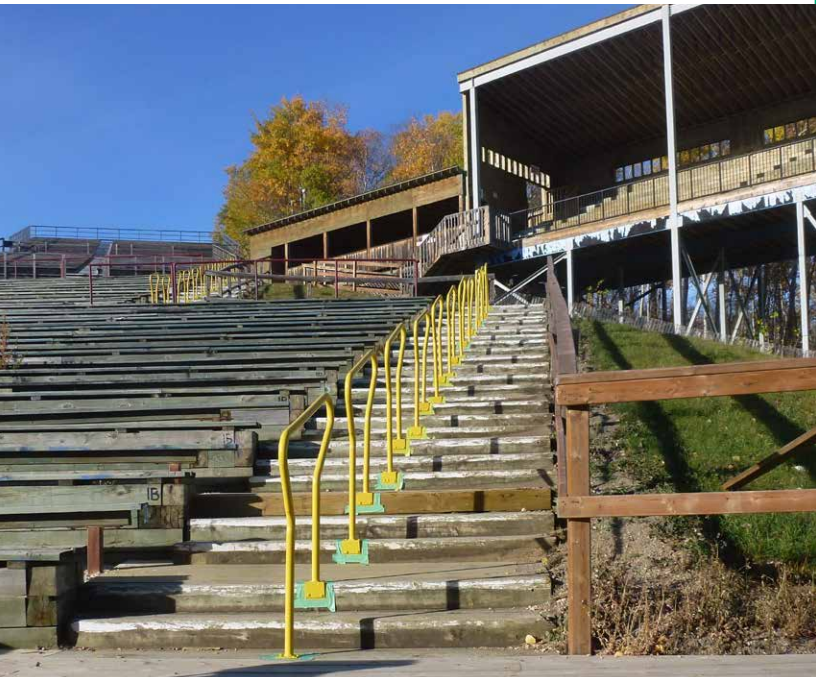
Community survey respondents were asked to pick up to five options; percentages will not sum to 100%.

1. Friends & family	61%
2. Natural environment	49%
3. Parks	42%
4. Festivals & events	41%
5. Recreation opportunities	33%
6. Healthcare	29%
7. Walkability	26%
8. Sense of community	24%
9. Air quality	24%
10. The people	21%

What are the five most important issues facing people in the Dauphin area?

Community survey respondents were asked to pick up to five options; percentages will not sum to 100%.

1. Addictions and supports	50%
2. Housing	43%
3. Mental illness and supports	43%
4. Homelessness	42%
5. Cost of living	36%
6. Poverty	36%
7. Healthcare	33%
8. Eldercare	24%
9. Employment	22%
10. Transportation	21%



Pictured left to right: Dauphin Public Library, and the Selo Site. DDCF has provided grants to support these community projects.

Methodology & Sources

Primary Data Collection

The primary data for this report was collected through multiple community-engagement events and community surveys. These include:

- **Community Conversation:** An initial meeting with local leaders to introduce Vital Signs and gather early qualitative insights into priorities and issues.
- **Roundtable Discussions:** Focused workshops with representatives from education, health, business and local government. Affinity-mapping and voting were used to organize ideas.
- **Community Surveys:** See sidebar
- **Reflection Sessions:** After analysing the data and survey results, we hosted focus groups with residents to discuss preliminary findings and gather feedback. These sessions encouraged open dialogue about local concerns and aspirations.

Secondary Data

The secondary data used in this report comes from a range of reliable sources, including:

- **Statistics Canada:** Census data from 2021, as well as updates on key economic, social and demographic indicators, provided a foundation for understanding long-term trends in the region.
- **Local Service Providers:** Data on service usage and community needs were provided by local organizations and governments. These sources contributed valuable localized data on issues such as housing, food insecurity, health services and city amenities.

Survey Representativeness: The vital signs surveys provide a meaningful snapshot of community perspectives across the Dauphin area.

In the Community Survey for adults, when compared to the census data, women are over-represented (74%), while Indigenous residents (~16%) and older adults (65+) (~20%) are under-represented relative to local population shares; RM residents are also somewhat under-represented within City + RM responses.

Results should be interpreted as broadly indicative rather than fully representative of every group.

Note on precision: Adult survey question results typically have a ±4% margin of error at 95% confidence (larger for smaller subgroups); youth survey estimates are directional due to small sample size.

Grade Scores

Each domain is scored on a scale from 1 (F) to 5 (A+), based on:

- **80%: Key indicator scores,** evaluated against provincial or national benchmarks, and adjusted for recent trends. Improving key indicators are adjusted up to one point upwards, and deteriorating key indicators are adjusted up to one point downwards.
- **20%: 2025 Community Survey satisfaction scores** (values are curved and normalized)

Acknowledging the Canadian Index of Wellbeing

We would like to acknowledge Dr. Bryan Smale, creator of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW), along with the many collaborators who contributed to its development. Housed at the University of Waterloo, the CIW was developed through extensive collaboration with experts across various fields, ensuring a robust, comprehensive and credible framework for measuring well-being in a Canadian context. In 2023, Manitoba Blue Cross published *How Are Manitobans Really Doing? A Report Based on the Canadian Index of Wellbeing*, written by Dr. Smale and Dr. Gao, which applies the CIW framework to Manitoba. The well-being framework used in this Vital Signs project builds upon that work, particularly its balanced approach to looking at community well-being across eight inter-connected areas, ensuring that no single aspect of community life is viewed in isolation.

2025 COMMUNITY SURVEY PARTICIPATION

General Survey

- **Responses:** 625 total, 472 complete, 153 partial
- **Age:** 15–24 (4%), 25–39 (24%), 40–54 (29%), 55–64 (23%), 65–74 (14%), 75+ (6%)
- **Residency:** 69% City of Dauphin, 14% RM of Dauphin, 9% other Parkland municipalities, 4% outside but connected to Dauphin
- **Gender:** 74% women, 24% men, less than 2% other identities
- **Indigenous identity:** 16%
- **Racialized identity:** 6%
- **2SLGBTQIA+:** 4%
- **Language at home:** 96% English, 2% Ukrainian, 1% French, 1% other (e.g., Ojibwwe, Portuguese, Filipino, Hebrew)
- **Length of residence:** 77% have lived in the area more than 10 years

Youth Survey

- **Responses:** 19 high school students (Grades 10–12)
- **Grade breakdown:** 42% Grade 10, 32% Grade 11, 26% Grade 12
- **Residency:** 74% City of Dauphin, 16% RM of Dauphin, 5% Gilbert Plains, 5% other nearby

Surveys were delivered online in early 2025, with alternate paper formats available.

THE GIVING LIFE

Have you ever thought about naming your community as a beneficiary in your will? It's called legacy giving and the effect it has is lasting and personal.



You can still hear the surprise and gratitude in Kit Daley's voice, years after the bequest. "What he did for us is just amazing," she says.

Daley, executive director of the Dauphin & District Community Foundation (DDCF), is talking about an extraordinary gift left to the Foundation by Peter Sklepowich after his passing. There are many strands to this tale – from creating legacy to inventive thinking to centering individuals – all of which speak to the tangible power of intentional giving in rural communities.

It's something Daley thinks about a lot. "Peter's legacy increased what we've been able to do," she says, explaining that how much the DDCF can give through grants is directly related to the donations it receives. It's important, she says, because many community groups that need funds to, say, upgrade facilities, develop a program or buy a piece of equipment, really don't have many places to turn, other than their local community foundations. "When we received the initial part of the legacy, it increased our granting capacity by over \$20,000 per year," says Daley, adding that when Peter's estate was fully settled, that rose to over \$40,000 per year. "It's had a huge impact and will continue to grow every year."

Legacy giving isn't unusual, but the scale of Peter's gift was. How that happened and the way it was handled holds food for thought for anyone contemplating their own legacy and the footprint they want to leave behind when they're gone.

Quietly given, creatively expanded

By all accounts, Peter Paul Sklepowich was a very private man with deep roots in the Dauphin community. Perhaps because he'd lost both his parents before he was 20, he had the forethought to write a will while he was still relatively young. Then in the spring of 2020, shockingly, Peter died while just in his mid-fifties.

"He left half of his estate to Dauphin & District Community Foundation," says Daley, adding that it was a complete surprise when Jason Beyette, Peter's friend, lawyer and executor, informed the DDCF about the legacy, which, once the estate had been settled, amounted to nearly \$508,000. But there was more.

One part of the estate not sold at the time was a quarter-section of land under lease to a local farmer. When the land came free, Beyette proposed an idea: why not put a crop on it, grow it, sell it and then sell the land. The DDCF would receive the proceeds from the crop plus a portion of the land sales to complete Peter's bequest.

In 2023, what became known as the Crop Project got underway. Daley explains that Beyette reached out to seed, fertilizer and other companies for input donations, as well as local farmers to seed, manage and harvest the canola they decided to grow. The DDCF supplied field signage explaining the project and managed the rent on the land.





PICTURED: KIT DALEY AND DARREN EDDIE, DDCF



The Crop Project wrapped up in 2024, and Daley says proceeds from the canola came to a little over \$76,000. “Then when the land was sold, it gave an additional \$325,000,” she says. Added to the initial gift, it means Peter Sklepowich’s total gift to the DDCF amounted to over \$900,000.

Making it personal

With his initial bequest, Peter Sklepowich became the single largest donor to DDCF to date. Indeed, the foundation posthumously named him Philanthropist of the Year for 2022.

For his initiative devising and managing the Crop Project, Beyette was named 2023 Philanthropist

of the Year. “He cares about the community and sees that what we do has enormous value for a community of this size,” says Daley. “His hope was that after seeing the success of this project, other farmers would consider growing a crop for a charity of their choice.”

No one really knows for certain why Peter chose the DDCF as his major beneficiary, only that he was gratified to know the principal of such a large donation would never be touched, allowing his gift to grow in perpetuity for the benefit of the community.

It’s beautiful but for Daley, there’s a tinge of sorrow, too. “We didn’t know anything about Peter other than what Jason has told us,” she says. “If I knew Peter had a passion for something specific, such as the arts, or caring for animals, or sports programs, we could have honoured that. We would have created a field of interest fund in his name. I just wish I’d had the chance to talk to Peter, get to know him.”

It’s a message she’d like all to hear. Peter’s legacy was unusual, yes, but every legacy gift, regardless of size, does a power of good in the community. If you’re thinking about including, or have already included, the DDCF in your will, Daley encourages you to reach out to talk about your wishes for those funds. “Tell us what is meaningful to you,” she says. “Let us thank you in person.”



Dauphin & District Community Foundation in Focus



ENVIRONMENT

With DDCF support, the Dauphin Derailleurs Cycle Club purchased a trail groomer to keep Northgate Trail in top condition year-round. The groomer ensures safe, accessible routes for biking and snowshoeing, supports volunteers and boosts Dauphin's capacity to host events—drawing visitors, strengthening recreation and supporting the local economy.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

A \$50,000 grant from the Dauphin & District Community Foundation and Manitoba Build 150 supported the development of the King's Way Trail, a safer and more accessible multi-use pathway that encourages active transportation and community use.

EDUCATION & LEARNING

In 2025, the Dauphin & District Community Foundation awarded 26 scholarships totaling more than \$34,000. Since 2019, DDCF has distributed 163 scholarships valued at nearly \$194,000, made possible through community donations and dedicated scholarship funds like the Dauphin Clinic Pharmacy Scholarship Fund.

STANDARD OF LIVING

Tackling Poverty Together has granted more than \$20,000 to projects and organizations working to provide meals, whether its youth attending school or biweekly meals available to food bank recipients.

CULTURE & BELONGING

Funding from Dauphin & District Community Foundation has helped improve spaces like the Dauphin Friendship Centre and local parks, making it easier for residents of all backgrounds to come together.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Foundation Fridays: the Dauphin & District Community Foundation sponsors free admission to the Dauphin Clinic Pharmacy Indoor Walking Track every Friday from October to March. In winter 2024, 1,441+ people took part, making use of this safe, accessible space to stay active during the colder months.

CIVIC & DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT

In 2023, before the finalization of an estate, Jason Beyette organized a group of volunteers and local supporters to plant a canola crop, with all inputs generously donated. Through the dedication of this group, the proceeds from the harvest, along with a portion of the eventual land sale, were added to DDCF's endowment. This thoughtful initiative significantly enhanced the original gift, creating a lasting legacy that will benefit the community for generations to come.

ARTS & RECREATION

The Dauphin & District Community Foundation has awarded 15 grants totaling more than \$76,000 to the Watson Art Centre, supporting upgrades like heating, kitchen and flooring improvements to help this historic space continue serving as a hub for arts, culture and community life.

Ready to Make a Difference in Your Community?

At the heart of every thriving community is a network of people who care. That is what the Dauphin & District Community Foundation is all about: investing in the future of our region by supporting the programs, services and spaces that make life better for everyone.

Your community is not just where you live; it's where you belong. Whether you are a lifelong resident or new to the area, there is a role for you in building a stronger, more connected community.

Here are some ways to get started:



DONATE TODAY

Every contribution—large or small—is invested to support local programs, services and infrastructure. You're helping your neighbours thrive.



JOIN THE 2% CLUB

Leave a gift in your will to DDCF. Just 2% of your estate can have a lasting effect on the causes that matter most to you.



PARTNER WITH US

Have a bold idea or a passion project? We work with local leaders, groups and donors to bring community-building ideas to life.



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Lend your skills, energy or enthusiasm. Local organizations need your help, and we'd be happy to connect you.



SPREAD THE WORD

Know someone who hasn't heard of DDCF? Share this report. Every new connection builds momentum for local good.



START A CONVERSATION

Chat with a neighbour, a coworker or a friend. Building belonging starts with small, meaningful connections.



SHOW UP

Attend a community event, concert or open house—even if you go alone. Presence builds belonging.

Every conversation, donation and every act of kindness helps shape a stronger, more vibrant future for our community. Whether you are planting the seeds of change or nurturing long-standing traditions, your involvement matters. You may even consider applying to join the DDCF board. This is your chance to be part of something lasting, something that uplifts neighbours, strengthens connections and creates opportunities for generations to come.



Visit www.ddcf.ca to discover ways to give, volunteer, partner, or simply learn more.

Let's build something meaningful – together.



Dauphin & District Community Foundation

The Dauphin & District Community Foundation is part of a national movement to strengthen communities through local giving. Manitoba is home to more than a quarter of Canada's community foundations.

Since 1994, DDCF has helped donors make a lasting impact by investing gifts into permanent endowments. Each year, income from these investments is granted to local organizations, students and projects that improve life in our community.

Every donation, big or small, helps support the things that matter most. Whether you give cash, stocks, land or other assets, we'll work with you to find the right fit.

We believe strong communities are built through generosity, collaboration and local leadership. Every donation—big or small—helps support the things that matter most.

To learn more, visit ddcf.ca, or contact us at (204)638-4598 or info@ddcf.ca.

PROJECT SPONSOR



Photo: Jamie Derhak