

Comox Valley Poverty
DATA WALK

hosted by **Thriving Together**



Comox Valley Poverty Data Walk Report

May 8, 2026

Territorial Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the Comox Valley Poverty Data Walk project work and events take place on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, comprised of the Sathloot, Sasitla, leeksen, Xa'xe and Pentlantch Peoples. These Peoples have been stewards of the lands that are colonially known as the Comox Valley Regional District and other surrounding lands and waters since time immemorial and continue to steward these lands today. These lands and waters support us, feed us, bring us healing and respite, and provide us the precious opportunity to care for each other. We recognize that, in this territory, the people of K'ómoks First Nation have endured historical and ongoing oppression from the colonial system and mechanisms brought forth by non-Indigenous people. This directly and indirectly contributes to the systemic poverty we see now in our community.

Acknowledgement of People with Lived and Living Experience

This Poverty Data Walk would not have been possible without the energy, efforts, and insights of the Comox Valley community members with lived and living experience of poverty. Their leadership and contributions to this project through Thriving Together and other community-based poverty reduction work is paramount to achieving the vision of Comox Valley as a healthy, thriving, resilient community where the root causes of poverty are eliminated.

Comox Valley Poverty Data Walk Overview

The Comox Valley Poverty Data Walk (Data Walk), an initiative of Thriving Together, Comox Valley's Poverty Reduction Table, was created to raise awareness and spark community-wide dialogue about the lived realities of poverty in the Comox Valley. The project featured seven visually striking posters, each highlighting specific information related to poverty in the Comox Valley: affordable childcare, risk of being unhoused, rates of households living below the poverty line, living wage, food insecurity, transportation and discrimination. Each poster provided an opportunity for participants to share their reactions and reflections about the data.

Initially launched as a self-guided experience—both online and at select physical locations—the Data Walk invited participants to move through the poster displays at their own pace, reflect on the information, and share their perspectives through an online feedback platform. From August to October 2025, the Data Walk was installed in various outdoor settings across the Comox Valley, including municipal parks, trails, and at community events. A coordinated press release helped amplify the initiative through print, social media, and radio outreach. From October 2025 to mid-January 2026, the posters transitioned to indoor locations, accompanied by facilitated community conversations led by members of Thriving Together.

The Data Walk could also be accessed and experienced virtually at EngageComoxValley.ca/PovertyReduction. This site also provided a complete list of Data Walk locations, informing community members where the physical posters would be placed in the community, and included a section for submitting feedback on ideas to help reduce poverty in the region.

Engagement was monitored throughout, allowing for real-time adjustments to increase accessibility and participation. Beyond increasing the community's understanding of local poverty dynamics, the initiative helped surface community-driven insights to reduce poverty at the local level.

About Thriving Together

Thriving Together is a community-based group of individuals, including people with lived and living experience of poverty, as well as representatives from local organizations, businesses and government. The group shares a vision of the Comox Valley as a healthy, thriving, and resilient community where the root causes of poverty are eliminated. This group is led by the Comox Valley Community Health Network (CVCHN) in partnership with the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and focuses on collaborative action initiatives that address the root causes of poverty in the Comox Valley, including implementation of the [Comox Valley Poverty Reduction Assessment and Strategy](#).

Data Walk Indoor and Outdoor Locations

The Data Walk was available for community members to experience in outdoor and indoor locations throughout the Comox Valley including Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Denman and Hornby Islands and the rural areas. For a complete list of locations, see Appendix A. Below are some photos from various locations and events:



Comox Valley Pride in the Park



Courtenay Library



Civic Park Comox



Comox Valley Exhibition



Comox Recreation Centre



Comox Fisherman's Wharf

Capturing Reactions and Ideas

A total of 248 Data Walk participants shared their reactions to the data and proposed ideas about what actions could be done personally or as a community to create change. The space for community voices was available:

- Online at the Engage webpage that hosted the virtual Data Walk:
<https://EngageComoxValley.ca/PovertyReduction>
- Online via the QR Code on each poster
- At community conversations
- By calling or visiting the CVRD regional office

Of the 248 responses, there were 55 who participated in community conversations. Other data of interest includes the total number of views, visits and visitors to the Engage webpage during the duration of the Data Walk (August 1, 2025 – January 7, 2026):

Engage page views = 1,399 (total number of times the page was loaded; indication of page popularity)

Engage page visits = 938 (total number of visitors who accessed the site; indicator of frequency and engagement)

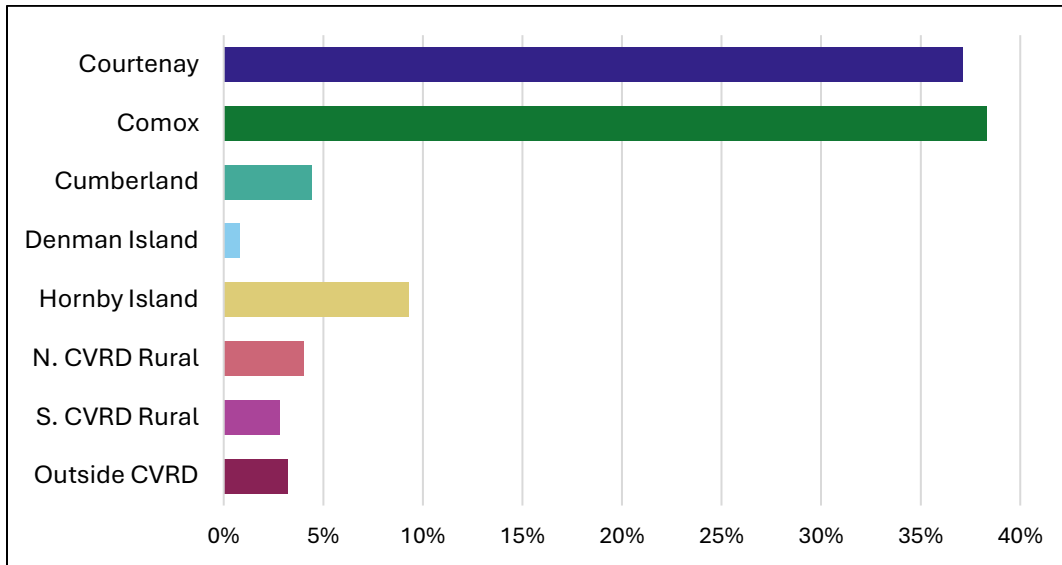
Engage page visitors (unique users) = 657 (total number of unique visitors landing on the page; indication of audience reach)

Results

The following sections provide a summary of the data collected from the 248 people who contributed their reactions and ideas virtually, through the Engage page, or during community conversations.

Demographics

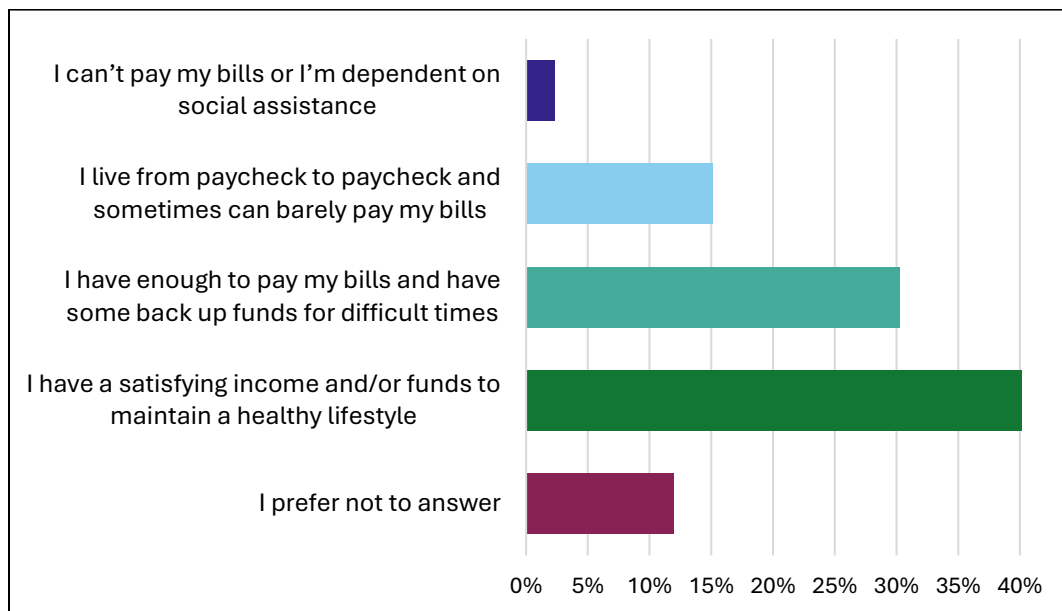
Q: In which community do you live? (required question)



Graph Label Key: N. CVRD Rural includes Black Creek, Merville, Saratoga; S. CVRD Rural includes Royston, Union Bay, Fanny Bay

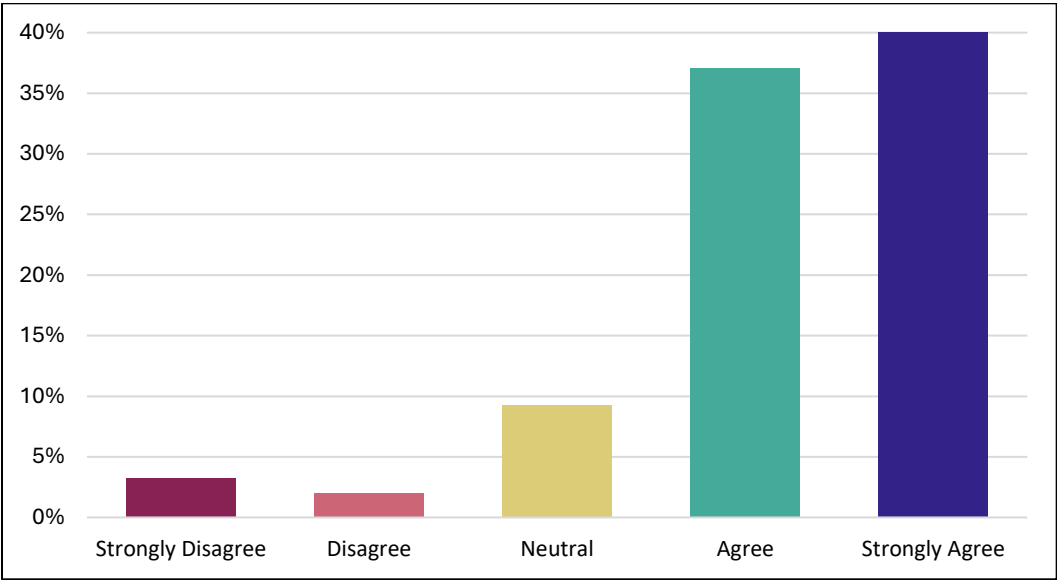
The majority of participants (over 75%) identified as living in Courtenay or Comox. A community conversation on Hornby Island supported by Hornby Denman Health in early January 2026 resulted in an overall higher number of participants from Hornby Island as compared with Denman Island.

Q: Which of the following statements do you feel best describes your/your household's financial situation?



70% of respondents to this question identified they had sufficient income to meet their needs and maintain financial stability. The Data Walk intentionally targeted this demographic to build awareness and empathy, encourage dialogue, and increase support for community-driven solutions.

Q (Final): As a result of this data walk, I have a better understanding of what poverty looks like in the Comox Valley:



The vast majority of people completing the online survey (85%) indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that they have a better understanding of what poverty looks like in the Comox Valley as a result of participating in the Data Walk. Community conversation facilitators also noted feedback from participants who described the data as “eye-opening,” “shocking,” or commented “I didn’t realize.” Overall, the response to this question indicates success in increasing awareness of poverty and poverty-related issues in the Comox Valley for those community members who participated in the Data Walk.

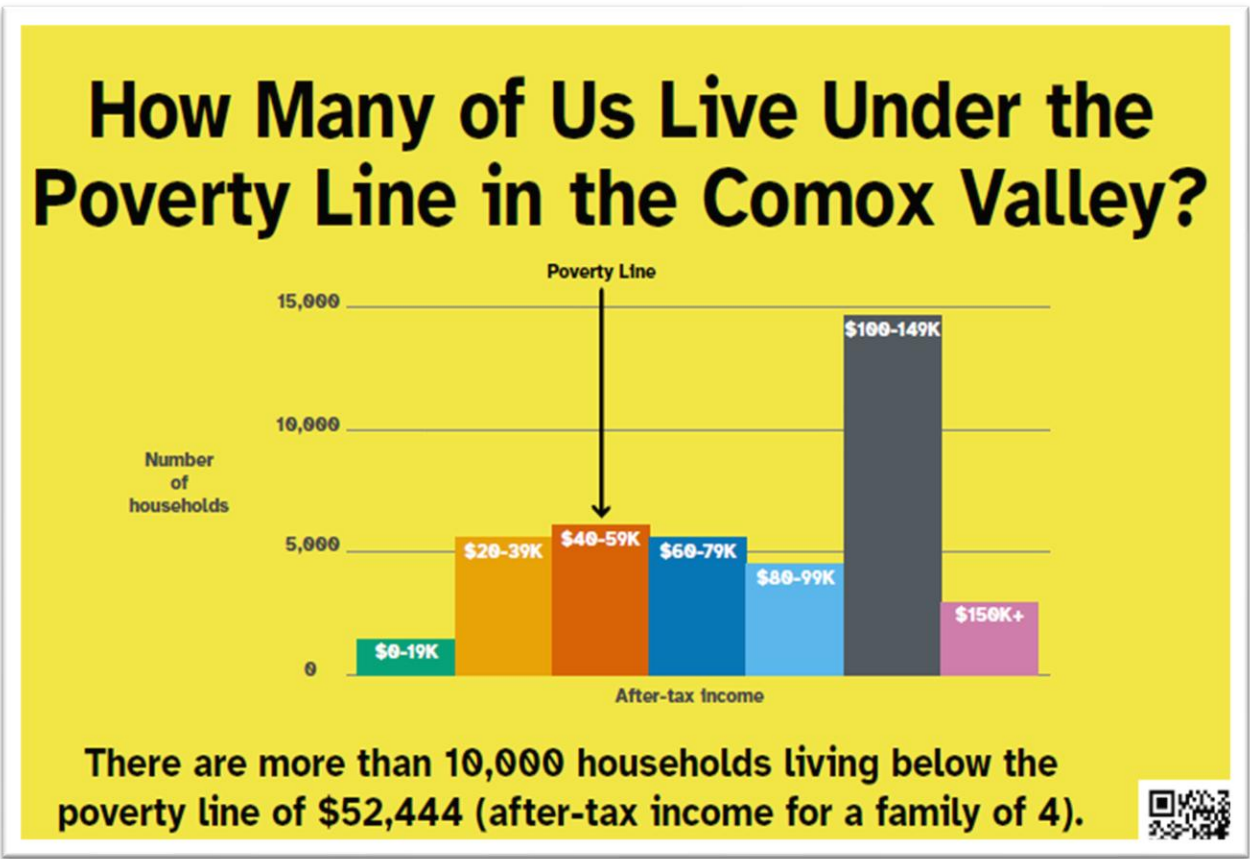
Reactions and Ideas

The following section shows the main content of each Data Walk poster. Below each is a summary of the reactions to the data and the mostly commonly mentioned ideas (categorized during data analysis as themes) for the question:

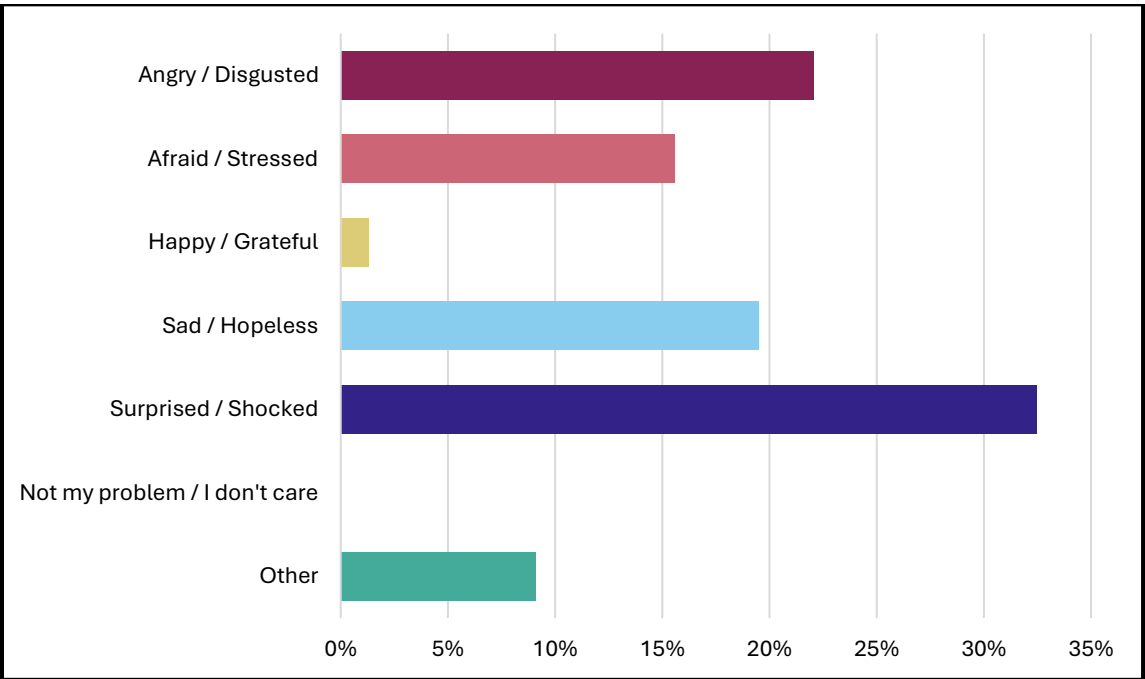
What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?

For the complete list of all themes, see Appendix B.

Data Walk Poster #1: Poverty Line



Q: How does this data make you feel?



Q: What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?

All themes listed in Appendix B - Complete List of Themes are directly related to reducing poverty in the Comox Valley community. The list of themes below are a few not already mentioned with the other posters:

- Advocacy on Income/Jobs/Better Pay: Advocate for the government to increase minimum wage, minimum guaranteed income/basic income and more equitable pay for immigrants and women
- Government Action on Taxes: Decrease or eliminate taxes for low income people or people living under poverty line
- Increase in targeted and accessible education programs: Campaign to help them better understand their financial situation and the timeline on government benefits
- Increase in targeted and accessible education programs: Educate community and school children about money management: schemes (ex. buy now, pay later), cc statements, budgeting, compound interest, paying bills, reusing/repurposing, how to save money
- Community Networks/Resource Sharing: Set up free CRA support for people to review and submit current and older tax forms to ensure they receive the money owed to them

Other reactions and quotes from the community:

"I am saddened and embarrassed that I was not aware of this. Thank you for bringing this to my attention."

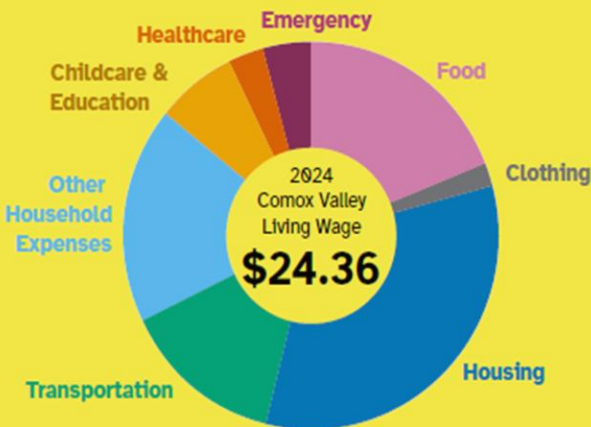
"I am widowed on OAP and GIS and by luck own my own home - but my income is about \$29,000 a year ... I still work in later '70s"

"I am not surprised. I am a single mum working 3 jobs to stay above the poverty line...the biggest problem is the cost of renting and I don't know how to reduce that. 80% of my full-time job wage goes on rent. Hence, I have 3 jobs."

Data Walk Poster #2: Living Wage

If You Are Working, Can You Still Be Living in Poverty in the Comox Valley?

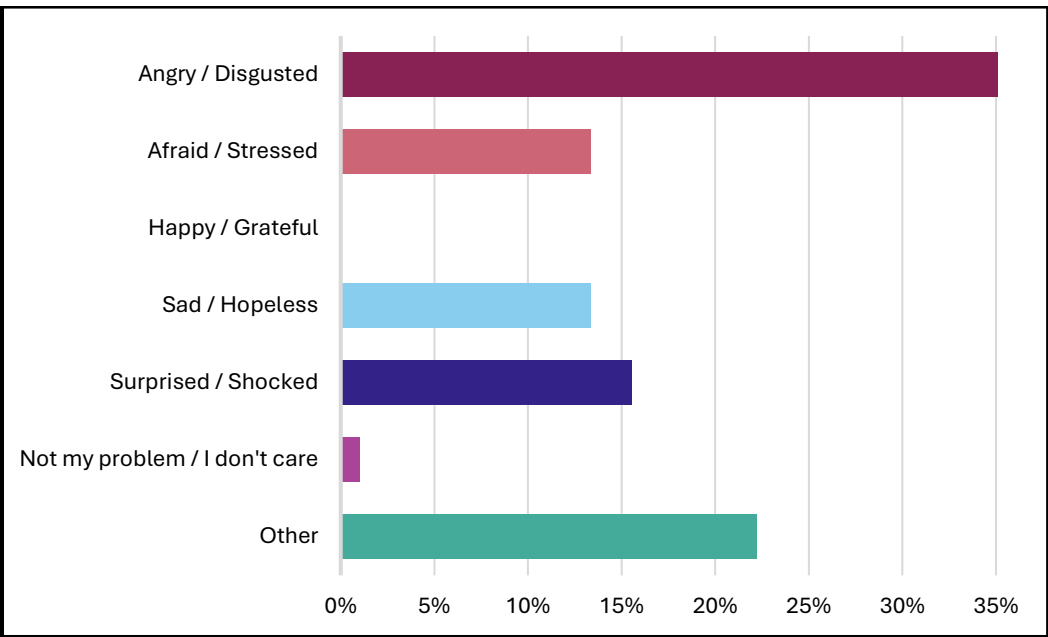
Both adults in a family of 4 need to each make a living wage of \$24.36 per hour to meet basic living expenses.



Source: Living Wage BC, CVSocialPlanning.ca/living-wage



Q: How does this data make you feel?



Q: What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?

Better Pay/Living Wage: Advocate for and create more living wage jobs

Economic and Job Development:

- Economic Development: Support development to increase the number of living wage jobs in the Comox Valley
- Support small businesses and local farmers to thrive (help them deal with regulations and taxation)
- Create, support, and promote programs to help people change professions or get higher paying jobs

Government Action on Housing:

- Build more affordable housing
- Increase rent caps and rent geared to income requirements

Other reactions and quotes from the community:

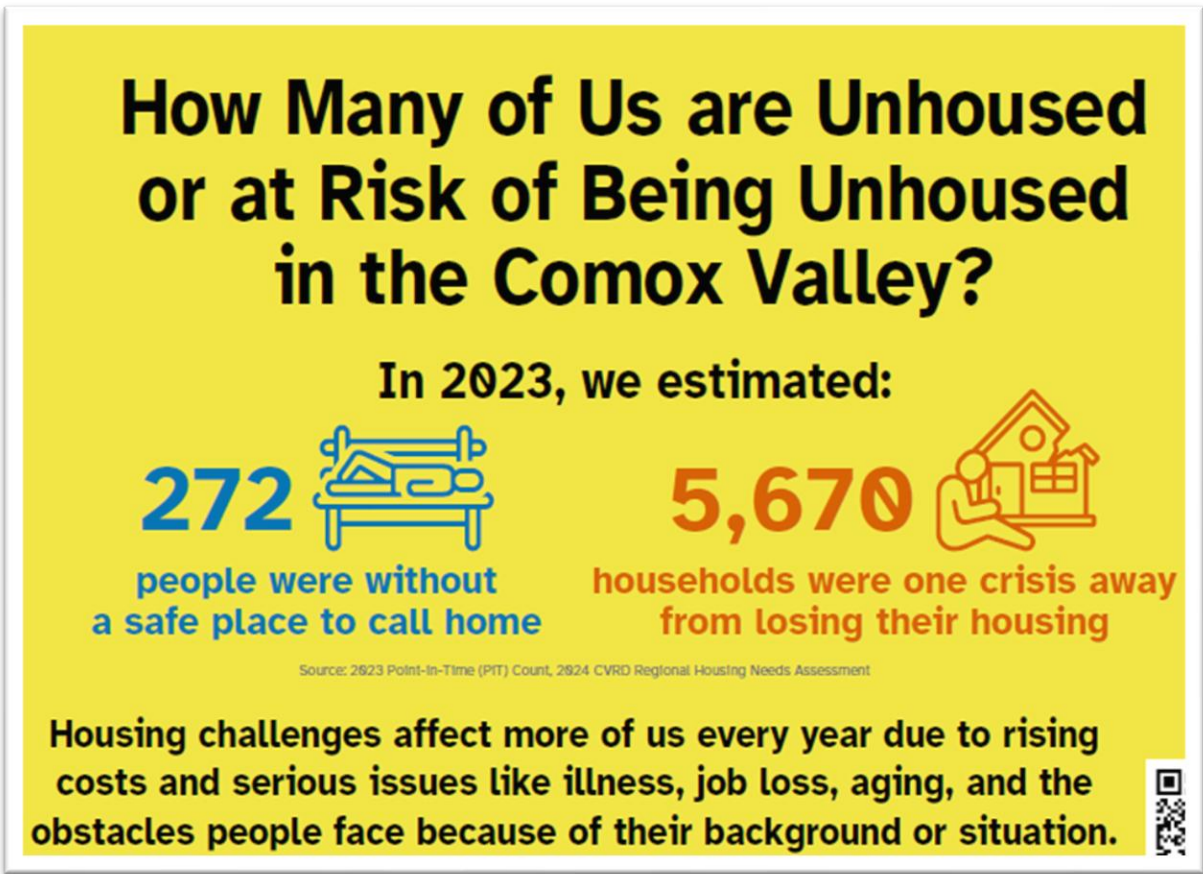
"I now understand why my cleaning lady charges \$30 per hour."

"Doesn't seem like there are many jobs in the Comox Valley that pay this amount - not many jobs in general!"

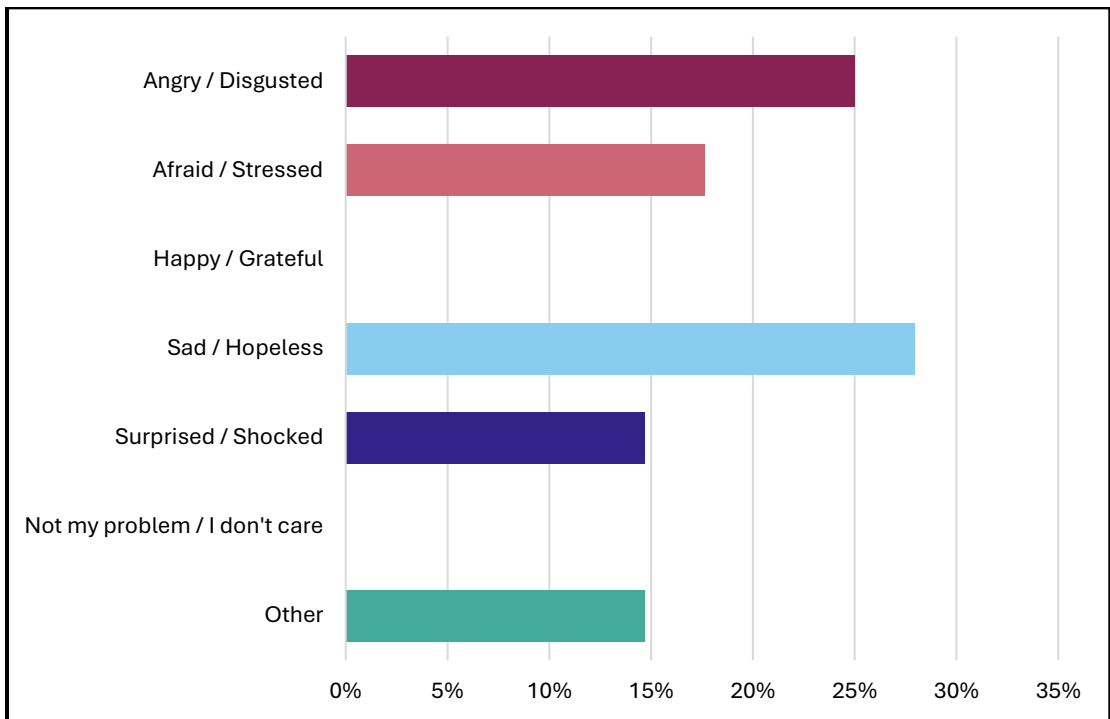
"Housing is 75% of my income. My daughter, partner and two kids receive monthly support from her in-laws in order to meet their housing costs."

"I'm a full-time care aid working long hours and I still can't seem to get by with how expensive things are. I also can't afford to do things that make me feel joy like a lunch out with a friend. I couldn't imagine having kids involved...makes me want to re-think having children in the future because it's so hard even just to support myself."

Data Walk Poster #3: Being Unhoused



Q: How does this data make you feel?



Q: What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?

Government Action on Housing:

- Build more affordable housing suitable for low-income residents and emergencies
- All levels of government need to prevent for-profit housing/development corporations from buying up all the land and building too many expensive apartments and houses
- Multilevel interactions and input between governments is needed for housing - more working together

Financial help and support for people or groups at risk when they hit hard times:

- Create more support for singles, especially single female seniors
- Create a support system for people with low paying jobs who are unable to rely on families or do not have financial support system to fall back on
- Create more support for single parent families

Promote and support inclusivity and understanding:

- Anti-stigma campaigns, especially for using the food bank and being unhoused

Other reactions and quotes from the community:

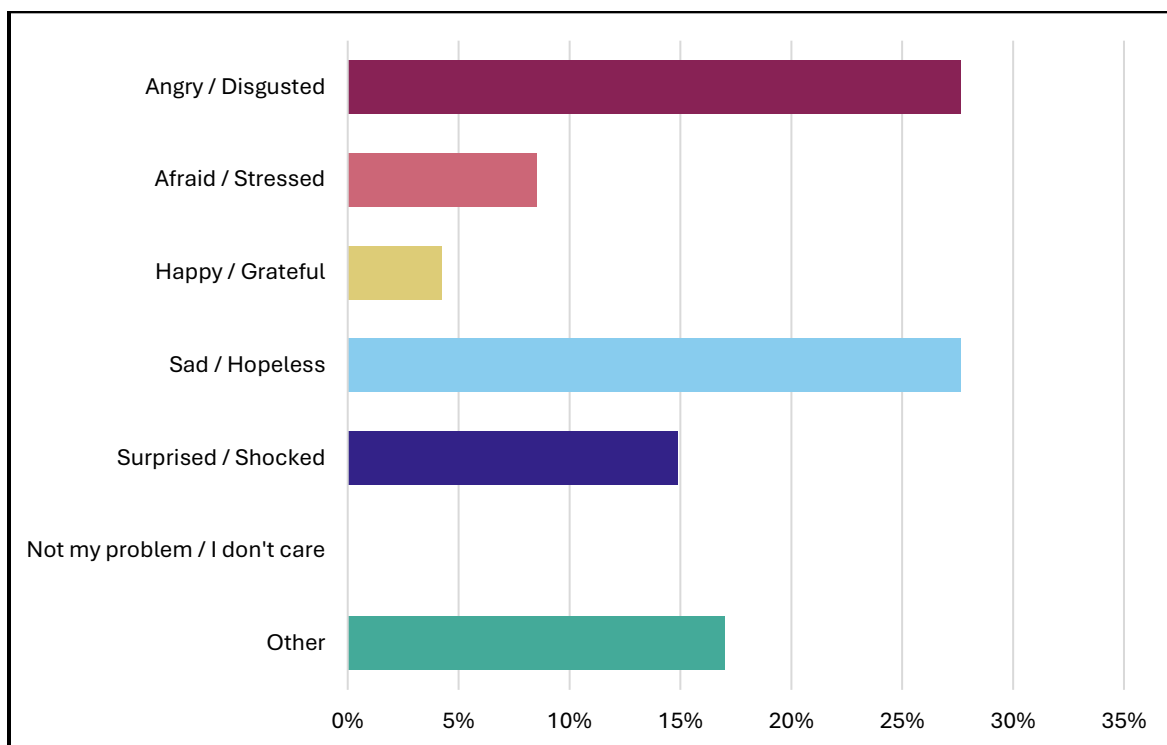
"...others are judgmental about people that are homeless, but they don't know how close anyone of them are from becoming homeless. Sudden illness/injury, job loss or caring for a loved one, can cause you to become homeless. Most people are 1-2 pay cheques away..."

"The provincial government has failed dismally to support non-market housing. The federal government should be investing in non-market housing, not just 'build build build' which just rewards developers. All municipalities should be aggressively and ceaselessly lobbying higher levels of government..."

"My partner and I are 'ideal tenants' ... with good, stable jobs and great references...our rent increased from \$1,200 to \$2,600 per month due to circumstances beyond our control (renoviction). At times, we were unable to pay this and took 'breaks' from the housing market, living in campgrounds and on friends' couches. This is unacceptable."



Q: How does this data make you feel?



Q: What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?

Government Action on Food Insecurity:

- More oversight and control over food prices, keep prices lower for basic foods
- Free food programs at schools

Increase in targeted and accessible education programs:

- Educate the community about food banks: where they are, how to access, put information on this in the newspaper
- Education on nutrition, basic cooking skills and low cost meals (how to cook soups and freeze)

Community networks and resource sharing:

- Community encouragement and sharing about how to be more thrifty and cut costs (e.g., ideas for simple, easy to make, low-cost meals)
- More community gardens & community-led food assistance

Other reactions and quotes from the community:

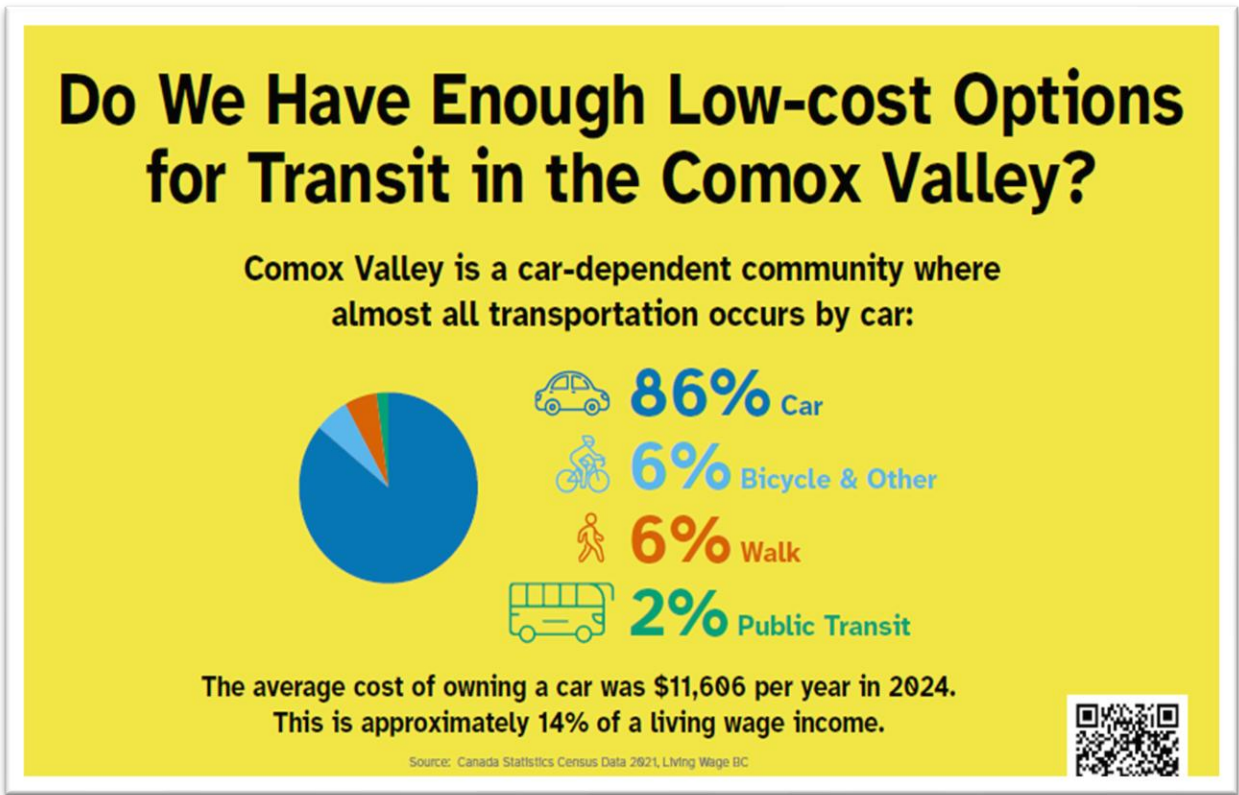
"Speaks to the assumption who uses food banks – lots more than people think."

"People should not be going hungry in this community or in this country. We must do more."

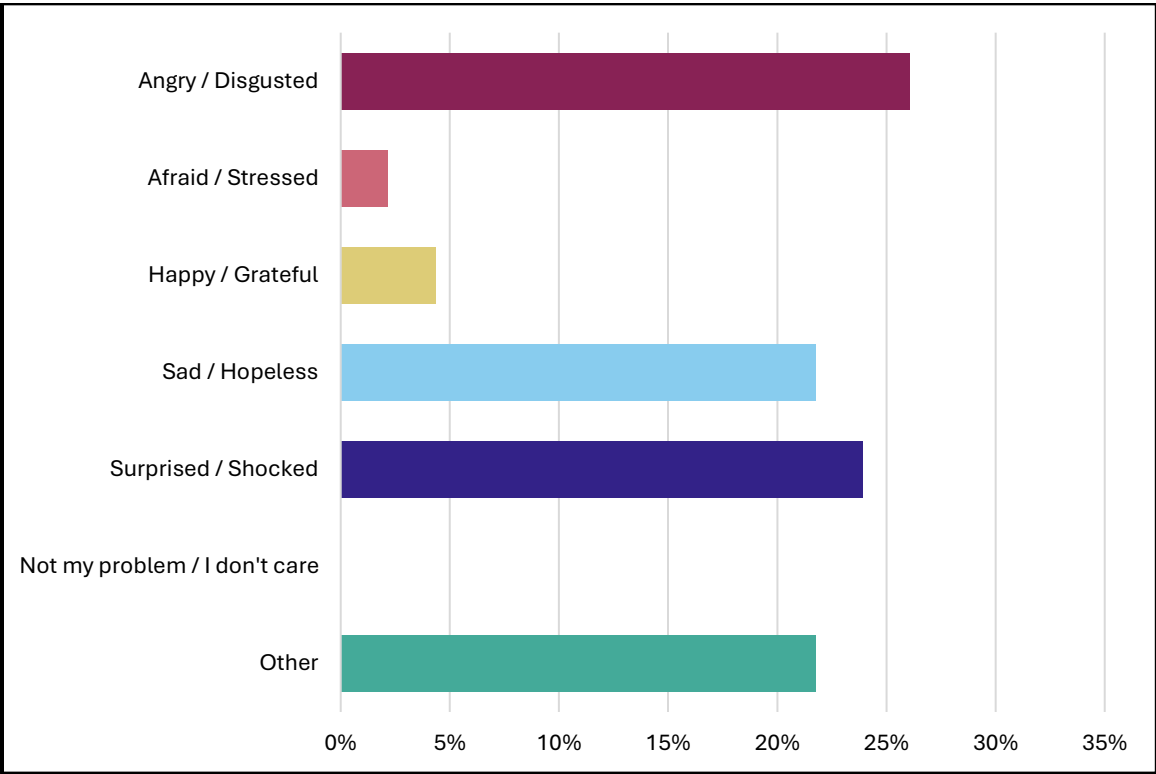
"We need more oversight from government about food prices and ensuring that food donations from grocery stores doesn't get wasted - that it gets to people who need it."

"We need an upstream approach - food banks are great in a crisis but we need to solve food insecurity at its root by decreasing poverty, increasing food literacy, localizing food production."

Data Walk Poster #5: Low-cost Transit Options



Q: How does this data make you feel?



Q: What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?

Government Action on Transit and Active Transportation:

- Better bus hours for people that work (earlier and late in day, or on weekends)
- Increase transit frequency and routing, especially between the city, town, and village
- More money and emphasis on active transportation infrastructure and services
- Subsidize bus fares for people with lower incomes

Other reactions and quotes from the community:

"As I understand, transit usage will only improve when transit itself - its routes, schedules and services - improve. This improves with the number of people using the system, and creates a catch 22 situation."

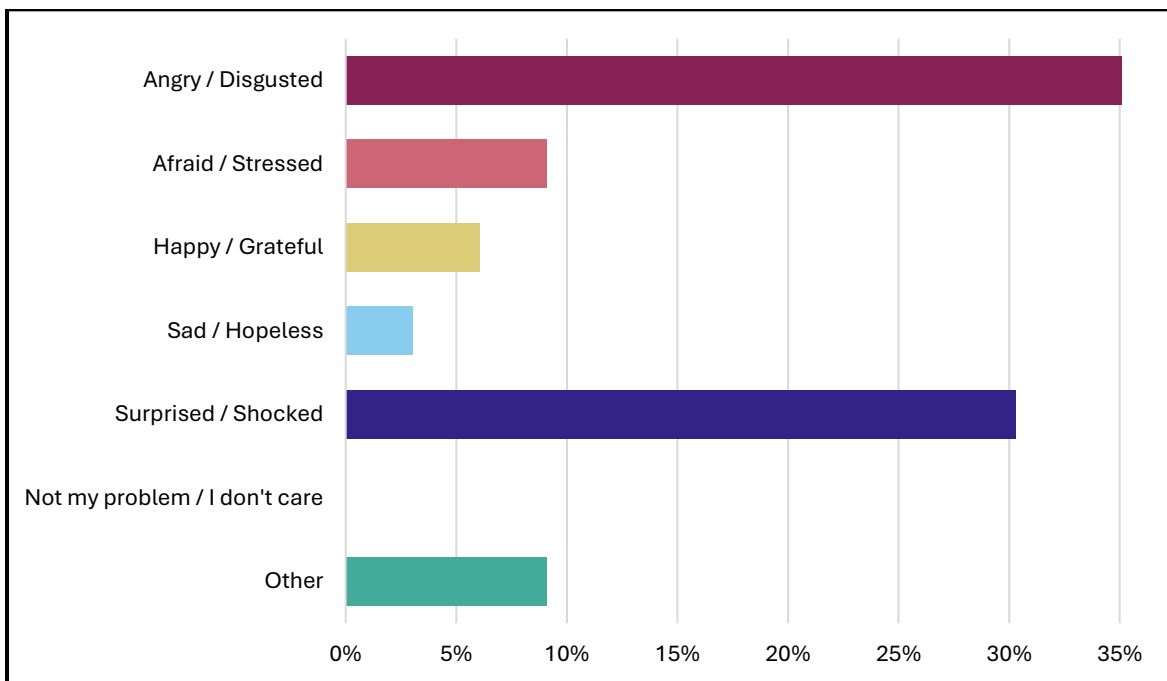
"When we came here, we used public transit and I had to spend a lot of time because buses were not going where and when you need. We spent a lot of time waiting for the bus, and a lot of time spent in transit to get kids to and from school...we had to move from Comox to Courtenay because of (lack of) transit."

"The municipalities and MOTT (Ministry of Transportation and Transit) need to do a lot more to make cycling an easy, convenient, and (very) safe option."

"I think we need more public transport and more bike routes to help people get between the three major communities."



Q: How does this data make you feel?



Q: What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?

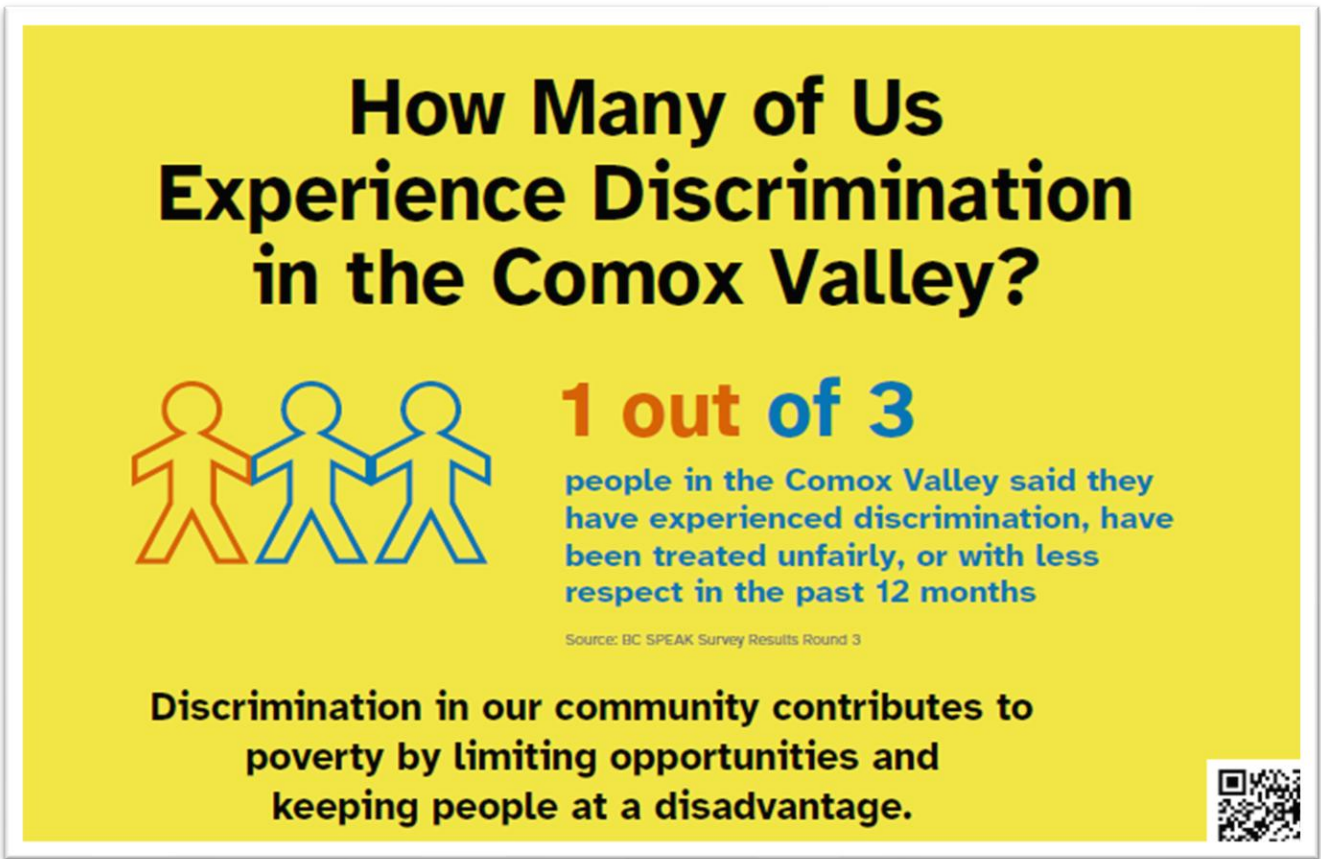
- Government Action on \$10/day daycare: Incentivize and ensure the creation of more \$10 care spots
- Build community networks: Connect young families to rally together to advocate for more \$10/day childcare centres
- Economic and Job Development: Government and schools to support skills development and training to support a successful workforce, especially in healthcare and childcare services; encourage young adults to enter these fields with free certifications or incentives

Other reactions and quotes from the community:

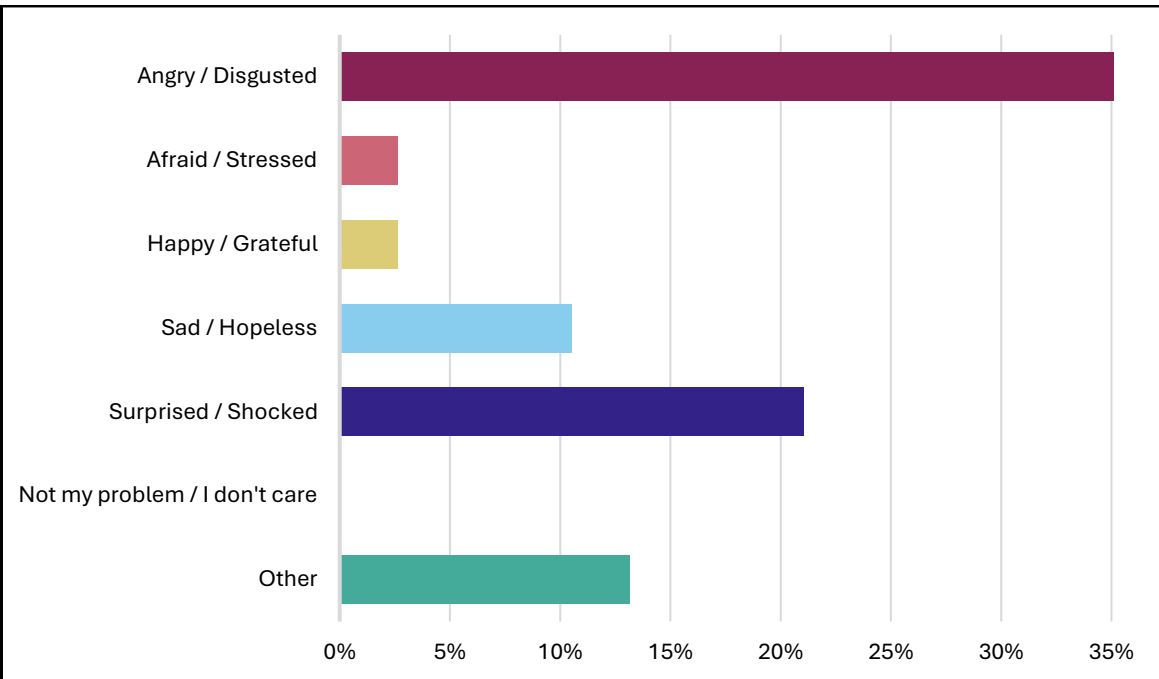
"I want to have children but with these costs of childcare and the waitlists it's really sad and stressful to see that I'll have trouble with finding affordable childcare."

"Cost of living is such that both parents need to work – childcare is needed, need more of these 10 dollar/day ones. Is it the government not giving enough funding for these spaces or are there other issues?"

"Advocate for \$10 day care. It is life changing for young families. This should be a top priority."



Q: How does this data make you feel?



Q: What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?

Increase in targeted and accessible education programs:

- Anti-discrimination education to celebrate diversity and education to reduce stigma
- Education in the schools about bias, prejudice, self-reflection

Promote and support inclusivity, understanding:

- Increase sense of belonging for newcomers and celebrate cultural diversity
- Create more programs that are run by people with lived/living experience to bring forth connection, motivation and purpose
- Anti-stigma campaigns, especially for using the food bank and being unhoused
- As a community, raise awareness about discrimination and educate ourselves about equity, discrimination and racism

Other reactions and quotes from the community:

"This poster is very disheartening to read. There are many nationalities in the Valley and each person should feel welcome. 1 out of 3 is a high percentage."

"I feel sad. Experienced that myself – was called illiterate because of lower English writing skills (grammar)."

"We should involve everyone in changing attitudes. It is important to have a community where different races, nationalities, genders, age, etc. come together to change attitudes."

Key Takeaways

The Comox Valley Poverty Data Walk revealed important insights for the community and also raised new questions. Through the analysis of the data, several key takeaways have been identified:

Community reactions to the data

- The most common reaction to the data in the seven posters was anger, with exceptions being:
 - sad/hopeless reaction to Data Walk poster #3: Being Unhoused
 - surprised/shocked reaction to Data Walk poster #1: Poverty Line
- There were no indications from the online Data Walk of “Not my problem/Don’t Care” as an answer to “How does this data make you feel?” The data and community conversations revealed a strong sense of caring and a shared commitment to collective change.
- Community members who shared their reactions and ideas demonstrated strong concern for groups of people at higher risk during times of hardship, including seniors, youth, single parents, people with disabilities and people living with chronic mental health or substance use issues. Creating and strengthening systems of support for these and other groups at risk of poverty in order to help prevent people from falling into poverty (for example, following a job loss) was considered a priority to help prevent poverty rates from increasing.

Community ideas for what needs to be done

- Participants emphasized the need for stronger action across all levels of government to address the root causes of poverty, lift people out of poverty, and support people from falling into poverty. This includes reduced cost or free transit, rent caps or mandated rent-geared to income requirements, and rapid expansion of more affordable housing. There needs to be greater local economic/job development and increased support for small businesses to thrive to help increase the amount of living wage jobs.
- Participants emphasized the importance of fostering connection through community-based celebration and expanding poverty-focused education in schools and community settings to reduce stigma and discrimination.
- Participants expressed a strong desire to stay informed about what is happening in the community and a readiness to help; however, many were unsure how to get involved or where to find information about volunteer opportunities and grassroots initiatives. There is a clear need for a highly visible, accessible and well- promoted platform or hub (e.g., website and/or printed resources) to support community involvement.

For future data walks

- There is a need for increased engagement with rural areas and Hornby and Denman Islands, to better understand their unique poverty-related challenges and strengths. Community conversations were identified as a key approach to increasing awareness of critical issues and generating locally relevant solutions.
- Case of the missing posters: The Thriving Together Data Walk team increasingly noticed posters going missing or being torn down from their anchored spot in the ground through the course of the Data Walk. On three separate occasions and in different locations, the last Data Walk sign “How Many of Us Experience Discrimination in the Comox Valley” appeared to be pulled out of the ground and vandalized. Furthermore, an entire set of the Data Walk posters disappeared overnight from the Courtenay Riverway Walk (near the Airpark). On a separate occasion, two posters were stolen overnight from the Comox Fisherman’s Wharf. While it is unclear who was responsible or why these incidents occurred, the acts of theft and vandalism of these posters is concerning, particularly for the repeated displacement of the poster showing data on the link between discrimination and poverty.
- Community conversations created opportunities for meaningful connection and a chance for participants to hear and understand diverse viewpoints, helping to break down stigma related to poverty. The conversations also generated additional ideas for advancing change across various poverty-related areas in the Comox Valley. Thriving Together recommends continuing and expanding these types of conversations in future data walks or other forums, with a particular focus on engaging rural and Hornby and Denman Island communities.
- For the future, Thriving Together identified a need to strengthen engagement with students and youth. While capacity and timing constraints limited school involvement during this Data Walk, Thriving Together recognizes the importance of youth involvement in future initiatives. Youth perspectives, creativity and strengths are imperative to shaping a future where poverty is significantly reduced or eliminated.

Special Thanks

We give special thanks to these community partners and data providers for sharing their expertise, data, and for providing resources and support for this Data Walk:

19 Wing Fitness and Community Centre	Hornby Denman Health
Berwick Comox Valley	Immigrant Welcome Centre
Black Creek Community Centre	Island Health
Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness	Living Wage BC
Comox Valley Exhibition Association	LUSH Valley
Comox Valley Community Health Network	North Island College
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre	Ocean Front Village, Courtenay
Comox Valley Farmers' Market	Pride Society of the Comox Valley
Comox Valley Food Bank	SD71 Print Shop
Comox Valley Social Planning Society	Statistics Canada
Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD)	Tamarack Institute
City of Courtenay	Town of Comox
Comox Seniors' Centre (D'Esterre)	Town of Stony Plain, Alberta
Evergreen Club	Today 'N' Tomorrow Learning Society
Government of British Columbia	Vancouver Island Regional Library
Homelessness Services Association of BC	Village of Cumberland

Appendix A. Indoor and Outdoor Data Walk Locations

All locations and events took place between August 1, 2026 and January 7, 2026:

Outdoor Locations and Events

- 19 Wing Fitness and Community Centre
- Anderton Park, Comox
- Black Creek Community Centre
- Black Creek Fall Fair (Event: September 6, 2025)
- Brooklyn Creek at Balmoral, Comox
- Comox Valley Exhibition (Event: August 22-24, 2025)
- Comox Valley Farmers' Market (Event: various times in August and September)
- Cumberland Recreation Centre
- Denman Island Farmer's Market (Event: August 16, 2026)
- Idiens Trail, Courtenay
- Comox Fisherman's Wharf, Comox
- North Island College Campus Connects Marketplace (Event: October 9, 2026)
- No. 6 Mine Park, Cumberland
- Pride in the Park (Event: August 23, 2026)
- Puntledge Park, Courtenay
- Riverway Trail (airpark loop), Courtenay
- South Riverway Trail, Royston
- Village Park, Comox

Indoor Locations

- Comox Recreation Centre
- CVRD Sports Complex and Aquatics Centres
- Immigrant Welcome Centre - Comox Valley
- Vancouver Island Regional Library - Courtenay

Community Conversations

- Berwick Independent Living
- Comox Seniors' Centre (D'Esterre), Comox
- Evergreen Seniors Club, Courtenay
- Ocean Front Village, Courtenay
- Immigrant Welcome Centre - Comox Valley
- Vancouver Island Regional Library - Courtenay

Appendix B. Complete List of Themes

The below themes have been derived from comments about the data and ideas for the question “What do you think that you and/or our community can do about this?” The themes have been condensed into the most common responses with no ranking order:

Increase in targeted and accessible education programs

- Community education on life skills, social skills
- Anti-discrimination education to celebrate diversity and education to reduce stigma
- Share this data on poverty out to more people; it is important to have data shared as an impetus for change
- Education for seniors: Campaign to help them better understand their financial situation and the timeline on government benefits
- Education in the schools about bias, prejudice, self-reflection
- Teach children in schools about budgeting, economics, money as a commodity and responsibility, money management, reusing/repurposing, how to save money
- Educate community and school children about money management: schemes (ex. buy now, pay later), cc statements, budgeting, compound interest, paying bills, reusing and repurposing, how to save money
- Educate the community about food banks: where they are, how to access, put information on this in the newspaper
- Education on nutrition, basic cooking skills and low-cost meals (how to cook soups and freeze)
- Educate on how to end the cycle of wanting more/excessive consumption, how to declutter & sell old possessions
- Education on budgeting and how to use a cash budget (only use what is in wallet)

Promote and support inclusivity and understanding

- Increase sense of belonging for newcomers and celebrate cultural diversity
- Create more programs that are run by people with lived/living experience to bring forth connection, motivation and purpose
- Create and strengthen social networks that support inclusivity and positive community change
- More community classes for families with fun activities to feel more connected and part of the community
- Anti-stigma campaigns, especially for using the food bank and/or being unhoused
- As a community, raise awareness about discrimination and educate ourselves about equity, discrimination and racism

Community networks and resource sharing

- Community encouragement and shared ideas about how to be more thrifty and cut costs (e.g., ideas for simple, easy to make, low-cost meals)
- More community gardens & community-led food assistance

Community networks and resource sharing (cont.)

- Create an online carpooling page/ride share/car share options
- Connect young families to rally together to advocate for more \$10/day childcare centres
- Create more opportunities for the community to come together and get to know each other, help each other, and come up with solutions
- Support the community to create networks for barter, trade, and equitable resource sharing
- Set up free CRA support for people to review and submit current and older tax forms to ensure they receive the money owed to them

Community Involvement/Volunteering

- Increase involvement of everyone in the community
- Promote and/or establish systems for volunteering (i.e., use the talents and skills of the community to help)
- Better coordination and communication outward from local agencies about needs and ways to support (e.g., volunteer opportunities)
- Create a volunteer hub website and flyers on how people can help

Government Action

Government Action on Taxes

- Need higher taxes for the most wealthy to be distributed to those who need it most (advocate to gov't for a fairer tax system)
- Decrease or eliminate taxes for people with low income or living under poverty line
- Wealthy and super wealthy people should pay more

Government Action on Housing

- Build more affordable housing
- All levels of government need to prevent for-profit housing/ development corporations from buying up all the land and building too many expensive apartments and houses
- Multilevel interactions and input between governments is needed for housing - more collaboration
- Government should look to other cities, provinces and countries for better solutions
- More suitable housing for low income and emergencies
- Increase rent caps and rent geared to income requirements

Government Action on Income/Jobs

- Pressure province to increase minimum wage
- Advocate for guaranteed income/basic income
- Provide more support for skilled work training and job placement

Government Action (cont.)

Government Action \$10/day daycare

- Incentivize the creation of more \$10 care spots
- Ensure more \$10 care spots

Government Action on Transit and Active Transportation

- Better bus hours for people that work (earlier and late in day, or on weekends)
- Increase transit frequency and routing, especially between the city, town, and village
- Increase investment in cycle lanes and improve network of sidewalks. Provide cyclists with free night lights and reflectors
- More money and emphasis on active transportation infrastructure and services
- Subsidize bus fares for people with lower incomes

Government Action on Food Insecurity

- More oversight and control over food prices, keep prices lower for basic foods
- Free food programs at schools

Better Pay/Living Wage

- Advocate for and create more living wage jobs
- Advocate for more equitable pay for immigrants and women

Economic and Job Development

- Increase and improve assistance to help people find employment
- Economic Development: Support development to increase the number of living wage jobs in the Comox Valley
- Support small businesses and local farmers to thrive (help them deal with regulations and taxation)
- Government and schools should support skills development and training to support a successful workforce, especially in healthcare and childcare services; encourage young adults to enter these fields with free certifications or incentives
- Create, support, and promote programs to help people change professions or get higher paying jobs

Financial help and support for people or groups at risk when they hit hard times

- Create more support for single people, especially single female seniors
- Create a support system for people with low paying jobs who are unable to rely on families or do not have financial support system to fall back on
- Create more support for single parent families