WORKSHOP A: Disaster Risk Preparedness for Small Jurisdictions
Disasters are about people
Duncan McGarry
“At the very worst time of their lives, the very least we can do is our very best”

Disaster Action – Pam Dix
“When you’ve seen one disaster, you’ve only seen one disaster”
We can see further by standing on the shoulders of the Giants who have gone before us.
Today’s session

Disaster management building blocks
Thinking about the language of disaster management
Considering how disaster management looks locally
Learning from one another
Language matters

\[ \text{Score}_i = \sum_{j=1}^{N} w_b x_b^j + w_m x_m^j + w_w x_w^j \]
Defining Disaster
Disaster

A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 - 2030
Disaster: an occurrence disrupting the normal conditions of existence and causing a level of suffering that exceeds the capacity of adjustment of the affected community.
Disaster

A social phenomenon that results when a hazard intersects with a vulnerable community in a way that exceeds or overwhelms the community's ability to cope and may cause serious harm to the safety, health, welfare, property or environment of people; may be triggered by a naturally occurring phenomenon which has its origins within the geophysical or biological environment or by human action or error, whether malicious or unintentional, including technological failures, accidents and terrorist acts.
How would you define disaster?
Defining Resilience
Resilience

The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 - 2030
Resilience
A community's adaptability and capacity to recover
Resilience

The capacity of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to adapt to disturbances resulting from hazards by persevering, recuperating or changing to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning. Resilient capacity is built through a process of empowering citizens, responders, organizations, communities, governments, systems and society to share the responsibility to keep hazards from becoming disasters.
How would you define resilience?
Hazards risks and threats
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

Peril Classification and Hazard Glossary

Family
- Geophysical
- Hydrological
- Meteorological
- Climatological
- Biological
- Extraterrestrial
Hazard

A natural or human-made event that threatens to adversely affects human life, property or activity to the extent of causing a disaster.
Hazard
A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.

Threat
The presence of a hazard and an exposure pathway; threats may be natural or human-induced, either accidental or intentional.

Risk
The combination of the likelihood and the consequence of a specified hazard being realized; refers to the vulnerability, proximity or exposure to hazards, which affects the likelihood of adverse impact.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact of the RWCS (Limited to Catastrophic)</th>
<th>Likelihood of the RWCS</th>
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<tr>
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- **Low likelihood** (SRA methodology – Probability over 5 years; NSRA methodology – Probability over 2 years)  
  - 1
    - Cyber Attack – Telecomms (NSRA 2019)
  - 2
    - Heatwave (SRA 2020)
    - Animal Disease (SRA 2020)
    - Coastal Flooding (SRA 2020)
    - Drought (SRA 2020)
    - Landslide (SRA 2020)
    - Wildfire (SRA 2020)
  - 3
    - Large Toxic Chemical Release (NSRA 2019)
    - Storms and Gales (SRA 2020)
    - Food Supply Contamination (SRA 2020)
    - Cyber Attack – Health and Social Care (NSRA 2019)
  - 4
    - Reservoir Dam Collapse (SRA 2020)
    - Attack on UK Electricity Infrastructure, Conventional or Cyber (NSRA 2019)
    - NETS Failure (SRA 2020)
    - Cold and Snow (SRA 2020)
    - Marauding Terrorist Attack (NSRA 2019)
  - 5
    - Pandemic Influenza-type Disease (SRA 2018)
    - Animal Disease (SRA 2020)
    - Storms and Gales (SRA 2020)
    - Food Supply Contamination (SRA 2020)
    - Cyber Attack – Health and Social Care (NSRA 2019)

- **High likelihood**

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Impact of the RWCS is categorized into Low and High likelihood with specific scenarios listed for each category. The likelihood is based on methodologies: SRA for Probability over 5 years and NSRA for Probability over 2 years.
### Environmental

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Human Fatalities Ext.</th>
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### People and Animal Health

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<td>2.11 Animal Disease - African Swine Fever</td>
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<td>2.12 Wildfire</td>
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<td>2.13 Food Supply Contamination</td>
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### Accident and System Failure

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<td>2.15 NETS Failure</td>
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### Terrorism

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R19 Marauding Terrorist Attack</td>
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### Cyber

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<td>R30 Cyber Attack</td>
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<td>NSRA cyber risks information</td>
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</table>
What risks do your communities face and how would you assess their impact?
Quick thought experiment
An emergency plan

Who is in charge and can make decisions
Who makes up the response leadership team
What decisions are taken automatically
Things that you need to think about
Where you can get extra support
Who needs help the most?

- People with existing needs know how to manage their everyday lives
- People who live in risky areas are likely also aware of the challenges they could face
- More at risk
  - People living in insecure housing or are homelessness
  - Those without financial resources
  - People whose personal safety is already compromised
  - Visitors or new arrivals
  - Social, physical, geographic isolation
  - Decided not to help themselves
- But if our general services start to fail...
Asking for extra help

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do you need?</td>
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<td>When do you ask for it?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who provides it?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How will it get there?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How long will the help last?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What will happen when they leave?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

Kate Cochrane
Your task

• You are each a Member of a Disaster Risk Committee and you have been asked to lead the development of a Disaster Resilience Strategy for your the island

• Based on the priorities of knowledge, governance, financing, what you need to in order to design produce a comprehensive approach

• You will need to think about how you
  • Understand your local Disaster risks
  • Strengthen your Disaster Risk Governance
  • Invest in Disaster Risk Reduction
Helpful hints - 1

• Consider what hazards and threats you need to plan for
• Think about the range of local stakeholders and what responsibilities they already have
• Consider how prepared you are now for the risks that are real to you
• How much more prepared do you need to be?
• Do you have all the information you need and if you don’t how can you access it?
• Do you have people who can work together to pull the plan together
Helpful hints – 2

• What legislation do you have in place that can help you?
• Are there any governance gaps that might need to be filled?
• How will you talk to people and their communities about the work that you are doing?
• What could be the financial costs of the risks that you are thinking about?
• Can investments be made to either reduce likelihood or impact?
• What investment options are there e.g., public/private partnerships?
Feedback and Discussion
RECOMMENDATION:

“Parliaments from small jurisdictions should build on and find effective ways to hold government to account for strategies aimed at preparing for and managing disaster risk, including through the use of oversight and accountability mechanisms at their disposal.”
WORKSHOP B: Building Sustainable Economies in Small Branches
How UPEI’s Island Studies constellation contributes to building sustainable economies on islands

Presentation to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Workshop B: Building Sustainable Economies in Small Branches
August 22, 2022

Dr. Laurie Brinklow
Chair, Institute of Island Studies
Coordinator, Master of Arts in Island Studies
President, International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA)
Iceland’s Honorary Consul to Prince Edward Island
Road map for today’s talk

1. A brief history of the Institute of Island Studies (IIS)
2. Our vision and mandate
3. What we are doing now (at home and abroad)
4. What can we doing more of?
   Opportunities for Island Studies
The Start and Historical Contributions

• Founded in 1985; former UPEI President Peter Meincke and first Director Harry Baglole
• Always the goal to contribute to Public Policy Development on PEI:
  ➢ North Atlantic Islands Program (1994-98)
  ➢ North Atlantic Forum (1998-)
  ➢ Public Policy Partnership (1996-98)
  ➢ A Place to Stay? (1999/2000)
  ➢ Recruiting Talent to PEI (2018)
  ➢ Vital Signs (2019)
  ➢ PEI Indicators of Well-being (2021-25)
  ➢ PEI Retention Survey (2021-22)
• Projects that focus on Island culture, sustainable development, land use, well-being, population retention
Island Studies Constellation at UPEI

• Institute of Island Studies (1985-present)
• Island Studies Press (1987-present)
• Master of Arts in Island Studies (MAIS) degree program (thesis-based) in 2003; added course/work-study in 2017
• Canada Research Chair in Island Studies: Dr. Godfrey Baldacchino (2003-2013)
• Island Studies Journal (2003-2021): online, open access, peer-reviewed
• UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability (2016-2024)
**Vision:** To be the leading centre of excellence on issues related to island studies scholarship, public policy and engagement.

**Purposes:**

1. To encourage a deep knowledge, understanding, and expression of Prince Edward Island
2. To serve as a bridge between the University and Island communities
3. To contribute to the formulation of public policy in Prince Edward Island
4. To undertake and facilitate island studies research and education at local, national and global scales
Island Studies Press

• Published over 40 titles since 1985
• Two titles shortlisted for Atlantic Book Awards
• Three titles received Publication of the Year from PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation
• Two titles received PEI Book Awards
Conferences

- Building Community Resilience: Innovation, Culture, and Governance in Place (2015)
- Building Small Island Resilience to Global Climate Change (2016)
- 1st International Conference on Island Economies with Hainan Foreign Affairs Office (2017)
- Sharing Stories of Island Life, Governance and Global Engagement: The 1st International Conference on Small Island States (SIS) and Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs), with University of Aruba (2019)
- Islands, Islandness, and Climate Change Conference, with University of Aruba (2023)
Public Symposia

- Population & Migration on PEI
- Island Land Use Policy: At an impasse?
- Island Water Futures: Assessing the Science
- The Geography of Local Governance
- Sustainable Agriculture and the Island’s Food System
- Making the case for PEI to be Canada’s first carbon-neutral province

(Often combined with workshops for government staff)
Island Lecture Series

- Weathering Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu (Jean Mitchell)
- The Goose and the Golden Egg: The Environmental Turn in Island Tourism, 1970-1990 (Dr. Ed MacDonald)
- Shifting sands: Capturing climatic and cultural change through art (Brenda Whiteway)
- From policy to action: Lessons from Samsø (Jocelyn Plourde)
Research

• 2017-2021 Sustainable Island Futures research project
• International scholars come here to teach and study
• Intern from the Netherlands looking at the creative arts and climate change adaptation, feeding into policy, with funding by the Climate Sense project
• Art and the Island: Understanding Climate Change through the language of art
• To toll or not to toll: Transportation lessons from a world of islands
Research

• Economic Impacts and Future Pathways: COVID-19 in Atlantic Canada
• COVID-19 Island Insights Series (2020-21)
• Project Well-being (2021-25)
• PEI Retention Survey
• Island Philanthropy
• Islands, Islandness, and Climate Change
Master of Arts in Island Studies

Course/work-study
- Island Tourism
- Sustainable Island Communities
- International Relations & Island Public Policy

Thesis
- Transition to zero net carbon emissions (Samsø, Denmark)
- Energy democracy on small islands (Gotland, Sweden)
- Summerside case study: smart grids
- Community reactions to wind turbines in Eastern PEI (“Prince Edward Island and Renewable Energy: The Preconditions for a Sustainable Future”)
- Becoming connected: Remoteness and identity on Saint Helena
International linkages

• International scholars come here to teach and study
• UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability: Dr. Jean Mitchell (UPEI Department of Sociology/Anthropology)
  
  One of 27 in Canada
  
  • 600 million islanders in the world
  • To build capacity in island studies research and learning
  • To build linkages and collaborations with islands around the globe
• “A global classroom” featuring guest lectures from scholars from around the globe
Islands: Sustainable Development Themes

- Green technologies
- Green energy
- Energy justice
- Climate change adaptation strategies
- Climate refugees and justice
- Blue/Green economy
- Global/local
- Public policy and governance
- Land use
- Migration and retention
- Food security
- Traditional knowledge
- Island identity and belonging
- Attitudinal change
Partner Institutions around the Globe

• Research Excellence in Island Territories (RETI): 23 island-based universities
• International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA)
• Small Island Cultures Research Initiative (SICRI)
• Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF)
• North Atlantic Forum (NAF)
• Islands and Small States Institute, University of Malta
• Leslie Harris Centre for Regional Development, Memorial University of Newfoundland
• Institute for Northern Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands, Shetland
Partner Institutions around the Globe (cont.)

- CoDeL (Community Development Lens), Scotland
- Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance (SCELG), Scotland
- Island Innovation (global)
- The Island Institute, Maine, US
- SALISES (Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies), U of the West Indies
- University of the Arctic (virtual)
- Thematic Network on Northern and Arctic Island Studies Research
- Hainan Foreign Affairs Office, Hainan, China
- Taltech Kuressaare College, Saaremaa Estonia
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Small Brances
What are our Challenges and Opportunities in the Future?

Challenges:
• Being interdisciplinary can be a blessing and a curse: where exactly to we fit?
• Funding still tenuous
• Being better known abroad than in our own back yard

Opportunities:
• Contributing to public policy development on PEI (IIS as “Honest Broker”)
• Creating a Canadian Islands Network
• Collaborating through Thematic Network on Northern and Arctic Island Studies Research, University of the Arctic
• UNESCO Chair opening more doors (making UPEI the International Centre for Island Research and Education)
• Seeking Canadian Tri-Council Research Partnership Development funds
• Partnering with Government of Canada (e.g., international development, climate change on small islands)
• Maybe a PhD program in Island Studies
What are our Challenges and Opportunities in the Future?

Opportunities (cont.):

• Collaborating on research projects
• Access to expertise at UPEI such as the Canadian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and the Clean-Tech Institute
• Hosting visiting policymakers
• Giving guest lectures
• Providing training for island policymakers
• Becoming part of our Island Studies network/family: “A world of islands”
What are our Challenges and Opportunities in the Future?

Opportunities (cont.):

- Sharing expertise with other island-based organizations such as Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Small Branches

Island Matters: A learn & exchange seminar series

Engaging leading politicians and senior government officials from ‘our world of islands’ addressing issues of common concern, facilitated by:

The Americas: Institute of Island Studies, UPEI, Canada; Europe and Africa: University of Highlands and Islands (UHI), Scotland; Asia-Pacific: Massey University (MU), New Zealand
Laurie Brinklow, 
BA, MA(IS), PhD

Chair, Institute of Island Studies
Co-ordinator, Master of Arts in Island Studies
T. (902) 894-2881
E. brinklow@upei.ca
W. islandstudies.com
RECOMMENDATION:

“Through their legislative, oversight and representative functions, parliamentarians from small jurisdictions should actively engage in economic development policies to ensure that are responsive to all societal groups, are environmentally sensitive and are broadly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).”
WORKSHOP C: Financial Scrutiny and Oversight: How can Small Parliaments ensure effective accountability?
Financial Scrutiny and Oversight: How can Small Parliaments ensure effective accountability?

Jo Corkish: Deputy Clerk of Tynwald
The Manx Parliamentary System

August 2022
The Isle of Man

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>84,069 (2021 census)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of public service</td>
<td>around 9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted gross public expenditure (2022/3 Budget, p6)</td>
<td>£1.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislators</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Map of the Isle of Man](image)
Tri-cameral Legislature

House of Keys
- 24 Directly elected Members – mainly Independents
- The Speaker is the Presiding Officer
- Includes Chief Minister + 8 Ministers
- Sit weekly to consider Primary Legislation; also Questions
- Members have roles in Government and undertake Scrutiny

Legislative Council
- 11 Members elected by Keys Members or appointed
- The President is the Presiding Officer
- Sit weekly to consider Primary Legislation; also Questions
- Members have roles in Government and undertake Scrutiny

Tynwald Court
- 35 Members – sit monthly to consider matters of policy, finance, secondary legislation; also Questions
- Keys and Council sitting together but voting separately
- The President is the Presiding Officer
Government by consensus

Collective responsibility within the Council of Ministers; and within, but not between, Departments.

Member

• Keys Questions: 1 hour
• Tynwald Questions: 2½ hours
• Otherwise:
  • No limit on tabling of Questions and motions
  • Every Member may speak to every motion
  • No limit on length of speeches
• Established Scrutiny Committee system
Financial Accountability and Scrutiny

The Public & the Media

- Public Accounts Committee
- Audit Advisory Division
- Treasury
- Government Departments
- External Audit

Tynwald
Financial Scrutiny Resources in Tynwald

Tynwald Public Accounts Committee
- 6 Members – Chair, Vice Chair and the Chairs of the 4 policy review committees – all elected by Tynwald
- Meet approximately fortnightly for 2-3 hours
- 2 part time clerks – 1 senior and an assistant
- Assistant clerks drawn from the small research team with an administrator—includes at least one intern

- https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/committee
Financial Scrutiny Activity in Tynwald

Inquiries
• Can inquire on any topic with a public expenditure element
• May be directed by Tynwald – resolutions are a must do

Audit Support
• No Auditor General – statutory provision since 2011
• Audit Advisory Division – review reports; rating system

Ad Hoc Reports and Annual Reports
• Remit specifies an annual report
• Ad-hoc topic based inquiry reports
• All reports are laid – those with recommendations are debated, alongside a government response report and voted on
  • Two month period allows Government to respond and to propose amendments – this can be a very positive period of negotiation when realistic recommendations can be worked up
• Tynwald Policy Decisions list ensures resolutions can’t be forgotten
• Follow up on prior work via parliamentary questions or evidence sessions
Effective Planning of Financial Scrutiny

• Impact

• Scope

• Outcomes
Effective Evidence Gathering

• Planning

• Evidence Gathering

• Effective Questioning
Effective Scrutiny Support

• CPA and other networks and training
  • CPA Academy [https://www.cpahq.org/parliamentary-academy/](https://www.cpahq.org/parliamentary-academy/)
  • CAPAC [https://www.capac-portal.com/](https://www.capac-portal.com/)

• Resources from elsewhere
  • Your contacts
  • Research from other parliaments
  • Web resources
Centre for Public Impact

**LEGITIMACY**
- Public Confidence
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Political Commitment

**POLICY**
- Clear Objectives
- Evidence
- Feasibility

**ACTION**
- Management
- Measurement
- Alignment

https://www.centreforpublicimpact.org/insights/fundamentals
In summary - most effective when

• Committee Remit – broadly drawn

• Select and scope inquiries carefully

• Plan evidence gathering and questioning

• Report with SMART recommendations and follow up

• Use all available support resources
Joann Corkish
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www.locate.im
WORKSHOP C: Financial Scrutiny and Oversight: How can Small Parliaments ensure effective accountability?

Isabelle Watkinson
Research Assistant at McGill University
## Enhanced Parliamentary Oversight: Promoting Good Governance in Small States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Survey Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Montserrat, Turks &amp; Caicos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Bougainville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Isles &amp; Mediterranean</td>
<td>Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Malta, Falkland Islands, St Helena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordic</td>
<td>Aland Islands, Faroe Islands, Greenland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland &amp; Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Factors Impacting PAC Performance

Opportunity

Motivation  Capacity

Factors Impacting PAC Performance
Opportunity

Opportunity refers to the institutional context that establishes a PAC’s mandate and ability to undertake its oversight function.

This factor is shaped by the Committee’s:
• Legal Authority
• Mandate
• Rights of Access
• Relationship with the Legislative Auditor (AG)
Example: Legal Authority

International Best Practice

Standing Orders, Constitution or Act of Parliament

Recommendation for Small Parliaments

Define PAC in Constitution or Act of Parliament
Capacity

Capacity refers to the organizational context that impacts a PAC’s ability to fulfill its mandate and undertake its oversight function.

This factor is shaped by the Committee’s:

• Size
• Members’ Skills
• Resources
Example: Committee Size

International Best Practice

Restrict Ministers from Sitting on PAC

Recommendation for Small Parliaments

Consider Permitting Ministers to Sit on PAC
Motivation

Motivation refers to the willingness of a PAC to fulfill its mandate and undertake effective oversight.

This factor is shaped by the Committee’s:

• Leadership
• Partisan Representation
• Political Will
Example: Partisan Representation

International Best Practice

Appoint Members from the Lower House

Recommendation for Small Parliaments

Form a Joint Committee (Bicameral Legislature)
Concluding Remarks
RECOMMENDATION:

“Parliaments should have the necessary independence and resources, including any necessary training and capacity building opportunities, to undertake effective financial scrutiny and oversight.”
WORKSHOP D: Wellbeing Indictors for Small Branches
PEI's Project Well-being:
Wellbeing Indicators for Small Branches

Presentation to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Workshop D: Building Sustainable Economies in Small Branches
August 22, 2022

Dr. Laurie Brinklow
Chair, Institute of Island Studies
Coordinator, Master of Arts in Island Studies
President, International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA)
and's Honorary Consul to Prince Edward Island
PROJECT WELL-BEING
Quality of Life on Prince Edward Island
Understanding Well-Being

Well-being begins with the belief that our cornerstone value is the principle of "shared destiny":

- that our society is often best shaped through collective action
- that there is a limit to how much can be achieved by individuals acting alone
- that the sum of a good society and what it can achieve is greater than the remarkably diverse parts which constitute it
Well-Being domains

Societal progress is often assessed using relatively narrow economic indicators, including the *Gross Domestic/Provincial Product*. Over the past decade complementary measures have emerged that help broaden our understanding and assessment of societal well-being and extend into areas such as:

- Community Vitality
- Health
- Democratic Engagement
- Natural Environment
- Leisure and Culture
- Education and Learning
- Standard of Living
- Overall Personal Well-Being
Project Well-Being

- Four-year project

- Key components during each year
  - Survey
  - Secondary indicator/comparative analysis
  - Focus groups

- Yearly report outlining well-being domains and indicators

- Community engagement
What does the 2021 report present?

About the contents
The findings from the research are organized by the relevant domain of well-being, eight of which are defined by the Canadian Index of Wellbeing with a ninth domain entitled "Islandness" added by the researchers in response to survey and focus group comments.

In addition, the relevant indicators within each domain are further explored. Anonymous quotations from the focus groups included within each domain section to highlight particular themes, survey data findings, and secondary indicators. Data derived from complementary technical reports are discussed where appropriate and relevant.

What happens in 2022-2024?
The Institute of Island Studies will continue to engage with people living on PEI in 2022, 2023, and 2024 to explore well-being and quality of life. We plan to utilize surveys, focus groups and secondary research to further explore the respective domains and indicators.

How can I get in touch with the Institute of Island Studies?
We would love to hear from you about this report and learn more about your ideas on how we can move forward. If you would like to find out more about the well-being project, you can reach us at brinklow@upei.ca or (902)894-2881. A PDF version of this report is available at islandstudies.com.

Message from Laurie Brinklow
CHAIR, INSTITUTE OF ISLAND STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

We know that people living on Prince Edward Island (PEI) share a legacy of coming together during hard times and building a stronger foundation for a vibrant future. As we emerge from the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that same legacy holds the key to our collective recovery and growth.

PEI can measure economic growth using Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but that measurement doesn't capture how well we are doing in our lives. We need other ways to determine it and how our island communities are thriving and how people feel about living and working here.

Over the past decade, complementary indicators have emerged nationally such as the University of Waterloo's Canadian Index of Wellbeing (C IW) that help broaden our understanding and assessment of individual well-being and extend into areas such as community vitality, health, democratic engagement, the natural environment, leisure and culture, education and learning, standard of living, and overall personal well-being.

Well-being begins with the belief that our common welfare is the principle of "ISLAND-NESS" - that our society is often best shaped through collective action; that there is a limit to how much can be achieved by individuals acting alone; that the sum of a good society and what it can achieve is greater than the remarkably diverse parts which constitute it.

We hope that people living on Prince Edward Island will take time to review and discuss this report as this is an opportunity to better understand the current and future well-being of our island and to help foster engaged and vibrant communities.
Health

This domain focuses on the health of a population and aims to measure health status, lifestyle and behaviours, personal well-being, mental and physical health, and health care system services and policies.

There are many factors which impact the health of a population including social determinants, health disparities, system accessibility, policies, and practices. A healthy community has wraparound physical and mental health supports and services, a responsive health care system, and public policies that emphasize wellness and prevention.

In a healthy community, there is an emphasis on the provision of good health care that belongs to and is accessible by everyone. There is a recognition that determinants such as housing, income, education, and access to public spaces impact health; and there is a stated acknowledgment that disparities based upon race, ethnicity, language, income, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and other factors must be addressed.

2021 survey and overall comparison to Canada

There are several indicators of the “health” of the population used in the CIW from which we were able to obtain relevant information for PEI and for Canada as a whole.

They include:
- Life expectancy at birth
- Percentage reporting their overall health as very good or excellent
- Percentage reporting their mental health as very good or excellent
- Percentage who were immunized against influenza
- Percentage with a regular health care provider
- Percentage diagnosed with diabetes
- Percentage reporting physical limitations that affect their activities
- Percentage who are occasional or daily smokers.

A higher percentage of the population reporting the first five indicators and a lower percentage reporting the remaining three signify higher well-being.

So, what do these measures tell us about the well-being of those in PEI, relative to others in Canada, with respect to health?

2021 survey snapshot

The percentage of people who rated the following health indicators as good to excellent:

- Personal physical health: 82%
- Personal mental health: 76%
- Overall quality of physical health care services: 45%
- Overall quality of mental health care services: 22%
- Overall accessibility of the physical health care services: 36%
- Overall accessibility of mental health care services: 19%

Two of the measures show a clear pattern of higher levels of health well-being in PEI:
- Mental health is very good or excellent
- The percentage who reported getting immunized against influenza.

Lower levels of well-being are evident in:
- Reporting an absence of limitations which restrict daily activities
- Being diagnosed with diabetes
- Being occasional or daily smokers (at least since 2016)
- In recent years, fewer people reporting having a regular health care provider.

No consistent PEI-Canada differences are evident in:
- The percentage reporting overall health as very good or excellent
- Life expectancy at birth: any difference shows a very slightly reduced life expectancy in PEI.

This community does not provide opportunities and has no facilities for its members to stay healthy, exercise, etc.

- Survey Participant
**INDICATOR 1  
Personal well-being  
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**

**What you told us:**  
Personal health attributes, physical and mental, are critical to any overall measure of well-being and can be assessed at both the individual and societal level. Factors such as relationships with family and friends, a sense of community, and being connected to services are important components in having an overall feeling of personal well-being.

- When asked about overall physical health, most survey participants rated their health as good to excellent.  
- 82%

- When asked about overall mental health, a majority of survey participants rated their mental health as good to excellent.  
- 79%

---

**How we compare:**  
The majority of the population in PEI and Canada in 2020 say their overall health is "very good" or "excellent."  

- PEI: 61%  
- Canada: 63%

**Struggling with mental and physical health**  
We note that there is an overall trend of fewer people reporting very good or excellent mental health from 2015 to 2020. Further, there is a notable difference between our 2021 survey numbers and the 2020 Statistics Canada data, which reveals a significant drop in people on PEI reporting feeling very good or excellent about their physical and mental health.

For physical health, the PEI percentage from the 2021 survey data was 49% compared to 59% in 2020. For mental health, the PEI percentage from the 2021 survey data was 42% compared to 66% in 2020.

Perhaps the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 resulted in people feeling less confident in their overall physical and mental health levels. Also, the lack of access to medical services was mentioned by many as exacerbating existing mental and physical health conditions.

I feel unable to access basic healthcare here, let alone anything proactive or preventative for my mental health. I am worried that my overall health is getting worse, but I have nowhere to go for help.

Lack of doctors, lack of specialists, and a restrictive list of meds that are covered provincially makes me concerned that despite living in my community, I may need to move away.

---

**INDICATOR 2  
Functional health**

**What you told us:**  
Functional measures of health help determine how well people can carry out the necessary tasks of daily life with few limitations for health reasons.

We asked several questions relating to how much people agreed or disagreed with the following statements about their own health during the past week:

- I was able to perform all my daily living activities (agree to strongly agree)  
- 89%

- Physical pain prevented me from doing what I needed to do (agree to strongly agree)  
- 20%

- I could not get going (agree to strongly agree)  
- 25%

---

**How we compare:**  
The data provides some evidence that more people in PEI than elsewhere in Canada report physical limitations that restrict their daily activities.

- Percentage of the population 12 yrs. and older with physical limitations affecting their activities:
  - 30% PEI
  - 27% Canada

**Managing chronic pain**  
The survey findings suggest that while many people are able to carry out their daily tasks with relative ease, there are a significant number of people on PEI for whom physical pain and the ability to function are daily challenges.

Even in some pain, you get your chores done. It just takes a little longer ... but I wish people were more understanding.

I deal with multiple chronic illnesses and while my conditions are currently fairly well managed, it has taken many years of fighting with the healthcare system to get to that point. And I was only able to do so because I have a favourable situation—lots of time off work, a good salary, a supportive family and friends, the money and flexibility to travel to other places for care. Not everyone is so fortunate.

I try to keep going despite daily physical pain, but some days, I feel it’s hard to get my body moving.
**INDICATOR 3**

### Lifestyle & behaviour

**What you told us:**
Lifestyle and behaviour clearly affect health and are indicators of well-being. The ability to enjoy good dietary practices, engage in regular physical activity, and refrain from smoking are factors that impact health.

We asked several questions relating to how much people agree or disagree with the following statements about their own lifestyle and behaviour during the past week:

- **I regularly ate healthy meals (agree to strongly agree)**
  - PEI: 21%
  - Canada: 19%
- **I got good quality exercise (agree to strongly agree)**
  - PEI: 25%
  - Canada: 16%
- **I had a lot of energy (agree to strongly agree)**
  - PEI: 17%
  - Canada: 15%

#### How we compare:

Another health measure that provides an indication of well-being, or more precisely, a lack of well-being, is the prevalence of smoking in the population. Based on Statistics Canada data from 2018 to 2020, PEI consistently has a larger percentage of people who smoke than the rest of Canada.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>PEI</th>
<th>Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of the population 18-34 yrs who are daily or occasional smokers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey, Table 13-10-x006-32.

**Having enough to eat and being able to exercise**

The survey findings suggest that while many people eat healthily, there is a concerning number—approximately 20%—who are not able to enjoy healthy meals. Further, there is a significant number of people on PEI—40%—who do not get good-quality exercise.

It is hard to walk anywhere. There are no sidewalks. Everyone drives—especially in the winter.

I just can’t afford to eat and pay my rent, so I skip meals each week.

My rural community provides opportunities for me to promote my own wellness (as an able-bodied person) through outdoor walks/beach/ski/etc. but provides zero formal health care services. If you are healthy, you can live here, but, if not, you have to move.

---

**INDICATOR 4**

### Public Health

**What you told us:**
Public health systems are essential for the regulation and promotion of health within a community. Immunization rates are a key metric of a public health system’s ability to prevent disease and vaccinations are top of mind for many people these days.

Our 2021 survey did not ask specific questions relating to vaccination status; however, as of March 2022, PEI did report that most of the population had two doses of a COVID vaccine.

- **Our 2021 survey did not ask specific questions relating to vaccination status:**
  - PEI: 94%

#### How we compare:

There is a clear pattern of a higher percentage of those in PEI than in Canada as a whole reported being vaccinated. In 2022, the last year for which we have data, more of those 12 and older in PEI reported receiving the influenza immunization, compared to the rest of Canada.

- **56%** PEI
- **39%** Canada

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey, Table 13-10-x006-42.

The COVID pandemic also demonstrated that a higher percentage of people in PEI than in Canada as a whole received the COVID vaccination. As of March 2022, 94% of Island residents were fully vaccinated, compared to 94% of Canadians.

**Promoting vaccines helps us all**

I know some people haven’t liked being locked down and dealing with vaccine mandates, but I think we’re in a better place—health-wise—because of vaccinations.

My local pharmacy is always great about asking me if I have the flu shot.
Islandness—a Distinct Domain

There is evidence of an additional domain beyond the eight as defined by the Canadian Index of Wellbeing. We refer to this distinct domain as “Islandness,” which emanates within many of the indicators for the other eight domains and also in the individual and focus group responses related to overall well-being.

This domain is uniquely an island-related phenomenon and is expressed in terms that may be considered as emerging indicators:

- A sense of isolation and connectedness
- Sustainability and resilience
- The environment
- Cohesion, culture, and way of life
- Historical and contemporary identities

Islandness transcends and enriches the CIW indicators. It is a sense of being that amplifies connections to the natural world and to each other because of a heightened experience of physical isolation and water-bounded existence.

Islandness nourishes island communities despite economic hardship and environmental challenges. In many ways, it is the tangible and metaphorical resiliency-lifeline of PEI. Newcomers and visitors are acutely aware of Islandness and desire to be included in its collective embrace rather than feel like outsiders.

As Project Well-Being moves forward, this ninth domain of Islandness is worthy of a more focused analysis to help reveal indicators and dimensions of well-being. For now, we note its presence in the data.

What you told us:

The Islandness domain appears to be a more encompassing concept than the term islander, as the latter may carry exclusionary characteristics—even if unintentional. However, Islandness has relational, material, and subjective components that deepen and broaden what is understood as being an Islander. In effect, Islandness enlightens and enhances the term Islander making it more inclusive.

Islandness has important characteristics reflected in people and place; in particular, it is a way to mitigate and push back against concerns about environmental degradation, fractious societal issues, inequality, social justice, and civic discord.

For many people, there is a deep sense that PEI has something special to offer the rest of the world—characteristics reflected in the red dirt cliffs and rolling green fields, in the creativity and ingenuity exhibited so often by its inhabitants, and community values that can soothe, inspire, heal, and welcome.

I wish this PEI peacefulness for all as I am deeply concerned for the social well-being of fellow Islanders in a world which is becoming more fractious with each passing day. I desire to see new and improved measures of well-being become culturally accepted so that we no longer base value in economics such as GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and instead use measures of well-being as indicators of how well we are respecting human needs as well as the needs of land, air, and water.

I am incredibly concerned for the environmental well-being of my local community and this island as a whole and this impacts my own well-being. Last night when taking in a stunning sunset on the south shore I was struck with the phrase from Tennyson—“’Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.” And I spoke with two of my kids about how it seemed to encapsulate my feelings of grief over living in this strange time of climate change, species extinction, and social upheaval.

Growing economic inequality concerns me, housing access concerns me, and the climate crisis concerns me. We have to work together and listen more—to everyone.

Whenever I get together with relatives here all they want to do is show me the land and the homes they own. They’ve forgotten who they are—Islanders used to know how to welcome people in ways far more gracious than that.

I feel blessed to live on this island; but increasingly distressed by what is happening provincially, nationally, and globally to society and the environment. More effective civic and environmental education is sorely needed at all levels of the education system.

Prince Edward Island is an amazing place to live. I feel very fortunate and grateful to be able to call this place home. Let’s make sure that everyone—all peoples of this planet—feel welcome.

- SURVEY PARTICIPANT
Observations and next steps:

This report provided background material on specific indicators identified as relevant within the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW). The goals of the CIW are specific to that project and focus on national measures of well-being and how they are changing over time. It is also designed to allow for international comparisons on similar measures. Central to the goal of CIW is the recognition that there are important components to well-being that are not captured in the heavily used measure of Gross Domestic Product.

We realize that the CIW indicators have limitations for provincial level analyses. For instance, some data sets are more limited at the provincial level, and PEI has additional "well-being" components which are not covered by the domains and indicators designated by the CIW but should be documented (e.g., Islandness).

Further, we are aware that this current analysis would be enriched by an examination of patterns by age, sex, gender identification, race, ethnicity, nationality, 2S/LGBTQ2A+ perspectives, Indigenous understandings, and, where possible, rural versus urban areas of the province. Our future surveys will aim to include such analysis.

So, what can we conclude from the 2021 Project Well-Being analysis?

We think it is important for everyone on PEI to identify which aspects of well-being are important to them and then determine what they can do to improve the measures within that domain. The key is to identify measures of well-being that resonate and are amenable to policy and practice interventions—by individuals, organizations, communities, and government. Our focus group discussions in 2022 will aim to explore how people can begin this process.

While there is no overarching specific conclusion, it is fair to say that while PEI has many solid well-being attributes and is clearly a good place to live, work, and play, we have work to do to ensure that all people on PEI have opportunities for a full and abundant life. At the moment, that reality is not the case.

Project Well-Being is a call to action for all of us to lean in and engage with each other.
Wellbeing Indicators for Small Branches

65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
Michael Pettersson MLA
ACT Legislative Assembly, Australia
Economic indicators

✓ Lowest unemployment rates
✓ Highest average income levels
✓ Strong educational attainment levels
✓ More population growth
Developing the ACT’s Wellbeing Framework
Domains of the ACT Wellbeing Framework
Access and connectivity
Getting around to places we value and accessing the services we need

Economy
We share in our city's economy

Education and life-long learning
Gaining the skills and education needed at all stages of life

Environment and climate
The environment sustains all life now and into the future
Governance and institutions
Having a say, being heard, and working together for better outcomes

Health
Being healthy and finding the right care

Housing and home
Having a place to call home

Identity and belonging
Being able to express identity, feel a sense of belonging, and participate fully in society
Living standards
Having the financial resources to live life well

Safety
Feeling safe and being safe

Social connection
Being connected with family, friends and community

Time
Having time to live life well
Use of the ACT Wellbeing Framework by the ACT Legislative Assembly: the Open Data Portal

www.data.act.gov.au/dataset/All-Wellbeing-Measures/b5kg-deh8
Use of the ACT Wellbeing Framework by the ACT Legislative Assembly: the Budget

Boosting business and the economy – Strengthening the tertiary education sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2024-25</th>
<th>2025-26</th>
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<td>Net cost of services</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Government will extend its refreshed Study Canberra to focus on partnering with our tertiary education institutions to attract and retain more domestic and international students and help the recovery of this sector.

This initiative contributes to the wellbeing domain of Economy and Education and the long term learning.

Climate action – Building climate adaptation and resilience for the ACT Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2024-25</th>
<th>2025-26</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net cost of services</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use of the ACT Wellbeing Framework by the ACT Legislative Assembly: Wellbeing Impact Assessments (WIAs)

CABINET

WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

All mandatory explanatory text prior to finalisation of the WIAs. Please refer to the Wellbeing Impact Assessment Drafting guide for data to complete a WIA.

Proposal Name: Use of the ACT Wellbeing Framework by the ACT Legislative Assembly: Wellbeing Impact Assessments (WIAs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Name</th>
<th>Choose an item</th>
<th>Wellbeing Impact 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose of proposal</strong>:</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it a new measure, or the reason you are making the proposal and developing the project/program/typology (i.e. the rationale for making the proposal is based on a lack of a current strategy)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Impact description | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| **Strategic and operational impacts** | |
| Are there any impacts on existing policy, programs, or strategies that need to be considered? | |
| Are there any impacts on the existing legislative framework? | |
| Are there any impacts on existing regulations, standards, or guidelines? | |

**Who is affected?**
- Identify who/what (e.g. community, sector, public) will be affected by the proposal, and the extent of the impact.

**What is the timeframe for the impact to be realised?**
- Is the impact immediate or will it occur over time?
- Is the impact quantifiable or qualitative?
- Is the impact positive, negative, or mixed?

**Evidence base and data**
- What is the evidence base and other evidence that helps to substantiate the proposed impact?
- Are there any data or information that should be captured to support the proposal?

**Accountability and evaluation – how will we know this proposal has been successful?**
- Identify how the proposal would be evaluated and the data and information that would be used to determine its success.

**Key relationships**
- Outline the relationships between the proposal and other initiatives, programs, or themes that are related to the proposal.
- Identify any partnerships or collaborations that are required to implement the proposal.

**Use of the ACT Wellbeing Framework**
- By the ACT Legislative Assembly: Wellbeing Impact Assessments (WIAs)

**WIA Template version 1.4**
Use of the **ACT Wellbeing Framework** by the ACT Legislative Assembly: **Committees**
The future of the
ACT Wellbeing Framework
Wellbeing Indicators for Small Branches

65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
Michael Pettersson MLA
ACT Legislative Assembly, Australia
Measuring what Matters
A Profile of Wellbeing in the Yukon
Why measure wellbeing?

• Understand and reduce disparities (gaps) / improve quality of life
  • How are we doing? How can we do better?
  • Insightful opportunities assessment

• Tool for evidence-based/informed decision making
  • Are we (government) making a difference in the lives of Yukoners? How will we know?

• Growing trend in government and many sectors to plan and budget for wellbeing outcomes
  • Accountability for results
Defining wellbeing

The presence of the highest possible quality of life in its full breadth of expression focused on but not necessarily exclusive to: good living standards, robust health, a sustainable environment, vital communities, an educated populace, balanced time use, high levels of democratic participation, and access to and participation in leisure and culture.

Source: Canadian Index of Wellbeing conceptual framework
Survey and final report

Released March, 2022

Conducted summer, 2020
Next survey: 2023 (estimated)
How Yukon measured wellbeing

• **Partnerships and engagement**
  • Public engagement and partner consultation with First Nations governments and NGOs, among others

• **Started with the CIW national model**
  • Focus on available data from national sources, including 29 of the 64 indicators comprising the CIW national model

• **Then turned to new data collection to fill gaps**
  • To populate or augment the other 35 “missing” indicators, we turned to the Yukon Community Wellbeing Survey and new population-level data collection
Community Wellbeing Survey

- Fielded in summer, 2020
- Nearly 5,000 responses
- Highest ever for a Yukon survey
- Next survey to come in 2023
# How will the data be used?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government departments</th>
<th>Yukon Chief Medical Officer</th>
<th>Yukon First Nations</th>
<th>Yukon NGOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Review wellbeing survey and identify questions/measures that align with each dept’s core business</td>
<td>- Epidemiologists using data to support targeted interventions and future response efforts</td>
<td>- Community level data collection to support socio-economic baselining and gap closing</td>
<td>- Reviewed questionnaire and provided feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Embed relevant CIW indicators into strategic planning framework</td>
<td>- Include wellbeing data in next release of Health Status Report</td>
<td>- Alignment with Federal Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy and wellbeing objectives</td>
<td>- Actively promoted survey within community networks to support data collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Using findings to support additional research aligned with mission and mandate and grant seeking activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alignment with Government of Canada Quality of Life strategy and the SDGs

Toward a **Quality of Life Strategy for Canada**

April 19, 2021

Department of Finance Canada
Community Wellbeing Survey key findings

Younger Yukoners feel more socially isolated

Overall 25.2% of Yukoners feel more socially isolated

Source: Yukon Community Wellbeing Survey (2020)
Community Wellbeing Survey key findings

### Percentage of people rating mental health services as very good or excellent based on locale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whitehorse</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of Territory</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percentage of people rating health care services as very good or excellent based on income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Income</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Income</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Wellbeing Survey key findings

Yukoners feel:

- Engaged in their communities
- Connected and proud of where they live
- They can depend on their neighbours and community members to help in times of need
- They have confidence in their institutions, such as police and health services
- They are informed about what governments are doing and empowered to affect change
Thank you

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RECOMMENDATION:

“Through their legislative, oversight and representative functions, parliamentarians from small jurisdictions should use well-being indicators to guide legislative scrutiny in order to further national growth.”
SMALL BRANCHES BUSINESS MEETING