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## Survey will track attitude changes on key issues

LANGLEY ADVANCE  
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Surrey, TransLink, North Vancouver and some other partners are asking residents of the Lower Mainland about issues of concern to them.

The project is called the Urban Futures Survey and anyone within Metro Vancouver can go online and answer the questions.

While there has been decent participation from western communities, the organizers are trying to encourage more people from the eastern side of Metro Vancouver to participate so there are more opinions included.

This is survey number three. The first one was done in 1973. There was a follow up in 1990.

The survey is being conducted with the sponsorship of Lambda Alpha International, Vancouver Chapter, and the support of the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, the City of Vancouver, the City of Surrey, the City of North Vancouver, Translink, and Vancity Credit Union.

The previous surveys involved sit-down and telephone interviews but this time will be delivered online by PlaceSpeak, which ties respondents to their household location.

"The improvement in consultation and citizen empowerment offered by PlaceSpeak is very significant," said former Vancouver mayor and BC premier Mike Harcourt, part of the project.

The Urban Futures Opinion Survey 2012 is now available at [www.urbanfuturesurvey.com](http://www.urbanfuturesurvey.com).

Results of 1990 survey are also available online.

Previous surveys helped inform the creation of the Livable Region Plan and the Choosing Our Future program.

The 2012 survey will update and enhance the information available about public attitudes and experiences of the population over three points in time.

This information will be available to planners and policy makers at all levels.

The 1990 survey found:

- . the issue of housing affordability was ranked 10th among the community and regional issues, with 80 per cent of respondents rating it as either very important or critical. Those expressing the most concern were residents of Burnaby North, households in multi-family housing and those aged 65 and over;
- . providing assistance to homeless people ranked 14th overall, with women and people living in Langley rating it significantly more important;
- . more than 65 per cent regarded housing densities as being very or critically important, and roughly the same proportion agreed

that future housing should be built at higher densities on the site of current housing rather than on existing open land; and . seventy-five per cent of respondents agreed that a diversity of lifestyles should be encouraged. In response to the statement "attempting to mix lifestyles in any one part of the city only leads to friction," 63 per cent disagreed.

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