



**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AGENDA

October 22, 2014 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.
School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

Introductions

1. Community Resource Centre's [Progress Plan... In Progress](#) – A. Titcomb (*presentation*)
2. Careers – P. Luporini (*presentation*)
3. Grad Survey (*report*)
4. Program Coordinator Role – D. Barnum

COMMUNITY PLAN...IN PROGRESS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a summary of the *Community Plan... in Progress* which is a working document for the whole community to address priority issues that affect the economic well-being of women along the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia.

A final version of The Progress Plan will be released in March 2015, which will include lessons learned by the action groups.

View or download the full
Community Plan... in Progress at:
www.progressplan.ca

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Planning began in June 2012 and included the following methods:

- Interviews with key community members
- Community conversations with local women and social service providers
- On-line and paper surveys
- Guidance from an advisory group of community leaders
- Participation in other planning groups
- Action brainstorming at a public workshop



What are the Key Issues?

Sunshine Coast women report a need for improvement in four interconnected priority areas that affect economic well-being.



BELONGING

within formal and informal community networks is an overarching theme that affects many areas of life and helps women meet basic needs.

Informal Support

Friends and family help women meet basic needs and earn income. Newcomers and others have difficulty tapping into established networks.

Formal Support

Ensure on-going funding for free drop in programs that provide support, in multiple locations like Bellies and Babies and StrongStart.

Transportation

Lack of reliable, affordable and accessible options contributes to isolation especially in fall and winter.

Care

Unpaid care- giving, household chores plus paid work leaves little time to connect.

Inter-generational Support

Issues differ with the various ages and stages of life. Women want to link age groups to better meet their needs.



I am working two part time jobs in order to pay my bills. I do not earn enough to save anything for the future. As I age it makes me feel concerned about how many years more I will need to work in order to just survive.



– Female Resident, District of Sechelt



INCOME

earnings that pay at least a “living wage” and government assistance rates that actually meet basic needs.

Belonging

Spouses and extended family help create financial security. Single or otherwise isolated women are at greater risk of poverty.

Employment

Low wages do not match the high cost of living here. The available jobs do not use the education or skills women have or provide the flexibility needed in the work schedules. There is a lack of paid hours and full time work so there is often a need to work multiple part time jobs.

Self-Employment

This provides opportunities and flexibility but can be isolating and the income is unpredictable with no benefits, disability insurance or pensions. Support from a spouse is often needed for stable income and/or care for dependents.

Disability and Income Assistance – Rates are too low to meet basic needs such as housing and food.

Care – Lack of affordable care for children and dependent adults is a barrier to income earning.



CARE

for the children and adults who depend on women.

Income – Earning capacity is affected by unpaid care-giving responsibilities.

Care for Children

There is a lack of available and affordable spaces. Care hours are not flexible enough for women who need to work in the evening, on weekends and in shifts.

Care for Self

There is a lack of family doctors and concern about the availability and affordability of elder care in the future. Women lack informal support if new to Coast or isolated.

Care for Adults

Informal networks help but formal support is needed too. Health care does not fully meet needs and private care is unaffordable for many. More assisted living housing is needed.

Belonging

All care is better if women are well connected. It can be hard to ask for help. Care-giving can take a toll on family and friends.

Transportation

Care is best if near home, transit, schools or workplaces. Dropping off at daycare and then getting to work is hard without a car.



TRANSPORTATION

options that help Sunshine Coast women earn income and access services and support.

Cars

Cars are convenient but expensive and unsustainable. Women want to reduce reliance on cars and have more options at a lower cost.

Public Transit

There is infrequent or no service in some areas. It is hard to get to the bus stop, and there is a need for better access for people with disabilities and mothers with kids.

Ferries – The high cost limits options for business women, off Coast employment and adds to isolation.

Safety – There are safety concerns on or near the highway.

Walk or Bike

Walking and biking provide health benefits and options for families- if safe. Women want to walk and bike more often.

Income – More frequent transit and other options would help women drop off kids and get to work on time.

What Would Make a Difference?

Our community has identified the following strategies, services and policy changes that could improve economic well-being on the Sunshine Coast.

For a full list of ideas see “Action Brainstorming”, Appendix # 5. in the “Community Plan... in Progress” available at www.progressplan.ca

Creating change requires a whole community response.

Belonging

» Boost economic well-being by reducing isolation so women are better able to earn income, access care/support and travel along the Sunshine Coast.



Information Hub

- Develop a shared, online community database and social media tool.

Aunties Available

- Foster inter-generational connections to informally support women with families.

Community Mentors

- Connect newcomers with a person who has lived on the Coast for a long time.

Food Gatherings

- Create opportunities for local people to meet each other in home communities and enjoy a meal together regularly.

Public Education and Policy

- Isolation: Raise awareness about how isolated women are at risk of falling into poverty and the importance of social inclusion to economic well-being.
- Housing: Encourage governments to commit stable funding and policy support for affordable, family- friendly and assisted living housing in transit accessible locations.

Income

» Foster connections that help women access jobs, business opportunities and assistance.



Employment and Business Mentors

- Link women with mentors experienced in industries that are growing or jobs that pay living wages.

Financial Navigation and Planning

- Provide self employed women with access to shared services, group benefits and pensions.
- Support women when navigating government disability and income assistance.
- Provide impartial investment advice.

Public Education and Policy

- Cost of Living and Income: Raise awareness about the cost of living, the Sunshine Coast living wage and current disability and income assistance rates.
- Female Friendly Workplaces: Encourage greater flexibility in workplaces by promoting understanding about women's combined roles as workers and unpaid caregivers for family.

Care

» Strengthen support systems and formal care services to relieve pressure on women - who provide unpaid care for family members.



Formal Childcare

- Expand the network of registered care providers to create additional, high quality child care spaces and more flexible options including care at non-standard times.

Formal Adult Care

- Maximize formal support programs for people with disabilities and elders. Encourage public health care, voluntary organizations, private care agencies and others to collaboratively fill gaps and meet needs.

Link Care and Transportation

- Ensure that accessible transportation is a priority consideration in care plans and approaches.

Public Education and Policy

- Affordable Child Care: Raise awareness about local needs, the economic benefits of universal child care and the Quebec example. Encourage collaboration and support for \$10/day child care in BC.
- Affordable Home Care: Raise awareness about the need for affordable adult care and collaborate with others who are promoting universal home care via the health care system.
- Housing: Encourage new housing developments that include belonging needs, care assistance and public transportation considerations.

Transportation

» Improve existing services and create new options that work together to create a fully functional system.



Improvements Needed

- Safer biking and walking routes.
- More frequent public transit, additional routes, improved accessibility and safer pull-outs.
- Lower cost ferries.

New Options

- Coast wide ride sharing.
- Cooperative car sharing.
- Bike and electric bike sharing.
- Accessible driving services for elders, people with disabilities and families with children.
- Area A (Pender Harbour) community van.

Public Education and Policy

- Multi-modal: Raise awareness about the importance of various modes of transport working together.
- Accessibility: Share women's feedback about the need for improved bus and Handy Dart services and lower cost ferries.
- Values: Promote safety, affordability and sustainability as core values in transportation design.

First Steps

Improving the economic well-being of women requires a whole community response.

Starting in May 2013 Sunshine Coast women, project staff and others will begin working together on selected strategies that will make a difference. Local organizations, businesses and governments at various levels will be encouraged to improve services and create new opportunities for women as a part of their on-going work.



“ Fellow Sunshine Coast residents: we need to step off the mill of busy, and take a take a closer look at our community and neighbours. Someone needs your help- a favour, a ride and a break. ”

– Candace Campo, Shíshálh Nation

Action Groups

Project staff will start up the following action groups to promote awareness and work toward solutions. Each group will differ depending on the needs and available resources. Specific goals will be developed collaboratively with group participants.

Action Group

Focus



- » **Build our Community Capacity to Support Each Other:** Local women expressed a need for greater support in daily life. Other women, expressed a willingness to provide support directly. Currently it is difficult for the women who require support to find those who are willing to help them. In order to overcome this barrier, project funding will be used to start up and coordinate the following.
 - **Information Hub:** A shared online community database and social media tool to provide remote access to information, services, opportunities, resource people and support.
 - **Volunteer Support Network:** Introductory events for women to meet potential support people. Women may also connect directly online via the Information Hub.



- » **Living Wages:** Raise awareness about the real cost of living on the Sunshine Coast and encourage local employers to pay living wages.



- » **Affordability:** Raise awareness about the community need for quality childcare and its important role within our local economy.
- » **Availability:** Explore ways to expand registered child care to create more spaces, more flexible options and/or care at non-standard times such as in the evenings, on weekends and for shift workers.



- » **Home Support & Transportation:** Raise awareness about the need for more affordable adult care and accessible transportation to relieve pressure on families and boost the productivity of working women.
- » **Planning Together:** Foster collaboration between public health care, voluntary organizations, care agencies, and other businesses to address gaps and meet needs.



- » **Improvements and New Options:** Raise awareness about the need for expanded services, more options and the importance of the various modes of transport working together.
- » **Leadership:** Encourage new and improved transportation as an economic development strategy.

Get Involved

Creating change requires a whole community response and your help is needed.

To get connected and to find out more please see:

www.progressplan.ca

or call 604.885.4088 for information

“Like” us on facebook



Find us on Twitter



Christabelle Kux- Kardos

Michelle Morton

Betty Baxter

info@progressplan.ca

michelle@progressplan.ca

betty@progressplan.ca

604.885.4088

604.989.5097

604.885.8312

The Progress Plan for women's economic well-being along the Sunshine Coast, is a three year planning process, managed in partnership by the Community Resource Centre and Sunshine Coast Community Services Society, with funding from the Status of Women Canada.



COMMUNITY
RESOURCE
CENTRE



SUNSHINE COAST
Community Services
S O C I E T Y

Partners on the Advisory Group

- The Community Resource Centre
- Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
- Sunshine Coast Community Futures
- Sunshine Coast Credit Union
- School District No. 46
- Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD)
- Capilano University
- Local business and labour advisors



**Status of Women
Canada**

**Condition féminine
Canada**



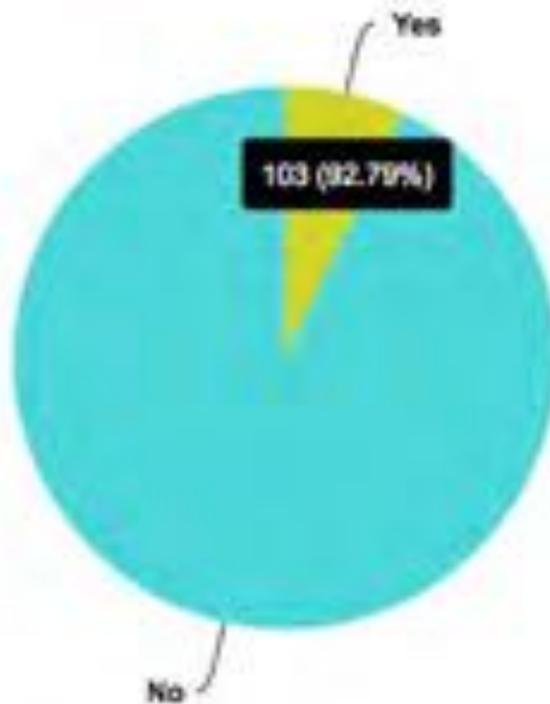
School District No. 46
(Sunshine Coast)

**2014 Survey of
Former Graduates
(Grads from 2004 to 2013)**

– A community engaged in lifelong learning and educational excellence –

Are you still attending high school?

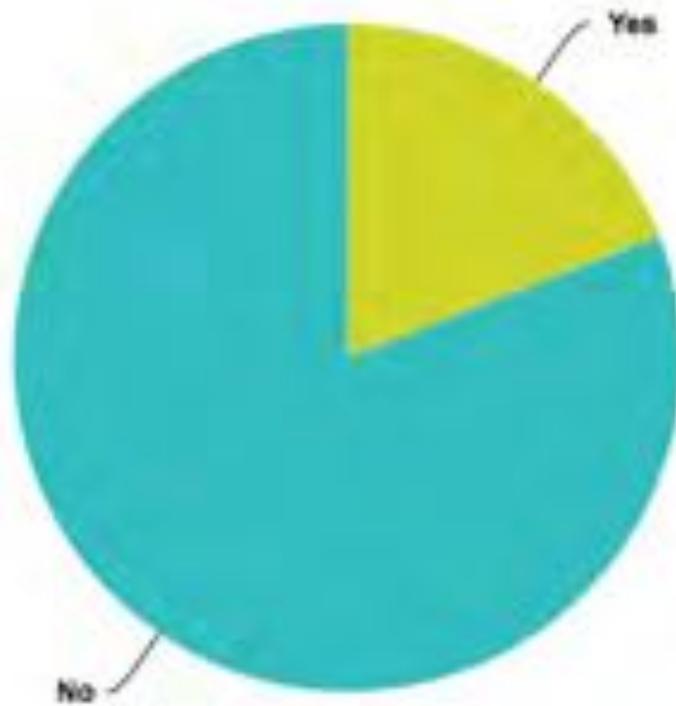
Answered: 111 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	7.21%	8
No	92.79%	103
Total		111

Did you graduate from or cease to attend a high school in the Sunshine Coast School District this year (i.e.: June 2014)?

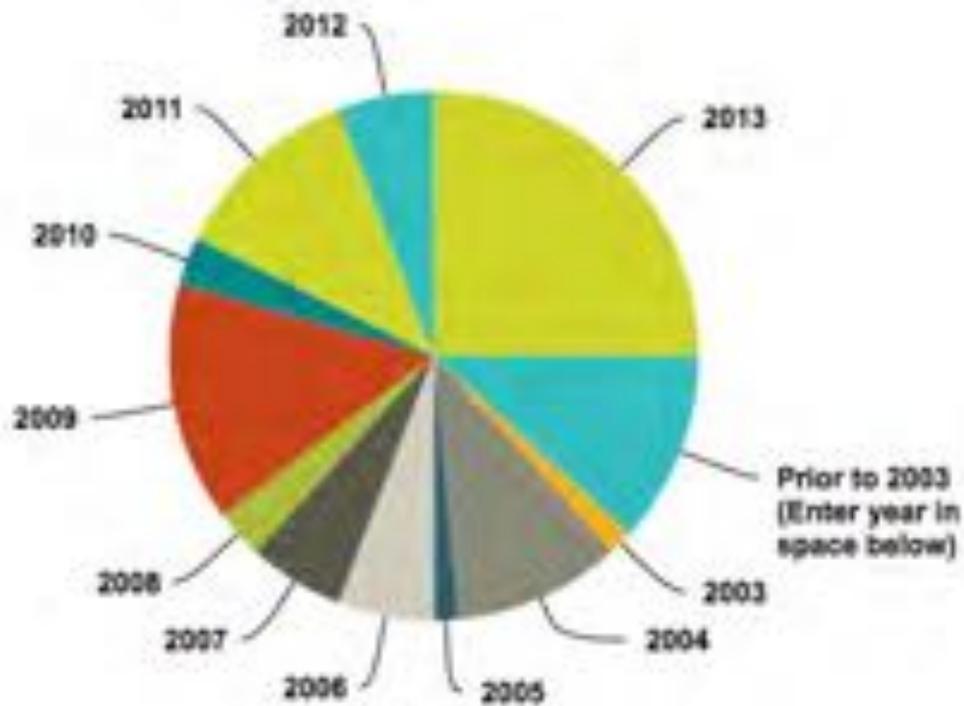
Answered: 89 - Skipped: 22



Answer Choices	Response	Count
Yes	19.10%	17
No	83.90%	72
Total		89

In what year did you graduate high school?

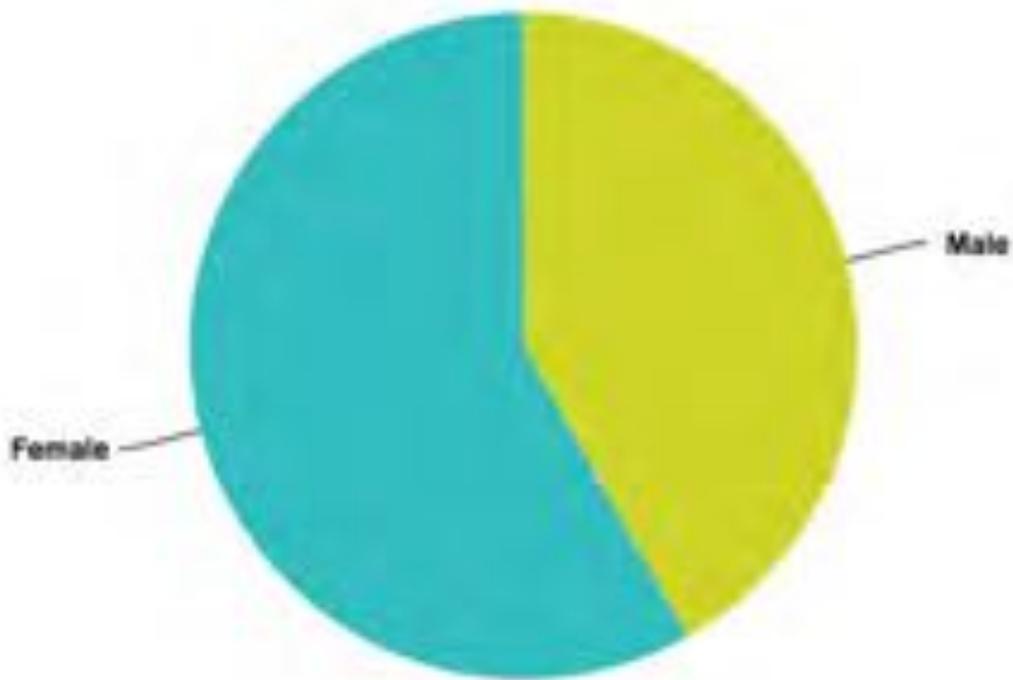
Answered: 88 Skipped: 43



Answer Choices	Responses
2013	25.00% 17
Prior to 2003 (Enter year in space below)	11.76% 8
2003	1.47% 1
2004	18.29% 7
2005	1.47% 1
2006	5.88% 4
2007	5.88% 4
2008	2.94% 2
2009	14.71% 10
2010	2.94% 2
2011	11.76% 8
2012	5.88% 4
Total	88

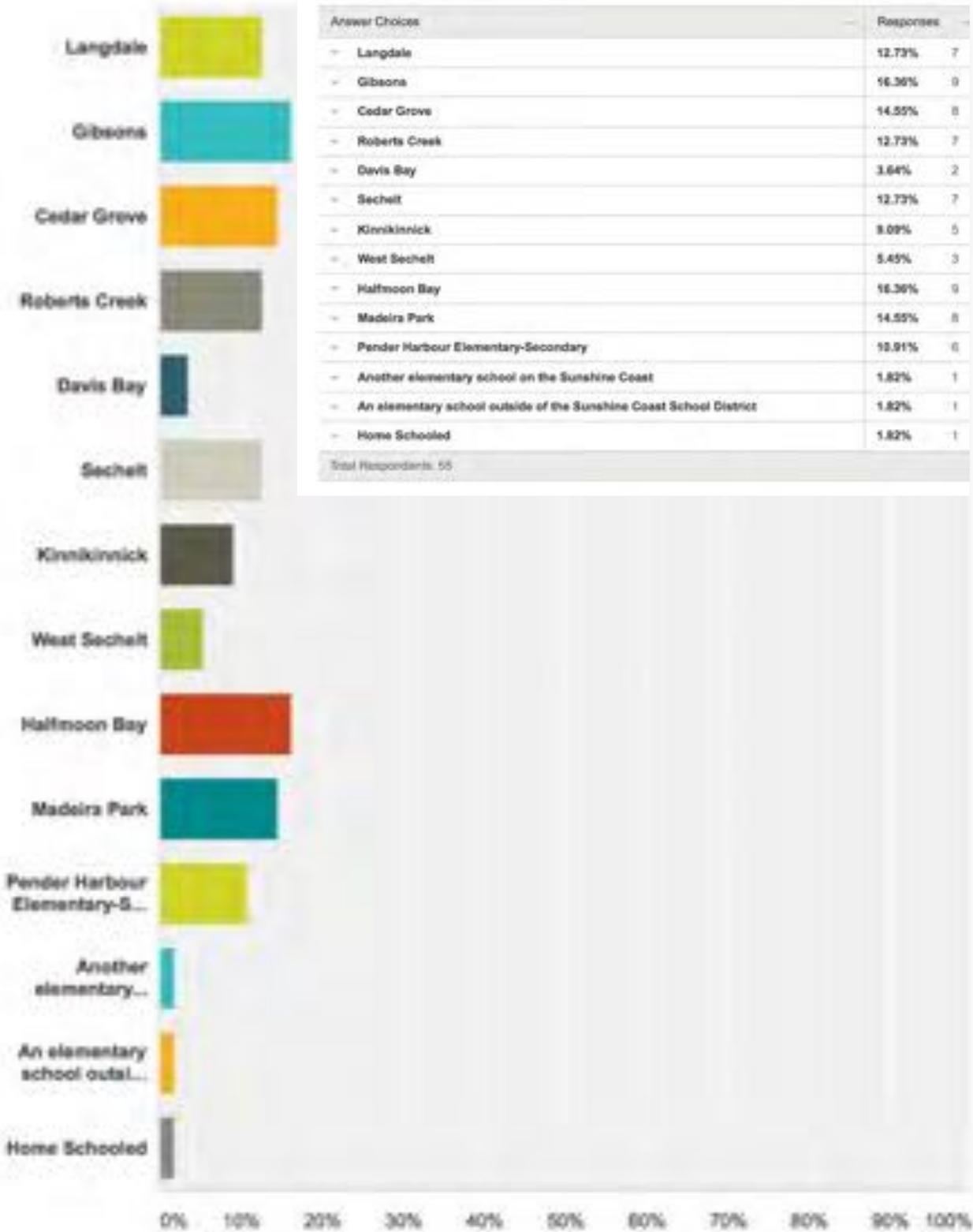
Are you a male or a female?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 55



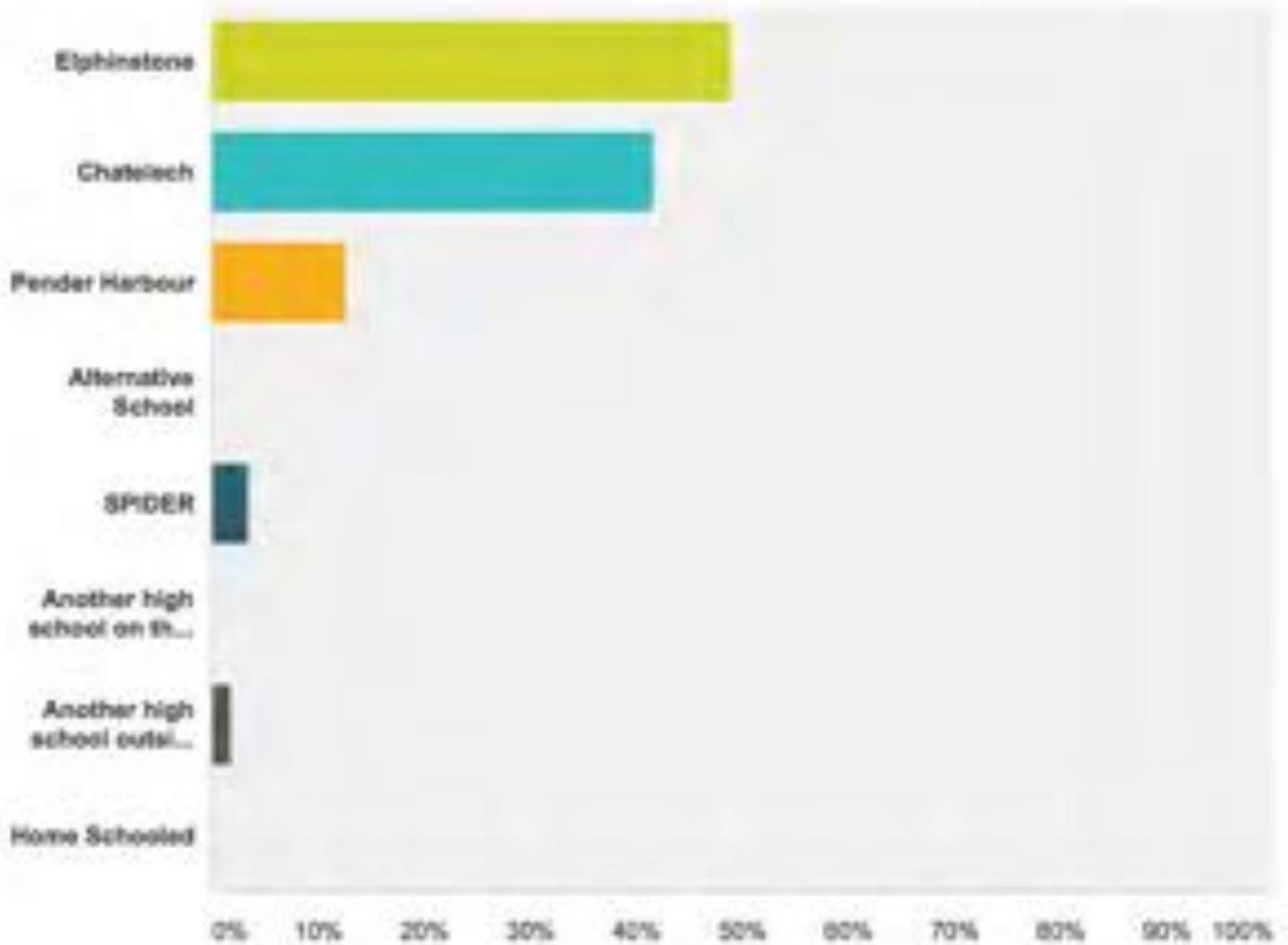
Answer Choices	Responses	
- Male	41.82%	23
- Female	58.18%	32
- No response	0.00%	0
Total		55

Which elementary school(s) did you attend? Chose all that apply.



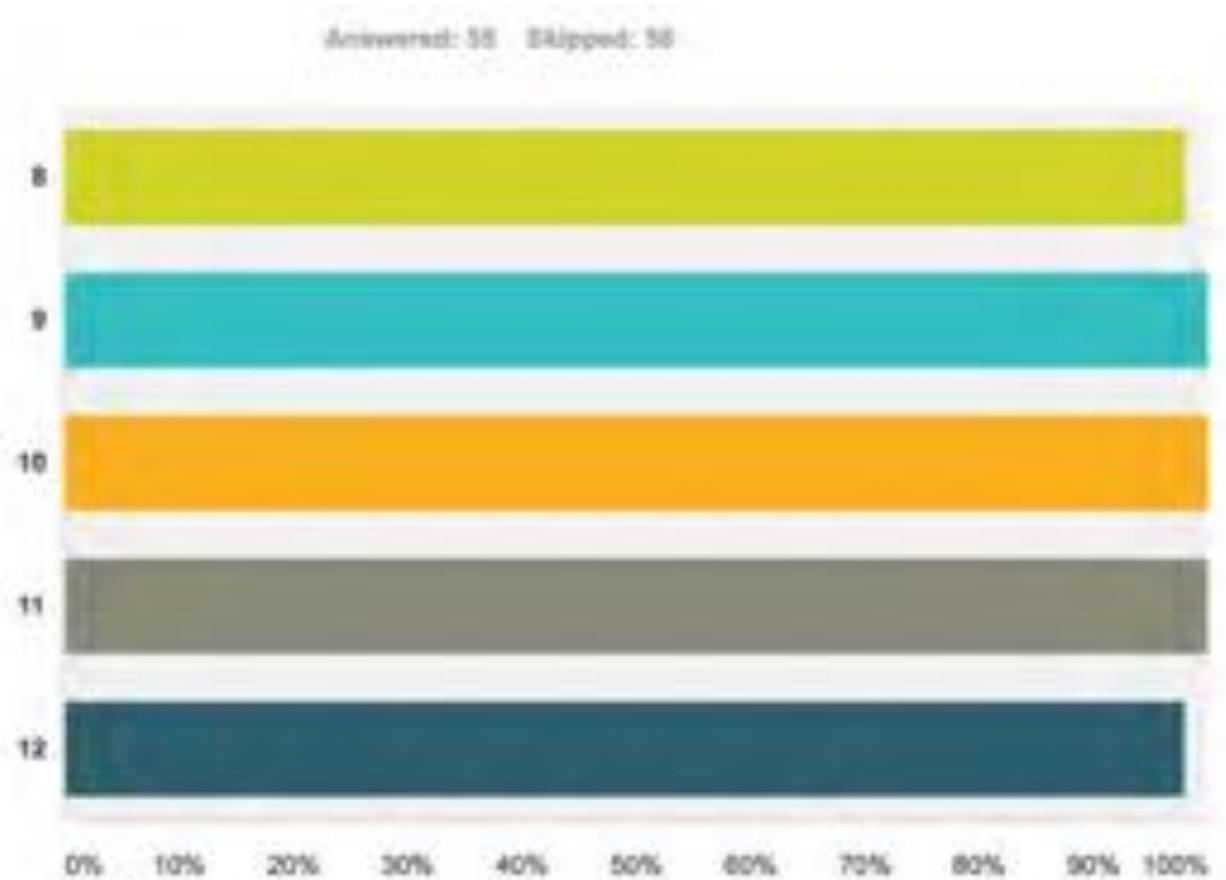
Which secondary school(s) did you attend? Chose all that apply.

Answers: 55 Skipped: 06



Answer Choices	Responses
Elphinstone	49.09% 27
Chatelech	41.82% 23
Fender Harbour	12.73% 7
Alternative School	0.00% 0
SPIDER	3.64% 2
Another high school on the Sunshine Coast	0.00% 0
Another high school outside of the Sunshine Coast School District	1.82% 1
Home Schooled	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 55	

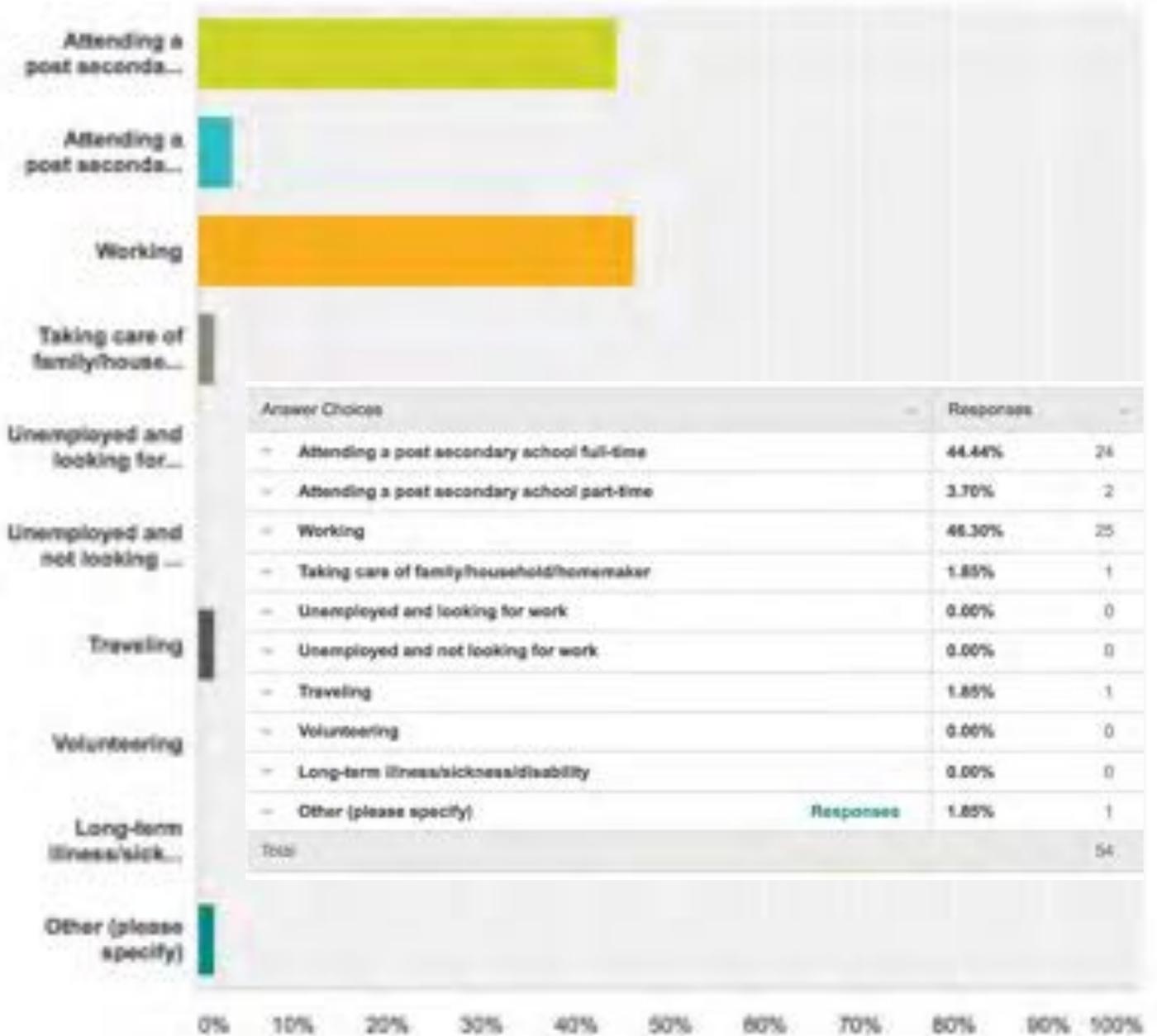
Which secondary grades have you attended while in Sunshine Coast School district high schools? Chose all that apply.



Answer Choices	Responses	
8	98.18%	54
9	100.00%	55
10	100.00%	55
11	100.00%	55
12	98.18%	54
Total Respondents: 55		

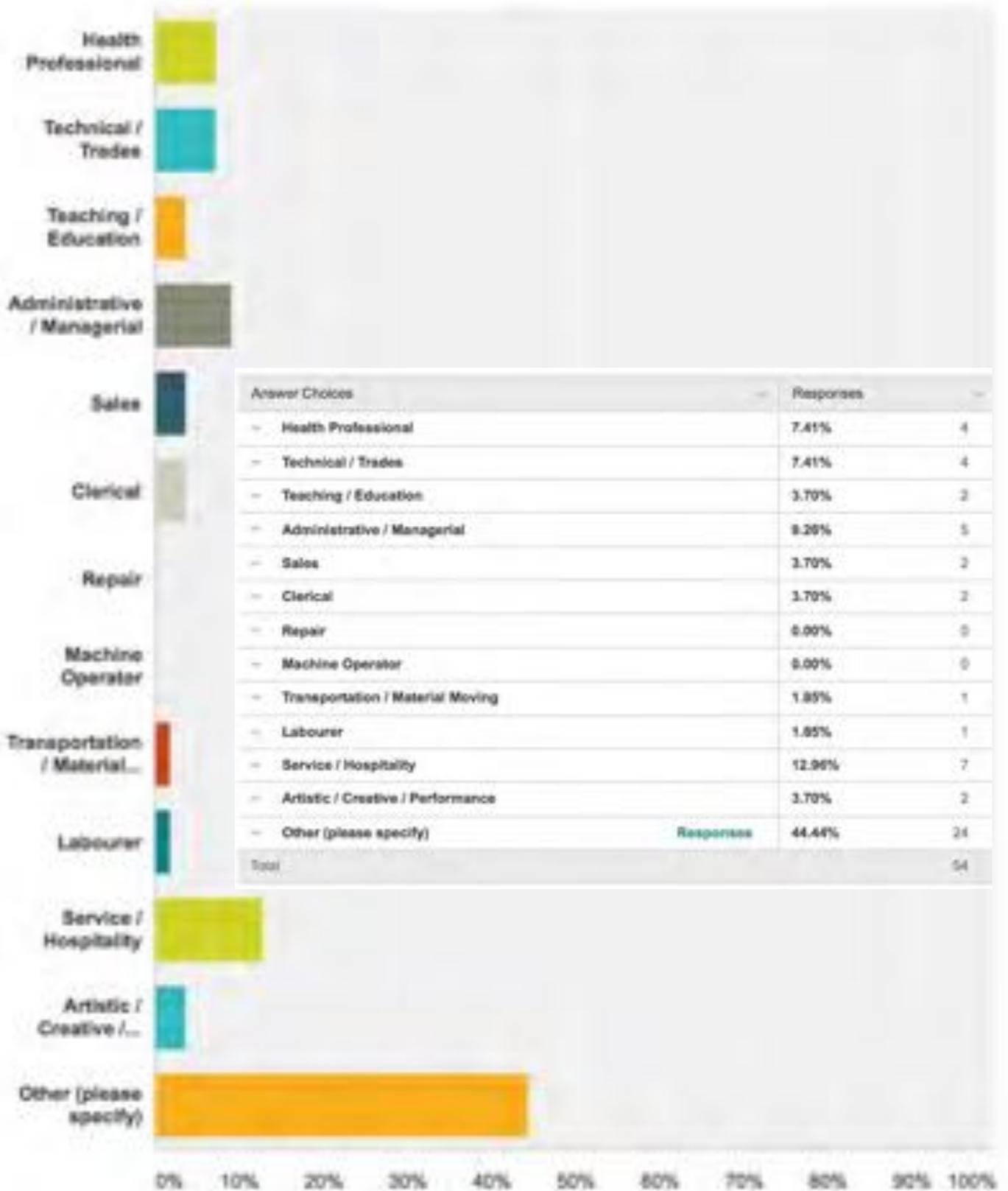
During the past year, which of these choices best describes your main activity?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 37



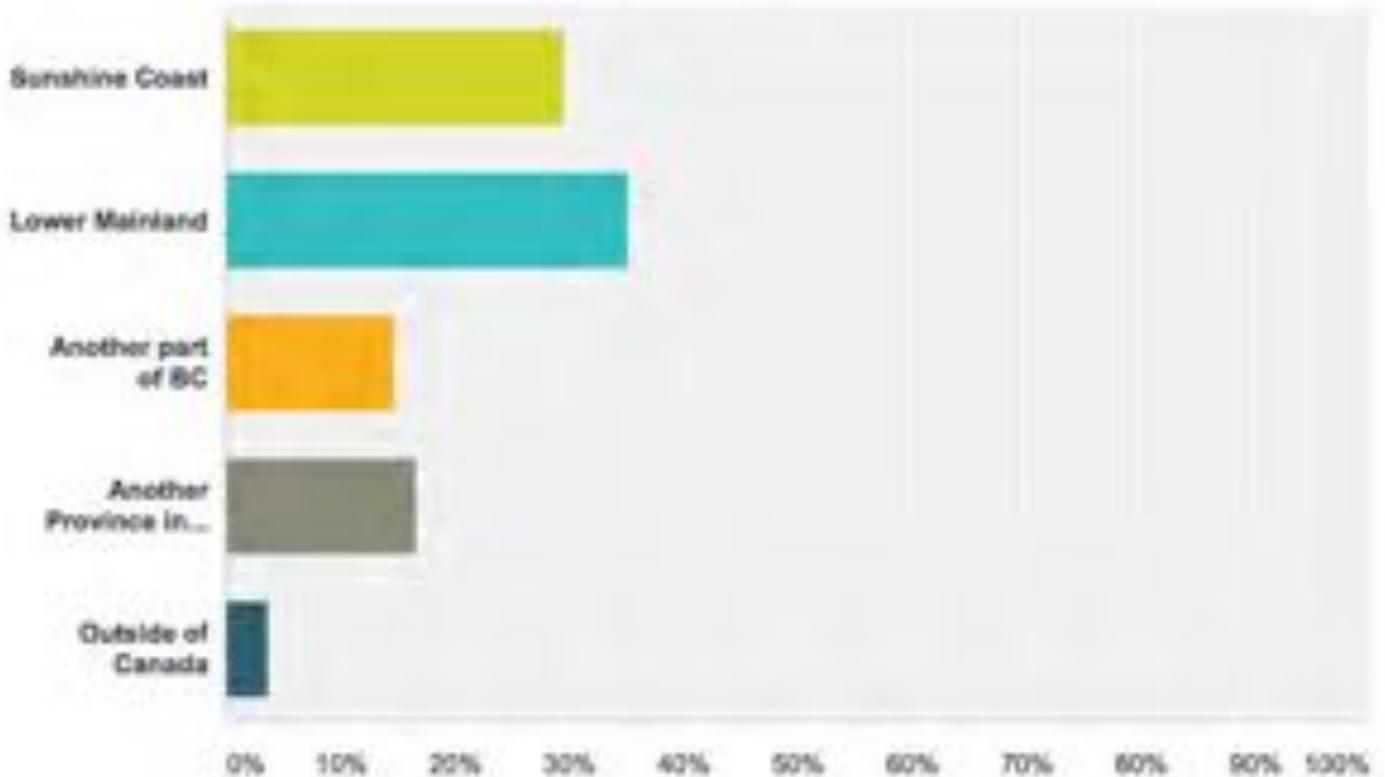
If you chose “Working” please choose the category which most closely describes the work you have been doing.

Answered: 54 Skipped: 37



Where was your main residence during the past year? Please choose only one option.

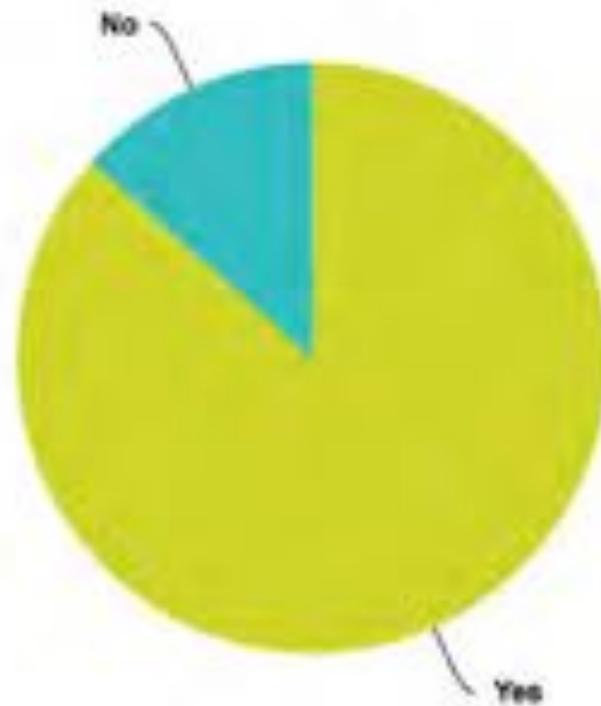
Answered: 54 Skipped: 57



Answer Choices	Responses
Sunshine Coast	29.63% 15
Lower Mainland	35.19% 19
Another part of BC	14.81% 8
Another Province in Canada	16.67% 9
Outside of Canada	3.70% 2
Total	54

Since high school graduation, have you, at any time, taken a post-secondary education training course or program?

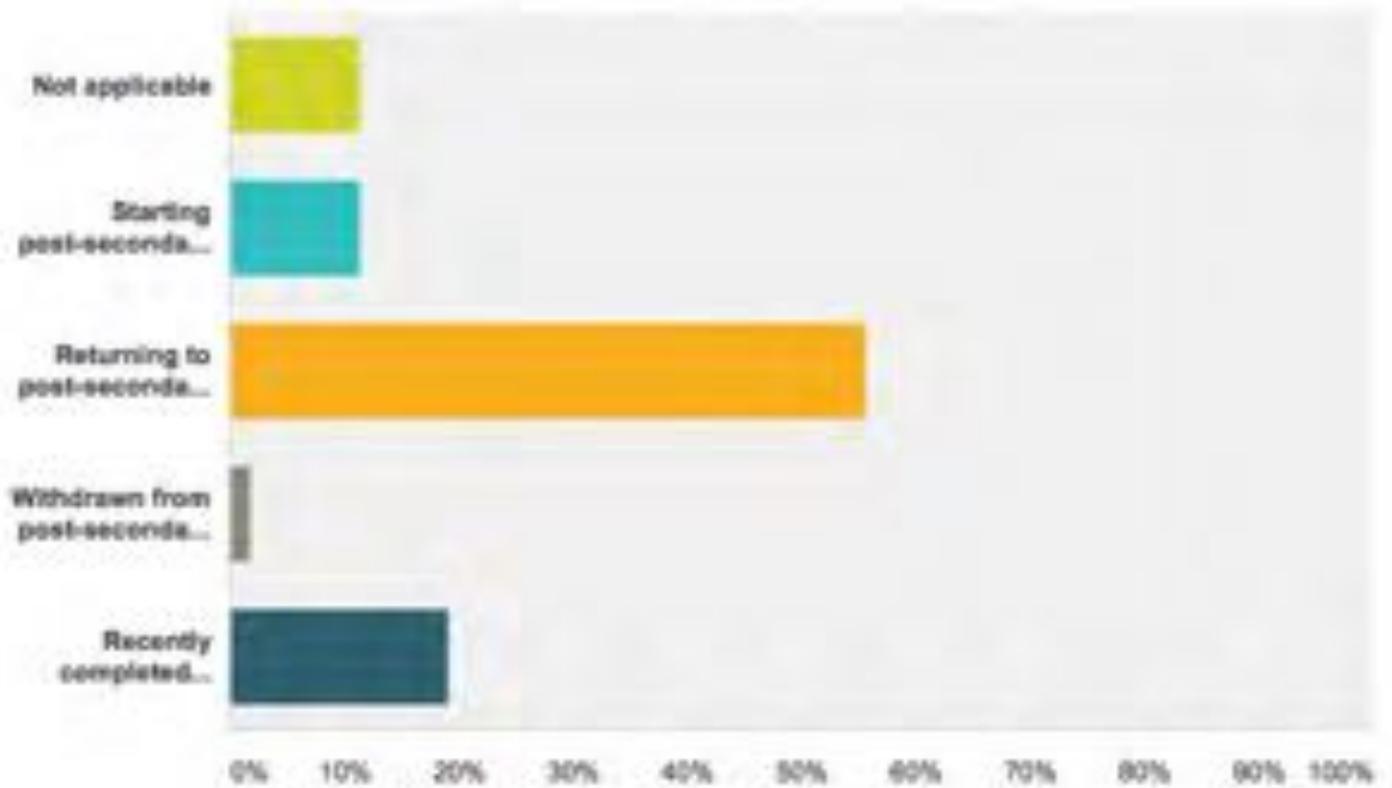
Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	86.54%	45
No	13.46%	7
Total		52

Which of the following best describes your current post secondary plans/status?

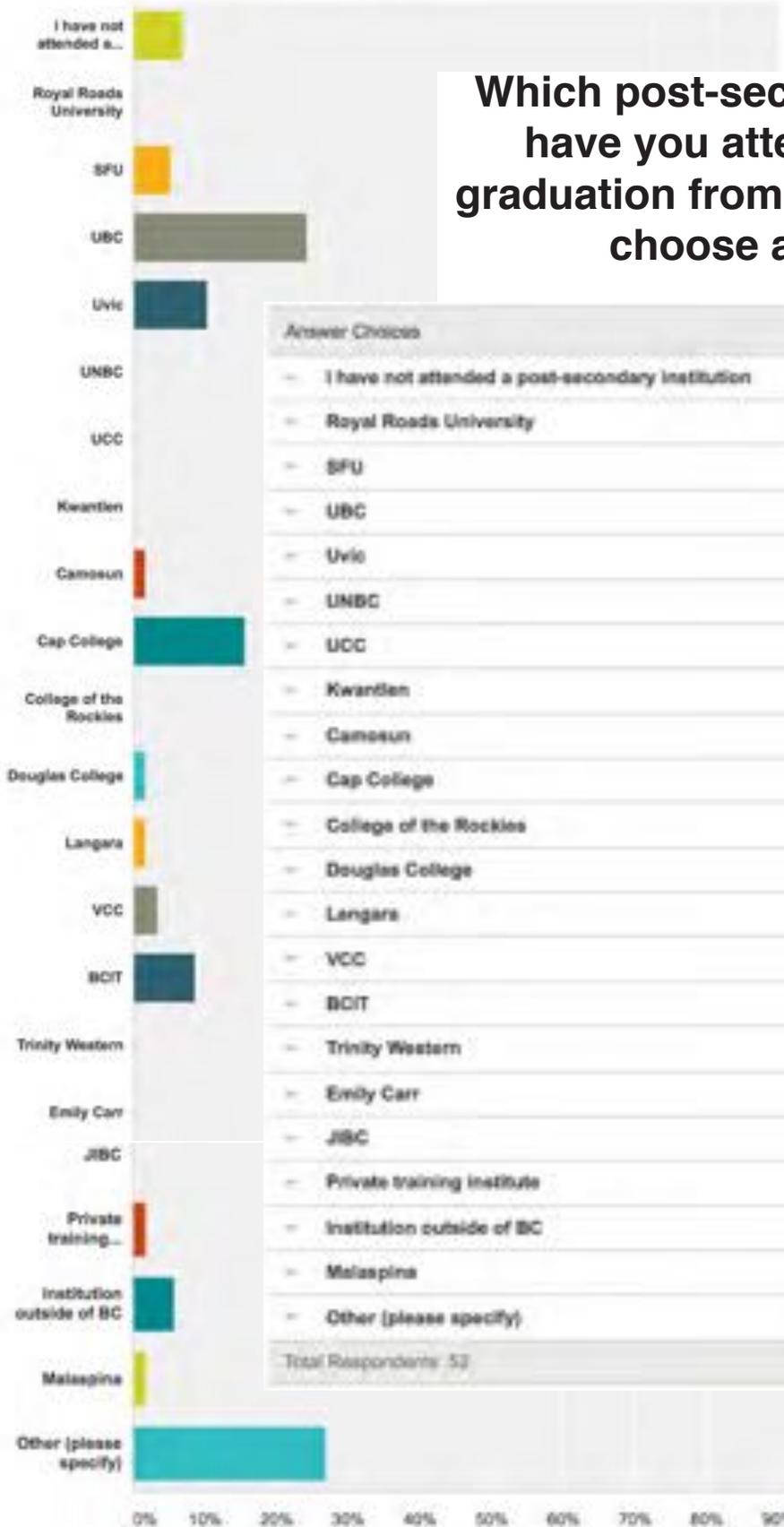
Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Not applicable	11.54% 6
Starting post-secondary studies in the fall	11.54% 6
Returning to post-secondary studies either this summer, or in the fall	55.77% 29
Withdrawn from post-secondary studies	1.92% 1
Recently completed post-secondary studies	19.23% 10
Total	52

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0

Which post-secondary institutions have you attended since your graduation from high school. Please choose all that apply.

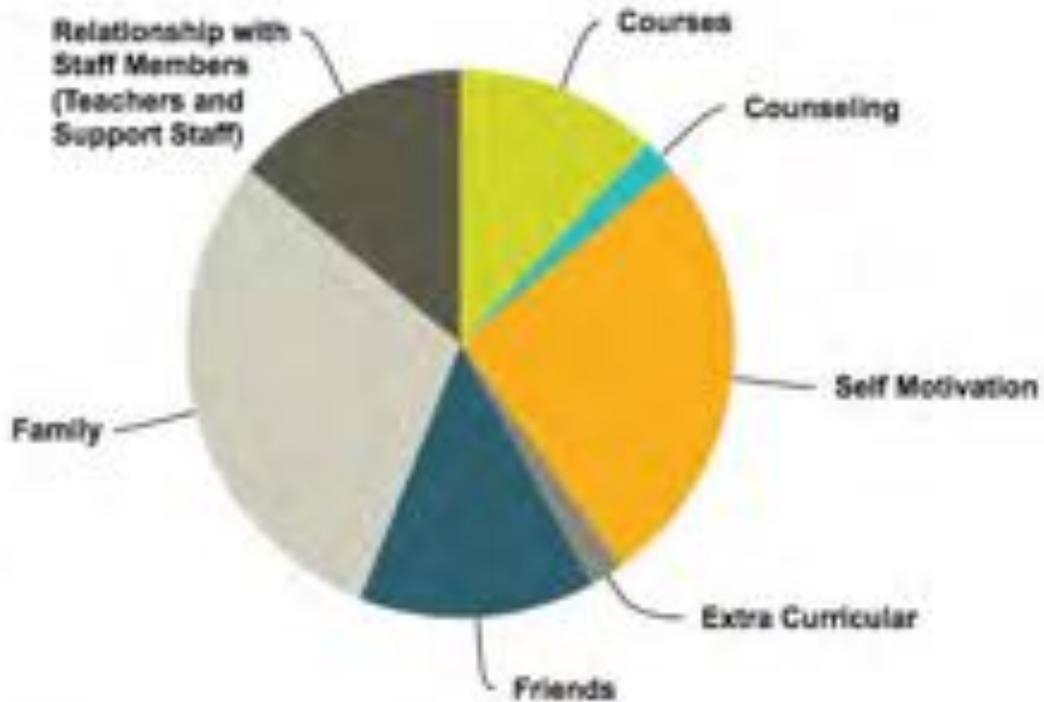


Answer Choice	Responses
<input type="checkbox"/> I have not attended a post-secondary institution	7.69% 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Royal Roads University	0.00% 0
<input type="checkbox"/> SFU	5.77% 3
<input type="checkbox"/> UBC	26.92% 14
<input type="checkbox"/> Uvic	11.54% 6
<input type="checkbox"/> UNBC	0.00% 0
<input type="checkbox"/> UCC	0.00% 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Kwantlen	0.00% 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Camosun	1.92% 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Cap College	17.31% 9
<input type="checkbox"/> College of the Rockies	0.00% 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Douglas College	1.92% 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Langara	1.92% 1
<input type="checkbox"/> VCC	3.85% 2
<input type="checkbox"/> BCIT	9.62% 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Trinity Western	0.00% 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Emily Carr	0.00% 0
<input type="checkbox"/> JIBC	0.00% 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Private training institute	1.92% 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Institution outside of BC	5.77% 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Malaspina	1.92% 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	26.92% 14

Total Respondents: 52

What was the one factor that was most important in helping you reach graduation?

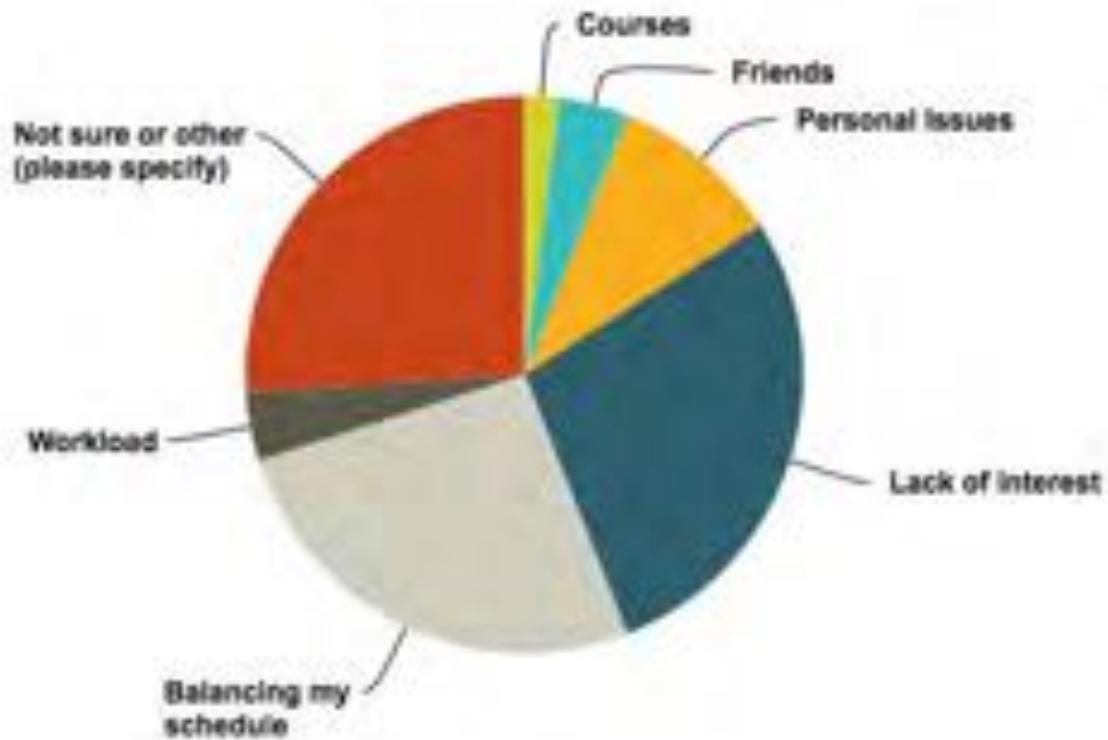
Answered: 50 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Courses	12.00% 6
Counseling	2.00% 1
Self Motivation	26.00% 13
Extra Curricular	2.00% 1
Friends	14.00% 7
Family	30.00% 15
Relationship with Staff Members (Teachers and Support Staff)	14.00% 7
Not sure	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00% 0
Total:	50

What was the primary factor, if any, at school, that made it most difficult for you to attain graduation?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 51



Answer Choices	Responses
– Courses	2.00% 1
– Friends	4.00% 2
– Personal Issues	15.00% 5
– Counseling	0.00% 0
– Lack of Interest	28.00% 14
– Balancing my schedule	28.00% 13
– Workload	4.00% 2
– Relationship with Staff Members	0.00% 0
– Not sure or other (please specify)	0.00% 0
	Responses 26.00% 13
Total	50

Please give value to the following statements.



	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A	Total	Average Rating
The courses and programs I took in high school helped me decide on a specific program of post-secondary studies.	2.00% 1	26.00% 13	32.00% 16	33.00% 15	10.00% 5	0.00% 0	50	3.20
My high school education prepared me academically for post-secondary studies.	2.00% 1	12.00% 6	24.00% 12	52.00% 26	10.00% 5	0.00% 0	50	3.58
My high school education gave me the necessary life skills for post-secondary studies.	2.00% 1	6.00% 3	32.00% 16	52.00% 26	8.00% 4	0.00% 0	50	3.58
My high school education gave me the necessary work skills for employment.	2.00% 1	14.00% 7	34.00% 17	42.00% 21	8.00% 4	0.00% 0	50	3.40
My high school education gave me the necessary life skills for employment.	0.00% 0	10.00% 5	18.00% 9	52.00% 26	20.00% 10	0.00% 0	50	3.82

I wish I was more informed of my options when coming to university. It took me a few years to figure out even what options I had; this resulted in a program transfer combined with a waste of time and resources because of it. Also, life skills need to be taught more if possible: how to do your taxes, apply/interview for jobs, write resumes, take full advantage of a bank, apply for student loans, buy a car, buy a house etc!

9/30/2014 9:06 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I choose to work in law enforcement this summer and High school really didn't teach me much about this area of work. The Law class did somewhat help.

9/30/2014 5:09 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Any jobs I have had were far from anything high school could have prepared me for.

9/30/2014 4:39 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

The courses didn't help me decide on what I wanted to do in my life or give me the skills on what I wanted to do. Although it did prepare me academically on how to get through work loads in post secondary and so forth.

9/30/2014 2:03 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Things were not clarified enough, it was just expected that I was to know everything.

In many academic senior courses, teachers are unconfident, causing elphinstone students to have many knowledge gaps in courses such as calculus and chemistry compared to most other schools. Students may have to take courses online as time tables are geared towards those with lower academic standards. Many times students (such as myself) are told to figure out post secondary questions by themselves. Moreover, students are often provided false information about the post secondary school they wish to attend. I believe, compared to peers coming from different public high schools on the lower mainland, Elphinstone does a very poor job of preparing its students for university and college. There is far too much emphasis from the counsellors and education staff placed on "the trades" or "backdoor routes."

9/27/2014 10:20 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Despite the English classes I took in high school, they did not prepare me for high-level academic writing in university. I was taught how to write a basic essay, but not a complex thesis nor given the ability to write about complex topics. I was not challenged in my high school career in regards to writing, and I suffered in university extensively because of this. I believe that English classes should be divided, like the math classes (at least they were when I was in high school) to help prepare future university students to reach their potential.

I knew exactly what I wanted to pursue in university which had nothing to do with the courses or programs.

8/6/2014 12:29 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

There were a lot of academic challenges and adjustments to make going into university. I succeeded in my studies due to my own methods that I developed, however, my classmates did not receive the same results. My high school was very small, and going in to looking for a summer job, I struggled quite a bit. I was not provided with experience in high school at all that would help me in an actual career.

8/7/2014 9:43 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

It would be nice if there were more business options in Elphinstone (maybe a finance course?)

8/6/2014 7:51 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I believe that students should learning such things as: balancing a bank account, how to take out a mortgage, student loans, paying rent, balancing a cheque book, paying bills. I only know how to do these things because my parents taught me. Would've been nice to learn some!

7/31/2014 5:13 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Disagreeing with with the first two questions is more due to that I wasn't all present during any schooling. I was extremely unhappy in that time in my life and was not a willing to do sort of student.

7/30/2014 8:03 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I didn't know what I wanted to do as a career in high school. I took courses I knew I would do well in and didn't really think of anything further than high school.

7/30/2014 7:58 AM [View respondent's answers](#)