

Pensions make cents



Municipal Pension Plan

When Lesley supports local businesses with her pension income, she has a direct economic impact on her community



Café owner Judy Sandhu and customer Lesley Walker at Gordy's.

Lower mainland café a favourite breakfast spot for retirees

SURREY, BC – Lesley Walker and Judy Sandhu are a perfect match—Lesley hates cooking, and Judy loves it. Judy also happens to own a café close to Lesley's home with prices a pensioner can appreciate.

"My favourite is the five-dollar breakfast with toast, sausage, hash browns and eggs," says Lesley, a retired registered nurse, sitting in one of the spotless red and black booths at Gordy's Café.

Lesley chooses to support local businesses with the Municipal Pension Plan retirement income she saved up for 28 years. "It's a great little niche," she says as three teenage boys wander in for the café's famous fresh fruit and 100 per cent ice cream milkshakes. "It's part of the community."

When Lesley supports local businesses with her pension income, she has a direct economic impact on her community by supporting local jobs and businesses. Her pension income also has a positive effect on the gross domestic product (GDP), a measure of how well the economy is doing.

In 2014, BC public sector pension plans made in excess of \$3 billion in direct payments to beneficiaries, and 97 per cent of those beneficiaries were BC residents. The payments supported \$1.66 billion in provincial GDP and 31,000 jobs in the province, according to *Assessing the Economic Impacts of Pension-Income Spending in British Columbia*, a report prepared by Urban Futures.

Judy appreciates the support of seniors, who come in groups Saturday and Sunday mornings and sit at "their" booth. "We know it is really tight for seniors and times are tough, so we try to give a really good deal." She has owned the café for four years and is helped by her son and husband. She teaches her young staff, students from a nearby high school, to provide good customer service. "We care about people."

Whenever she can, Judy buys Surrey-grown produce and supports local suppliers, contributing to the success of the province's agricultural mecca. "It's good and fresh."

Together, Judy and Lesley are a dynamic duo, contributing to their local economy one breakfast at a time.

2014

Economic impacts of BC public sector pension plans

In excess of
\$3 billion

BC public sector pension plans made in payments to beneficiaries.

Economic impact of pension income spending from BC public sector pension plans on provincial GDP.

\$1.66 billion

\$310 million

Total government tax revenue from BC public sector pension income spending.

BC public sector pension recipients who were residents of BC.

97%

Pension income spending from the BC public sector pension plans had as **strong** an economic impact on provincial **GDP** as the **forestry** and **logging** industry.

31,000

Number of jobs supported by pension income spending from BC public sector pensions.

All findings from *Assessing the Economic Impacts of Pension-Income Spending in British Columbia*, prepared by Urban Futures, July 2015. Click [HERE](#) for the full report.