EMPLOYEE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM

2018 WORK ENVIRONMENT SURVEY RESULTS BC PUBLIC SERVICE OVERALL



The 2018 Work Environment Survey (WES) and report have been commissioned by the BC Public Service Agency on behalf of the BC Public Service.
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Results at a Glance

From January 30 to February 23, 2018, 22,950 employees across the BC Public Service (84% of the total) participated in the Work Environment Survey (WES), providing feedback about their workplace experiences. A summary of the overall results through the lens of the Employee Engagement Model follows in Table 1, comparing this cycle's results to those in 2015.

TABLE 1: ENGAGEMENT MODEL DRIVER RESULTS (AVERAGE SCORE OUT OF 100 POINTS)

	2018	2015	DIFFERENCE
ENGAGEMENT	68	66	2
ENGAGEMENT CHARACTERISTICS			
BC Public Service Commitment	70	68	2
Job Satisfaction	69	67	2
Organization Satisfaction	65	62	3
DRIVERS			
Empowerment	69	66	3
Stress & Workload	61	58	3
Job Suitability	78	77	1
Vision, Mission & Goals	65	61	4
Teamwork	79	77	2
Tools & Workspace	59	62	-3
Recognition	63	61	2
Professional Development	65	62	3
Pay & Benefits	46	47	-1
Staffing Practices	65	62	3
Respectful Environment	76	74	2
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES			
Executive-Level Management	59	57	2
Supervisory-Level Management	74	72	2

About the WES Program

The BC Public Service has been committed to understanding and improving employee engagement for over a decade through the BC Public Service Work Environment Survey (WES) program. A key element of the WES program is the **Employee Engagement Model**, which identifies the specific workplace functions and management practices that most impact employee engagement. These functions and practices are called engagement drivers.

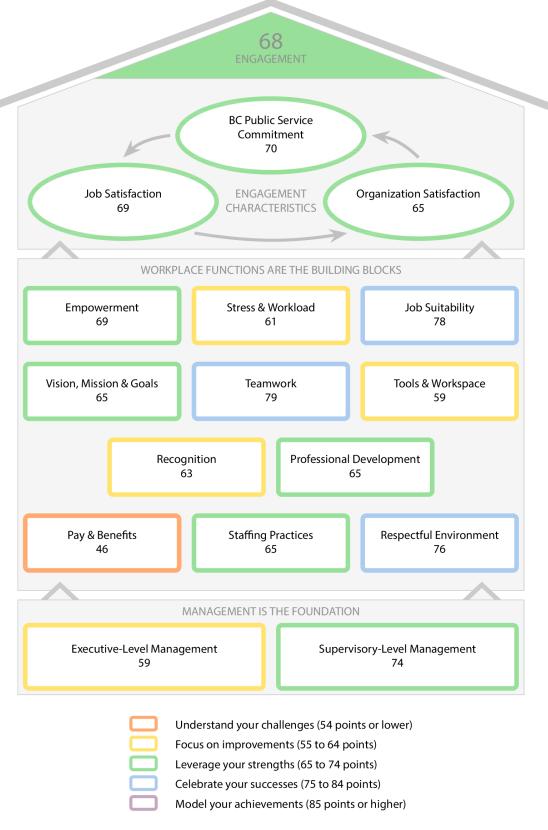
Each driver has associated survey topics that measure particular aspects of the employee experience. These drivers can affect each other to increase or decrease overall engagement. The pattern of connections between the thirteen drivers and the three engagement characteristics shape the overall structure of the model. In this report, the model is graphically represented as a house, which serves as a visual metaphor to illustrate the relationships of drivers within and between the different parts of the model:

- **The Foundation:** The model rests on drivers that represent the management practices that matter most to engagement.
- **The Building Blocks:** These identify the core workplace functions driving engagement.
- The Roof: The key engagement characteristics of employee satisfaction and commitment are located in the roof of the house.

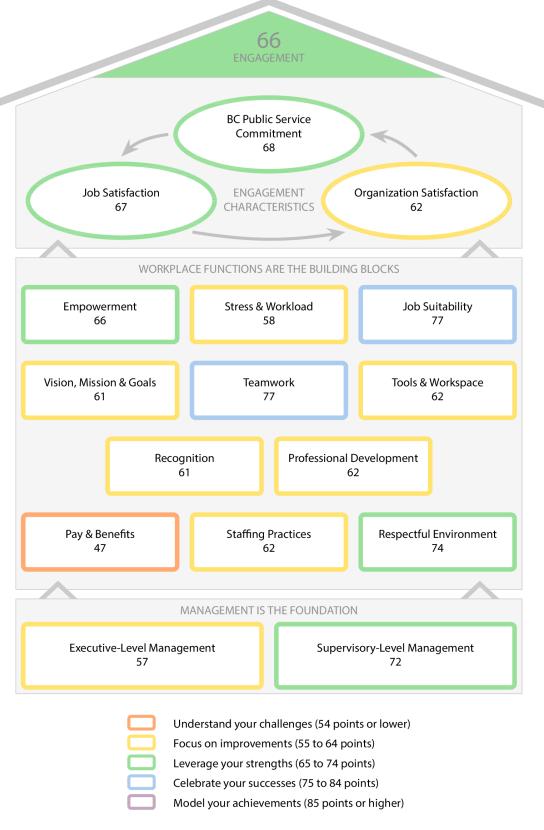
For further details about the 2018 model and methodology, please refer to Appendix D: Model Information.

The WES program provides valuable insights to support initiatives within the Where Ideas Work Corporate Human Resources Plan and helps us all to understand our experiences, celebrate our successes, and identify where we should focus to move forward.

BC Public Service 2018 Results



BC Public Service 2015 Results



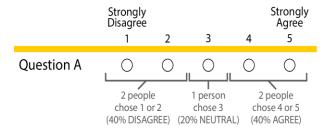
Appendix A: Full Survey Results

Beginning on the next page, the results are presented in two different but complementary ways. Results are shown as percentages to highlight the distribution of responses per question. The results are also shown as average scores, providing a single measure for each question allowing for easier comparability, where applicable. In the table that follows:

- Percentages and scores are included in the same table for convenience.
- Some percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
- The DIFFERENCE column contains the difference between the average score in 2018 and 2015, where available.

Percentages

Percentages show the proportion of employees who disagreed, agreed or gave a neutral response to the survey question. To calculate percentages, the number of times an answer was selected by respondents is totaled and collapsed into three categories (ranging from disagree to agree).



Average Scores

Average scores range from 0 to 100 points and represent the full range of responses to each question. To calculate average scores, the five-point survey scale is converted into a 100-point scale and averaged based on the number of respondents. Average scores for individual question topics may not equal the overall score for that driver when the topics are averaged together. This is due to the method with which the overall scores are calculated for the drivers.

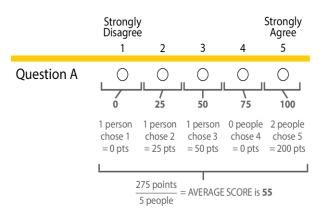


TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTIONS OF RESPONSES AND AVERAGE SCORES FOR ALL QUESTIONS

LINKAGE TO MODEL	SURVEY QUESTIONS	YEAR	% DISAGREE	% NEUTRAL	% AGREE	SCORE /100 POINTS	DIFFERENCE
MY DAY-TO-DAY	WORK						
Respectful Environment	A healthy atmosphere (e.g., trust, mutual respect) exists in my work unit.	2015	16%	16%	68%	70	
		2018	14%	15%	71%	73	3
Respectful Environment	My work unit values diversity in people and backgrounds.	2015	8%	14%	78%	77	
		2018	6%	12%	81%	80	3
Respectful Environment	My work unit values diversity in ideas.	2015	13%	18%	69%	71	
		2018	12%	17%	71%	73	2
Respectful Environment	My work unit is free from discrimination and harassment.	2015	12%	13%	75%	76	
		2018	11%	11%	78%	78	2
	Employees in my work unit are clear on the ethical values expected in performing their work.	2015	8%	14%	78%	77	
		2018	7 %	12%	81%	80	3
	If I am faced with an ethical question or concern, I know where I can go for help in resolving the situation.	2015	9%	11%	79%	78	
		2018	8%	10%	82%	81	3
Empowerment	I have opportunities to provide input into decisions that affect my work.	2015	17%	17%	66%	69	
		2018	14%	16%	69%	71	2
Empowerment	I have the freedom to make the decisions necessary to do my job well.	2015	17%	19%	65%	68	
		2018	13%	18%	69%	71	3
	Innovation is valued in my work.	2015	17%	21%	62%	66	
		2018	16%	19%	64%	68	2
Empowerment	I have the opportunities I need to implement new ideas.	2015	21%	25%	54%	62	
		2018	19%	23%	58%	64	2
	I am inspired to give my very best.	2015	19%	21%	61%	66	
		2018	16%	19%	65%	69	3
	I feel energized by my work. (New)	2015	%	%	%		
		2018	22%	24%	54%	62	
	My work unit is well supported during times of change.	2015	30%	25%	44%	54	
		2018	28%	25%	48%	57	3

LINKAGE TO MODEL	SURVEY QUESTIONS	YEAR	% DISAGREE	% NEUTRAL	% AGREE	SCORE /100 POINTS	DIFFERENCE
MY DAY-TO-DAY	Y WORK (CONTINUED)						
	Employees are held accountable in my work unit.	2015	21%	22%	57%	62	
		2018	19%	21%	59 %	64	2
	I feel my job is secure.	2015	14%	19%	67%	69	
		2018	9%	14%	76%	75	6
Staffing Practices	In my work unit, the selection of a person for a position is based on merit.	2015	25%	18%	57%	61	
		2018	22%	18%	60%	64	3
Staffing Practices	In my work unit, the process of selecting a person for a position is fair.	2015	24%	19%	58%	63	
		2018	21%	18%	61%	65	2
Recognition	I receive meaningful recognition for work well done.	2015	23%	23%	54%	61	
		2018	21%	21%	58%	63	2
Recognition	In my work unit, recognition is based on performance.	2015	23%	23%	54%	60	
		2018	21%	22%	57 %	62	2
Pay & Benefits	I am fairly paid for the work I do.	2015	40%	23%	37%	47	
		2018	42%	22%	36%	46	-1
Pay & Benefits	My benefits meet my (and my family's) needs well.	2015	31%	25%	45%	54	
		2018	32%	24%	44%	53	-1
Pay & Benefits	My pay is competitive with similar jobs in the region.	2015	46%	23%	31%	43	
		2018	49%	22%	30%	41	-2
Job Suitability	My work is meaningful.	2015	9%	14%	77%	77	
		2018	8%	14%	78 %	78	1
Job Suitability	My job is a good fit with my skills and interests.	2015	9%	14%	77%	77	
		2018	8%	14%	79 %	78	1
	I enjoy the type of work I do. (New)	2015	%	%	%		
		2018	7 %	15%	78%	77	
	My workplace processes and procedures enable me to work as effectively as possible.	2015	26%	26%	48%	57	
	position.	2018	25%	27%	48%	58	1

LINKAGE TO MODEL	SURVEY QUESTIONS	YEAR	% DISAGREE	% NEUTRAL	% AGREE	SCORE /100 POINTS	DIFFERENCE
MY DAY-TO-DA	Y WORK (CONTINUED)						
	I regularly go above and beyond the requirements of my role to help my work unit or organization succeed.	2015	3%	10%	87%	84	
		2018	3%	10%	87%	84	0
	Work is distributed fairly in my work unit.	2015	23%	22%	55%	60	
		2018	21%	21%	57 %	62	2
Stress & Workload	My workload is manageable.	2015	24%	24%	52%	58	
		2018	21%	24%	55%	61	3
Stress & Workload	My work-related stress is manageable.	2015	23%	26%	50%	58	
		2018	21%	25%	54%	61	3
	My work tends to leave me feeling mentally drained or exhausted. (New)	2015	%	%	%		
		2018	33%	27%	40%	54	
	My job provides me with the right amount of challenge.	2015	16%	23%	60%	65	
		2018	14%	25%	61%	65	0
	I have support at work to provide a high level of service.	2015	20%	22%	58%	63	
		2018	18%	21%	61%	65	2
	I have support at work to balance my work and personal life.	2015	17%	20%	63%	67	
		2018	16%	20%	65%	68	1
	I am proud to tell others about the type of work I do. (New)	2015	%	%	%		
		2018	9%	17%	74%	75	
	I find my work inspiring. (New)	2015	%	%	%		
		2018	15%	25%	60%	67	
	It is important to me that the BC Public Service has giving and volunteer programs. (<i>New</i>)	2015	%	%	%		
		2018	18%	29%	53%	63	
	In general, I am well-informed about the BC Public Service's giving and volunteer programs. (New)	2015	%	%	%		
	-	2018	28%	28%	44%	55	

LINKAGE TO MODEL	SURVEY QUESTIONS	YEAR	% DISAGREE	% NEUTRAL	% AGREE	SCORE /100 POINTS	DIFFERENCE
MY PHYSICAL EN	NVIRONMENT AND TOOLS						
Tools & Workspace	My physical work environment (e.g., sound level, lighting, heat, ergonomics, etc.) enables me to work well.	2015	24%	23%	54%	60	
		2018	28%	23%	48%	56	-4
	The necessary processes and procedures are in place to ensure my safety at work.	2015	10%	16%	74%	74	
		2018	11%	16%	73%	72	-2
Tools & Workspace	The computer based tools (e.g., hardware, software) I have access to help me excel in my job.	2015	20%	23%	57%	63	
		2018	23%	23%	54%	60	-3
Tools & Workspace	The non-computer based tools (e.g., office or outdoor equipment) I have access to help me excel in my job.	2015	17%	27%	56%	63	
		2018	20%	27%	53%	61	-2
MY DEVELOPME	NT AND PERFORMANCE						
Professional Development	My organization supports my work related learning and development.	2015	18%	21%	61%	65	
		2018	14%	19%	67%	69	4
Professional Development	The quality of training and development I have received is satisfactory.	2015	21%	26%	53%	61	
		2018	18%	24%	58%	64	3
Professional Development	I have adequate opportunities to develop my skills.	2015	24%	25%	51%	59	
		2018	21%	24%	56%	62	3
	I have opportunities for career growth within the BC Public Service.	2015	27%	25%	48%	57	
		2018	23%	23%	54%	61	4
	The person I report to provides the feedback I need to do my job well.	2015	17%	17%	65%	69	
		2018	16%	16%	68%	71	2
	The person I report to provides the support I need to help me achieve my long-term career goals.	2015	19%	19%	62%	66	
		2018	18%	18%	64%	68	2

LINKAGE TO MODEL	SURVEY QUESTIONS	YEAR	% DISAGREE	% NEUTRAL	% AGREE	SCORE /100 POINTS	DIFFERENCE
MY CO-WORKER	RS						
Teamwork	When needed, members of my team help me get the job done.	2015	6%	12%	81%	80	
		2018	6%	11%	83%	81	1
	I am treated respectfully at work.	2015	7%	12%	81%	79	
		2018	7%	11%	82%	81	2
Teamwork	Members of my team communicate effectively with each other.	2015	13%	19%	68%	70	
		2018	12%	18%	70%	72	2
Teamwork	I have positive working relationships with my co-workers.	2015	4%	11%	85%	82	
		2018	3%	9%	87%	84	2
THE PERSON I RI	EPORT TO						
Supervisory- Level Management	The person I report to provides clear expectations regarding my work.	2015	14%	17%	69%	71	
3		2018	13%	16%	71%	73	2
Supervisory- Level Management	The person I report to consults me on decisions that affect me.	2015	17%	16%	67%	70	
		2018	15%	15%	70%	72	2
Supervisory- Level Management	The person I report to keeps me informed of things I need to know.	2015	15%	17%	68%	70	
		2018	14%	15%	71%	73	3
Supervisory- Level Management	I feel I am able to have a conversation with the person I report to when I need their perspective or advice.	2015	11%	12%	77%	77	
		2018	10%	10%	80%	79	2
Supervisory- Level Management	The person I report to leads with an understanding of others' perspectives.	2015	15%	16%	69%	71	
3		2018	14%	14%	72 %	73	2
	The person I report to maintains high standards of honesty and integrity.	2015	10%	12%	78%	78	
		2018	9%	10%	81%	80	2
	The person I report to supports me and my co-workers in conducting our work in an ethical manner.	2015	8%	12%	79%	79	
		2018	7%	11%	82%	81	2
	I am satisfied with the quality of supervision I receive.	2015	15%	14%	71%	73	
'		2018	14%	13%	73%	75	2

LINKAGE TO MODEL	SURVEY QUESTIONS	YEAR	% DISAGREE	% NEUTRAL	% AGREE	SCORE /100 POINTS	DIFFERENCE
MY EXECUTIVE							
Executive- Level Management	Executives in my organization communicate decisions in a timely manner.	2015	23%	26%	51%	59	
		2018	21%	25%	54%	61	2
	Executives in my organization clearly communicate strategic changes and/or changes in priorities.	2015	23%	26%	51%	59	
		2018	21%	25%	54%	61	2
Executive- Level Management	Executives in my organization provide clear direction for the future.	2015	27%	28%	45%	55	
		2018	24%	27%	49%	58	3
	Essential information flows effectively from senior leadership to staff.	2015	29%	27%	44%	54	
		2018	27%	26%	47 %	56	2
	I have confidence in the senior leadership of my organization.	2015	25%	24%	52%	59	
		2018	21%	22%	56%	62	3
MY ORGANIZATI	ON						
Vision, Mission & Goals	My organization is taking steps to ensure the long-term success of its vision, mission and goals.	2015	19%	26%	54%	62	
		2018	16%	24%	60%	65	3
Vision, Mission & Goals	The vision, mission and goals of my organization are communicated well.	2015	21%	28%	51%	60	
		2018	18%	27%	56%	63	3
	I know how my work contributes to the achievement of my organization's goals.	2015	16%	23%	61%	66	
		2018	14%	21%	65%	68	2
	I am motivated by my organization to help achieve its objectives. (New)	2015	%	%	%		
		2018	19%	26%	55%	63	
	I find my organization inspiring to work for. (New)	2015	%	%	%		
		2018	21%	27%	52%	61	

LINKAGE TO MODEL	SURVEY QUESTIONS	YEAR	% DISAGREE	% NEUTRAL	% AGREE	SCORE /100 POINTS	DIFFERENCE
MY EMPLOYMEN	NT AS A BC PUBLIC SERVANT						
WORK UNIT							
Job Satisfaction	I am satisfied with my job.	2015	15%	21%	64%	67	
		2018	13%	20%	67%	69	2
	I am satisfied with my work unit.	2015	14%	18%	68%	70	
		2018	12%	17%	71%	72	2
	I would prefer to remain with my work unit, even if a comparable job was available elsewhere in the BC Public Service.	2015	22%	19%	59%	65	
		2018	20%	18%	62%	66	1
ORGANIZATION							
Organization Satisfaction	I am satisfied with my organization.	2015	20%	25%	55%	62	
		2018	17%	24%	59%	65	3
	I would prefer to remain with my organization, even if a comparable job was available elsewhere in the BC Public Service.	2015	22%	23%	54%	62	
		2018	20%	22%	58%	64	2
BC PUBLIC SERV							
BC Public Service Commitment	Overall, I am satisfied in my work as a BC Public Service employee.	2015	11%	20%	69%	70	
		2018	10%	19%	72 %	72	2
	Overall, I feel valued as a BC Public Service employee.	2015	24%	24%	52%	60	
		2018	21%	23%	57%	63	3
	I am proud to tell people I work for the BC Public Service.	2015	16%	25%	59%	66	
		2018	12%	23%	65%	70	4
BC Public Service Commitment	I would prefer to stay with the BC Public Service, even if offered a similar job elsewhere.	2015	16%	22%	61%	67	
		2018	15%	21%	65%	69	2
	I would recommend the BC Public Service as a great place to work.	2015	18%	26%	56%	64	
		2018	14%	24%	63%	68	4

LINKAGE TO MODEL	SURVEY QUESTIONS	YEAR	% DISAGREE	% NEUTRAL	% AGREE	SCORE /100 POINTS	DIFFERENCE				
WORKPLACE IMI	WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENTS										
	I have seen improvements in my current workplace since the last Work Environment Survey. (New)	2015	%	%	%						
		2018	34%	26%	40%	51					

Appendix B: Survey Definitions

The questionnaire used specific terms to describe aspects of the work environment. The terms as presented to the respondents are shown below.

- Your work unit refers to the section or program area within the organization where you work.
- **Diversity** refers to different people, backgrounds and ideas.
- **Discrimination** occurs if a distinction is made that imposes burdens, obligations or disadvantages that are not imposed on others, based on the grounds listed below.

- sexual orientation - race - religion - colour - marital status - gender identity or expression - physical or mental disability - family status - ancestry - place of origin - unrelated criminal conviction - age - political belief - sex

- **Harassment** includes any unwelcome conduct or comment which has a negative impact on you or your work environment.
- **Ethical** means acting in ways consistent with maintaining the public trust and operating in accordance with the BC Public Service Standards of Conduct. Ethical behaviour tends to involve demonstrating respect for key principles that include honesty, integrity, fairness, equality, confidentiality, dignity, diversity, accountability and transparency.
- Your **organization** refers to your ministry, agency, office or commission of the Province.
- The person I report to refers to your immediate supervisor or manager. If you report to more than one supervisor or manager, please answer the question thinking about the person who oversees most of your work.
- Your **executive** refers to senior leadership including the Deputy Minister, Associate Deputy Ministers, Assistant Deputy Ministers, Executive Directors, and other members of the Executive Committee.
- **Giving and volunteer programs** refer to BC Public Service programs that provide opportunities for employees to give back to the community through donations or volunteering. Examples include Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Emergency Management BC volunteers, CUSO International, and so on.

Appendix C: Driver Glossary

The engagement model drivers are defined as follows:

- **Empowerment:** Employees believe they have opportunities and freedom to provide input, make decisions to do their job well, and implement new ideas.
- Stress & Workload: Employees perceive that their work-related stress and workloads are manageable.
- **Job Suitability**: Employees believe that their work is both meaningful and a good fit with their skills and interests.
- Vision, Mission & Goals: Employees believe that their organization's vision, mission and goals are well communicated and that their organization is taking steps to ensure its long-term success.
- **Teamwork:** Employees experience positive working relationships, have support from their team, and feel their team communicates effectively.
- Tools & Workspace: Employees believe that both the computer based tools and noncomputer based tools they have access to help them excel in their jobs and that their physical environment enables them to work well.
- **Recognition**: Employees experience meaningful and performance-based recognition.
- **Professional Development**: Employees believe their organization supports their learning and development, provides quality training, and offers adequate opportunities to develop their skills.
- Pay & Benefits: Employees believe that their pay is fair and competitive with similar jobs, and that their benefits meet their needs well.
- Staffing Practices: Employees believe staffing processes in their work unit are fair and based on merit.
- **Respectful Environment**: Employees experience a healthy and diverse atmosphere free from discrimination and harassment.
- **Executive-Level Management:** Employees believe that senior leaders communicate decisions in a timely manner and provide clear direction for the future.
- **Supervisory-Level Management:** Employees believe they can have a conversation with the person they report to when they need their advice and that the person they report to leads with an understanding of others' perspectives, keeps them informed, consults them on decisions that affect them, and provides clear work expectations.

Appendix D: Model Information

BC Stats developed the BC Public Service **Employee Engagement Model** in 2006 using a statistical technique called structural equation modelling. The structure and integrity of the model have remained very stable since its creation, due to the large employee population, high response rates, and the completeness of the questionnaire in measuring aspects of the work environment that contribute to engagement. Despite its stability, employee priorities change, as do societal, political and economic circumstances. Given the dynamic nature of the work environment, the engagement model has been continuously tested to ensure it is the best representation of the average employee experience.

The model contains 40 questions, and its drivers link together to form hundreds of unique pathways to engagement. Each pathway starts from the foundation and passes through varying combinations of building blocks to reach one of the three engagement characteristics in the roof.

The following resources on using the model for interpreting results and understanding the drivers, model pathways and/or the statistical methodology are available online. The following reports can be found on the BC Stats website:

- Modelling the 2015 Work Environment Survey Results: Technical Guide (2016)
- Connecting the Engagement Drivers in the BC Public Service: Driver Guide (2016)
- Tracing the Top Engagement Pathways for the BC Public Service: Pathways Guide (2016)

Appendix E: Background

High Level

Study Work Environment Survey (WES) 2018

Project Sponsor BC Public Service Agency

Operations

Data Collection Method

Fielding Window / Dates

Project History

Online survey

January 30 - February 23, 2018

Annual survey 2006-2011, Biennial survey 2013, 2015, 2018

Population / Sample

Scope Individuals who were deemed as active BC Public Service

employees in the Corporate Human Resource Information and Payroll System (CHIPS) as of January 16, 2018 (and remained active through to survey launch date of January

30, 2018) and had valid contact information.

Sampling Strategy Census

Key Measure(s)

Key Measure Engagement score: 68 points (out of 100)

Type of Measure Five-point frequency scale

Methods of Analysis Descriptive statistics and structural equation modeling

Confidentiality

During survey administration, employees received personalized invitations and reminders. All survey responses were encrypted during submission and stored on a secure server accessed only by select employees at BC Stats. BC Stats employees are sworn under the <u>Statistics Act</u>, and all information collected in the survey is protected by the <u>Statistics Act</u>. Only aggregate results are provided in the reports. Individual responses or information that could identify an individual cannot be disclosed.

Response Rates

In the BC Public Service this cycle 84% of employees completed the survey, a change of 5 percentage points since last cycle (see Table 3).

 COMPLETED SURVEYS
 TOTAL EMPLOYEES
 RESPONSE RATE
 CHANGE (PPT)

 2018
 22,950
 27,220
 84%
 5

 2015
 19,756
 25,009
 79%

TABLE 3: RESPONSE RATE

Figure 1 shows the response rate trend since the inception of the WES program.

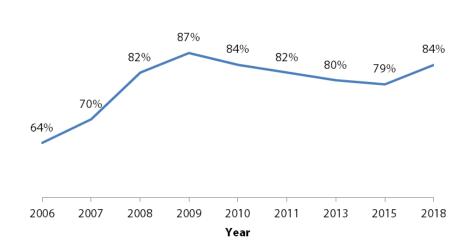


FIGURE 1: RESPONSE RATES OVER TIME

BC Stats wishes to thank all employees who participated and contributed to achieving such a high response rate. High survey response rates ensure high quality, reliable data.

BC Stats is the provincial government's leader in statistical and economic research, information and analysis essential for evidence-based decision-making. BC Stats, the central statistics agency of government, is excited to be taking a lead role in the strategic understanding of data sources and analysis across government. The goal is to increase overall business intelligence—information decision makers can use. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Vickery.



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