

## OPINION

# Vancouverites can't get no satisfaction

Welcome to  
the land of the  
whiners



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Well, of course we're unhappy. Like we need Statistics Canada to tell us that we're the saddest city folks this side of Saguenay.

Who wouldn't be? I mean, have you spent any time in Metro Vancouver? It's a wonder so many of us linger longer than a day or two and, more of a wonder, why so many keep coming here and settling down.

Because, let's face it, this is a horrible place to live. And here's five reasons why it might be time to move on to Quebec, where all the happy Canadians apparently live.

**Traffic:** There's too much of it, what with all that ready access to mountains and oceans and south-of-the-border designer outlet shopping. And with so many households rich enough to own two or three cars, there's just no getting around the jam, day or night. And we have rapid transit, but it breaks down at least, what, once every few months, and frankly that's intolerable and we're not saying yes

## HAPPY CITIES

1. Saguenay
2. Trois-Rivieres
3. St. John's
4. Greater Sudbury
5. Quebec City
6. Saint John
7. Sherbrooke
8. Thunder Bay
9. Moncton
10. Ottawa-Hull
11. Saskatoon
12. Kelowna
13. Montreal
14. Halifax
15. Oshawa
16. Calgary
17. London
18. Regina
19. Kingston
20. St. Catharines-Niagara
21. Hamilton
22. Brantford
23. Winnipeg
24. Abbotsford
25. Kitchener
26. Peterborough
27. Victoria
28. Barrie
29. Edmonton
30. Guelph
31. Windsor
32. Toronto
33. Vancouver

to any more of that being built. Not when interest rates are so low and, you know, Minis are so cute.

**Rain:** Seriously, is this not the wettest rainforest this side of the Amazon? Gloomy, dank and drenching our \$200 Lululemon rain coats. All the time. And all that freaking green on every horizon, and all those land-sucking parks everywhere. It's suffocating. And the fresh clean water cascading down out of the mountains and into our drinking glasses. What's the big deal about that when you can buy bottled water anywhere?



WARD PERROW / VANCOUVER SUN FILES

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**Affordability:** You want a million bucks for that shack east of Main? Get real. And half a mil for that 500-square-foot shoebox in White Rock? No way. Time to up stakes to Manhattan, or maybe Paris, or Stockholm. Hear Tokyo is really cool. And Hong Kong is hopping. Anything has to be cheaper than here, right? And all we really need are granite countertops. And maybe an ensuite.

**Cuisine:** Is it even possible to go anywhere in this town without being bombarded with culinary choice? It's exhausting, all those Thai, Italian, Lebanese, Indian, Cantonese, German, Szechuan, Mexican, Persian, Cajun, Pacific Northwestern, Korean, Greek, American Southwestern, Caribbean and French bistro and burger joints to choose from. A

fresh-made, deep-fried California roll for \$7. That's ridiculous. That's two lattes, for Pete's sake. And let's not even get started on all the coffee shops.

**Social Life:** Is this ground zero for the Lonely Planet franchise or what? Millions of us, out and about in the nation's nicest climate most days, working, playing, dining, hiking, skiing, boating, reading, strolling. And all those pro teams to talk about at the local sports bar, and that vibrant arts scene, not to mention the year-round golf, gardening and rollerblading. Small wonder we never meet anyone and make new friends. I mean, it's not our fault, right?

Well, you get our drift. No question that survey has got our number because we Vancouverites have every right to be bitchy.

No surprise, either, that not one B.C. burg made the Top 10 happiest places of the 33 surveyed in the first-ever StatsCan How's Life in the City? report, released Monday.

Finally, we're dead last, after nearly 340,000 Canadians were asked, between 2009 and 2013, to rank their happiness on a scale of zero to 10, with zero being "very dissatisfied."

OK, Kelowna came in at number 12, but then they have wine, damn them.

Hey, here's something to cheer about. Survey says we actually beat Toronto at something, because the Big Smoke came in second in the woe-is-us sweepstakes.

What a bunch of losers.

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