

**We're no fun: survey****Sheri Block**

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Just wanna have fun?

Don't come to Saskatchewan.

More than three quarters of Saskatchewan and Manitoba residents say they don't have enough fun in their lives, the highest proportion in the country, according to a recent survey by a board game company.

Seventy-six per cent of those who live in the two prairie provinces say they are fun-deprived, compared to the national average of 60 per cent.

But if a Minister of Fun position were to be created, 29 per cent of Saskatchewan/Manitoba residents would choose actor/comedian Jim Carrey to do the job, according to the survey, unlike the rest of Canada who would choose Mike Myers.

Carrey's Department of Fun wouldn't be located here, either, but in Calgary, the city 29 per cent of Saskatchewan/Manitoba residents rated as Canada's most fun city.

Richard Tait, co-founder of Cranium Inc. -- the company which commissioned the survey -- says geographical location and population may have something to do with the fun deficit.

"It might also have something to do with the weather ... they voted Calgary as the most fun city so I think we have a community of people who are looking for more fun in their lives and they're reaching quite far out to find it," said Tait.

Thirty-two per cent of Saskatchewan/Manitoba residents picked board games as their top choice for fun, with creative activities like singing and dancing coming in at 24 per cent.

The group was also the highest in the country to say they had the most fun with their families at 65 per cent, and the lowest to have fun with their friends at 28 per cent.

Ninety-seven per cent of residents also said they believe having fun will lead to a healthy, successful life.

"What was surprising to me was they recognized that having fun is important and it's very high on their list of activities (like dancing, crossword puzzles and spending time with family) but it's just not enough for them. They're looking for more outside stimulus and more ways for them to have fun," said Tait.

The survey was conducted by an Ipsos-Reid poll in August.

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