

JOURNALISTIC APPROACH

Resources:

People we interviewed (Primary research): It includes comments of B.C.-based parents and teachers, a curriculum expert, and the CEO of a tech company.

Other sources (Secondary research): B.C.'s [Student Learning Survey](#) and BCCDC's [SPEAK Survey](#) (Hyperlinks: dataset)

What I did and how:

After extracting data from SLS, I filtered the data on excel based on this survey question that B.C.-based third and fourth graders answered between 2017 and 2021: "I continue to get better at reading." I noticed that there was a consistent decrease in students who felt that they improved as readers. Based on the results, I got responses from teachers and parents, I was able to develop a pattern between the data and input I received from my sources. This is how I was able to shape information into a well-researched story.

About my role:

I researched, wrote and published this story with a fellow colleague. I was tasked with conducting a thorough background research on our topic, reaching out to potential sources, conducting interviews and determining whether the statistics align with the comments of experts.

Practical skills:

Before conducting any research, I always reach out to potential primary sources that are key voices that act as a backbone of my story. After understanding their perspective, I find reports, statistics or any other form of data that can either support or counter their argument. This helps me in:

- a. Getting a clearer understanding of the story I am pursuing, and,
- b. Provides evidence that can be used to shape my story

Statistics Canada, B.C.'s Data Catalogue, and CanLii are some websites that I always look at every time I sit down to write a story. They provide me with information on a plethora of topics, particularly ones that I won't find elsewhere.

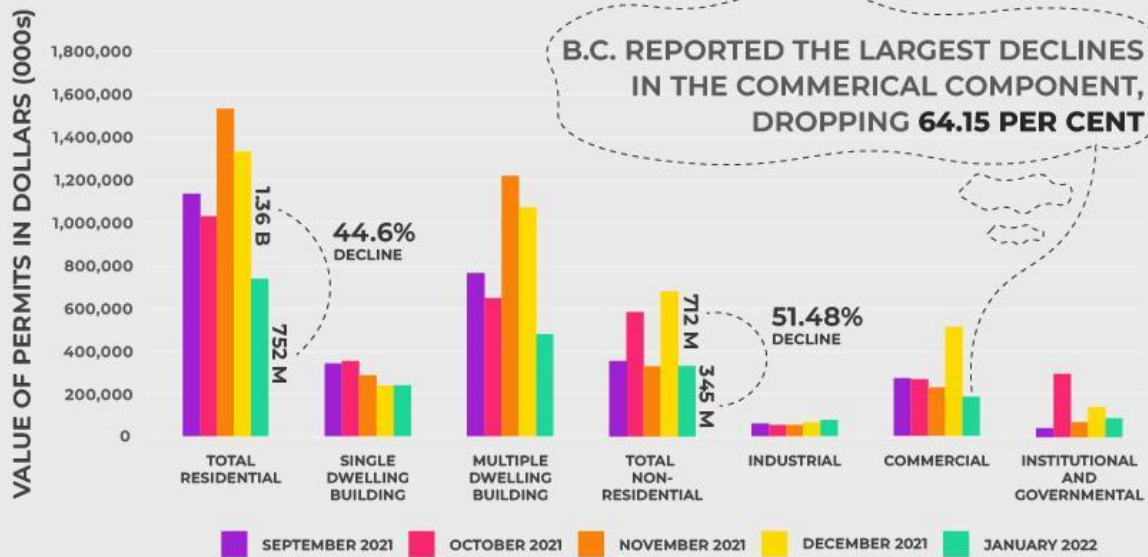
When I find a dataset that can have the information I am seeking, I use Tableau and Excel sheets to filter the contents and make it readable.

After this I use my skills in graphic designing to represent numbers in a visually understandable way.

Besides this project, I also made a data visualization for one of my class assignments wherein I picked a [numbers-only dataset](#) from Statistics Canada and used Adobe Illustrator to create this:

HOW MUCH DID THE VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS IN **BRITISH COLUMBIA** FALL IN JANUARY?

IN CANADA, THE TOTAL VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS DECREASED 8.8 PER CENT TO \$10.1 BILLION IN JANUARY



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA