INSIDE:
WHAT DO THE NUMBERS SAY ABOUT US?

THINGS TO CELEBRATE
THINGS TO IMPROVE
The Vital Signs project was a collaborative partnership between The Guelph Community Foundation, Toward Common Ground, and The Community Engaged Scholarship Institute at The University of Guelph.

The Guelph Community Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life in our community today and for generations to come. We inspire giving and care for the assets entrusted to us. We invest in people, ideas and activities that strengthen our community.

46 Cork Street East Guelph, ON N1H 2W8
Tel: 519.821.9216 Website: guelphcf.ca
Registered Charitable #867278350 RR0001

The Guelph Community Foundation exists within the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

This report only scratches the surface
LEARN MORE
Refer to the data portals for additional information. A digital copy of this report is available on our website guelphcf.ca/communityinitiatives/vitalsigns

Join the conversation using #VitalSignsGW
Facebook: facebook.com/guelphcf.ca
Twitter: @guelphCF and @towardcg
LinkedIn: guelphcommunityfoundation
Email: specialprojects@guelphcf.ca
How do we make everyone feel like they belong and they matter? How do we encourage people to participate more fully in their community?

Let the conversations begin!

We are pleased to present Vital Signs 2017/18: A snapshot into life in Guelph and Wellington County

About Vital Signs
When The Guelph Community Foundation was born in 2000, so too was the vision for its enduring legacy. Growing endowed funds create a perpetual stream of income to support the community forever. Research helps guide our understanding of the needs and the strengths in our community. And, leadership helps forge new partnerships and find new opportunities.

This Vital Signs report is such a partnership. In collaboration with Toward Common Ground – a partnership of 13 local social and health service organizations and the University of Guelph’s Community Engaged Scholarship Institute (CESI), Vital Signs provides a meaningful, high-level snapshot of strengths and challenges in Guelph and Wellington County. Toward Common Ground centralizes data and information about our community. They also bring people together to address local gaps and needs related to social and health well being.

Most importantly, Vital Signs is an invitation to engage in important community conversations across Guelph and Wellington County. For example, over the next year, the City of Guelph will use the Vital Signs report as baseline community research and a conversation prompt as it collaborates with partners and citizens to develop a Community Plan (more details on page 24).

What are some of our strengths and challenges?
We are fortunate to live in this extraordinary part of the country, and of the world. Our local economy is diverse, median incomes are high, and unemployment is often the lowest in the country. The environment is beautiful and healthy. Our communities are safe. People are active and many feel like they belong.

At the same time, many people face barriers that prevent them from fully participating in everything our community has to offer. Thousands of people struggle with housing affordability. Others face mental health or mobility issues. Some of our teens’ literacy scores are declining; and one in three kindergarten students is vulnerable in at least one aspect of their early development.

Local impact for global change
In 2016, The United Nations launched its Sustainable Development Goals, representing a global vision for a thriving and sustainable planet. We have the opportunity to consider our challenges and strengths within a global context; and to consider how our efforts to make Guelph and Wellington a thriving and sustainable community are part of a global movement for a better world (more details on page 22).

How to use this report
We invite you to dig into this report. Share it. Talk about what it really means. Explore more data in the Toward Common Ground portal. Think about what’s most pressing and what we can do about it. Find your passion and join or support the many local organizations and programs that are addressing these and other needs.

Vital Signs pushes our community to ask “what?” “so what?” and “now what?” How do we position ourselves for the future? How do we ensure everyone in our community has an equal opportunity to be happy, to be healthy and to thrive? Where do we want Guelph and Wellington County to be in five, ten and twenty years?

We hope Vital Signs gives you a new perspective. We hope it surprises you. We hope you’ll talk to us about how you can make a difference.

Chris Davison, Board Chair Sheila Markle, Chair
The Guelph Community Foundation Toward Common Ground

Chris Davison, Board Chair
The Guelph Community Foundation

Sheila Markle, Chair
Toward Common Ground
VITAL SIGNS DATA

Data for Vital Signs comes from primary research sources with support from Toward Common Ground (TCG), the University of Guelph’s Community Engaged Scholarship Institute, Community Foundations of Canada and The Guelph Community Foundation. Wherever possible, data specific to Guelph and Wellington County are presented separately.

Data Sources
Information has been drawn from a number of sources, including Statistics Canada (Census, Labour Force Survey, Canadian Community Health Survey), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, Education Quality and Accountability Ontario (EQAO) and other local, provincial and national sources.

Limitations
Data about Guelph and Wellington are available within different geographic boundaries. In some cases, datasets are released only at the CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) or CA (Census Agglomeration) levels. The Guelph CMA is made up of Guelph-Eramosa, Puslinch and City of Guelph. Centre Wellington is classified as a CA.

In other cases, data is available only for the City of Guelph and not Wellington County. And at times, we can’t separate Guelph from Wellington. We’ve tried our best to present the most relevant data and the geography that makes the most sense but we were limited by what was available to us. Similarly, we are missing data about certain issues and populations. For instance, we have very little about people who identify as indigenous and nothing about our LGBTQ2+ community. We are aware of these (and many other) data gaps and have done our best to present a fulsome snapshot of our community with the information available to us.

Conversations and Resources
If you feel strongly about a topic that needs more profile, let’s talk. We have outlined some conversation-starting questions on page 25 of this report that you may find helpful. We welcome your ideas about Vital Signs, about collaboration and about where we go from here.

There are many resources in our community, including the University of Guelph, Wellington Dufferin Guelph’s Report Cards on the Well-Being of Children and Toward Common Ground that may already have answers or can help you find them. For information about Centre-Wellington specifically, read our sister foundation’s Vital Signs at cwcfoundation.ca/vitalsigns

DATA PORTALS

Want to dive deeper into the data provided in this report? You are invited to visit two easy-to-use data portals that present the latest local data.

Toward Common Ground data portal: towardcommonground.ca

The Children’s Report Card data portal: wdgreportcard.com

Map Source: The Corporation of the County of Wellington
OUR COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

A GROWING POPULATION

IN 2016 THE POPULATION OF GUELPH WAS 1
131,794

IN 2016 THE POPULATION OF WELLINGTON COUNTY WAS 1
90,932

Since 2011 Guelph & Wellington County’s POPULATIONS HAVE GROWN 1

WELLINGTON 4.9%
CITY OF GUELPH 8.8%

This is compared to:

ONTARIO 4.6%
CANADA 5.0%

% OF POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (GUELPH & WELLINGTON, 2016) 3

WELLINGTON COUNTY HAS A HIGHER % OF PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 65

WELLINGTON COUNTY 18%
GUELPH 15%

COMPARSED TO ONTARIO AND CANADA AT 17% 1

47,025 = 21% PEOPLES BETWEEN THE AGE OF 50 - 64

TOP 5 PLACES OF BIRTH FOR RECENT IMMIGRANTS

WELLINGTON COUNTY: Mexico, Syria, The Philippines, The UK and India
GUELPH: The Philippines, India, China, Eritrea and Vietnam (Arrival from 2011-2016) 1

DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

OVER 6,500 PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS INDIGENOUS IN GUELPH & WELLINGTON COUNTY IN 2016 4

= 3% OF THE POPULATION OF GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY

WELLINGTON COUNTY MANUFACTURING AND RETAIL ARE THE TWO LARGEST SECTORS 1
GUELPH MANUFACTURING AND EDUCATION ARE THE TWO LARGEST SECTORS 1

DIFFERENT SKILL SETS

WELLINGTON COUNTY 14,310 PEOPLE IN MANUFACTURING
GUELPH 8,575 PEOPLE IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

WELLINGTON COUNTY 7,905 PEOPLE IN MANUFACTURING
GUELPH 4,775 PEOPLE IN RETAIL TRADE

This is compared to:

0.0%
1.0%
2.0%
3.0%
4.0%
5.0%
6.0%
7.0%
8.0%
9.0%
10.0%

% of population by age group (Guelph & Wellington, 2016) 3

In Wellington County the age group with the most people was 50-54
In Guelph there were more people ages 20-24 compared to other age categories

Guelph
Wellington County (without Guelph)
Annual unemployment rates in Guelph CMA* are consistently lower than provincial and national rates.4,5

Although below provincial and national averages, 11.1% of people in Guelph and 8.9% in Wellington County live below poverty levels.1

From 2012-2014, 17% of households in Guelph faced some level of food insecurity (from worrying about running out of food to skipping meals). In Wellington County it was 9%.8

In 2017, the vacancy rate for Guelph was 1.2% and for Centre Wellington it was 2.2%. Historically, vacancy rates in both communities have been consistently below the minimum 3% vacancy rate needed for a healthy rental market.11,12

In Wellington County, median after-tax household incomes were highest in Puslinch, Guelph/Eramosa and Erin, and lowest in Wellington North and Minto.

When people live in households without enough food, they are more likely to report poor or fair health, limitations to activity, more than one chronic condition (such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and food allergies), to suffer from major depression and to lack social support.17

17% OF HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY 10

While this is better than provincial and national rates (approximately 13%),

RECENT IMMIGRANTS PEOPLE WITH ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN INDIGENOUS HOUSEHOLDS

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (2017) 36% 12% 36% 12% FAMILY OF 4 WITH INCOME FROM ONTARIO WORKS FAMILY OF 4 WITH MEDIAN INCOME

In Guelph CMA, 5% of households are living in core housing need, such as:

Low income families spend a higher % of their income to buy healthy food (2017)

LOW INCOME FAMILIES SPEND A HIGHER % OF THEIR INCOME TO BUY HEALTHY FOOD 8

When people live in households without enough food, they are more likely to report poor or fair health, limitations to activity, more than one chronic condition (such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and food allergies), to suffer from major depression and to lack social support.17

A HEALTHY BASKET OF FOOD FOR A FAMILY OF 4 IN 2017 COST 27% MORE THAN IT DID IN 2009 (THE FIRST YEAR DATA WAS COLLECTED) 8

Although below provincial and national averages, 11.1% of people in Guelph and 8.9% in Wellington County live below poverty levels.1

GUELPH CMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE LOWER THAN THE ONTARIO AND CANADA AVERAGE (2017) 4,5

GUELPH CMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE LOWER THAN THE ONTARIO AND CANADA AVERAGE (2017) 4,5

IN GUELPH CMA

In Wellington County, median after-tax household incomes were highest in Puslinch, Guelph/Eramosa and Erin, and lowest in Wellington North and Minto.

WE HAVE SERIOUS HOUSING CHALLENGES

WE HAVE FOOD SECURITY ISSUES

IN WELFORD COUNTY (NOT INCLUDING GUELPH CMA)

Some people are more likely to live in core housing need, such as:

Recent immigrants people with activity limitations people who live in indigenous households

295 IN APRIL 2016 AT LEAST PEOPLE IN GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY WERE HOMELESS 14

IN GUELPH CMA

% OF HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE HOUSING NEED (STRUGGLING WITH HOUSING THAT IS NOT ADEQUATE, SUITABLE OR AFFORDABLE) 2011 13

While this is better than provincial and national rates (approximately 13%),

THE PROBLEM OF ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS COMPOUNDED FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES, ILLNESSES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR PREVIOUS TRAUMA. 15

Some people are more likely to live in core housing need, such as:

Recent immigrants people with activity limitations people who live in indigenous households

IN APRIL 2016 AT LEAST PEOPLE IN GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY WERE HOMELESS 14

70 OF THESE WERE YOUTH AGE 16 - 24 YEARS OLD

While this is better than provincial and national rates (approximately 13%),

THE PROBLEM OF ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS COMPOUNDED FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES, ILLNESSES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR PREVIOUS TRAUMA. 15

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IN APRIL 2016 AT LEAST PEOPLE IN GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY WERE HOMELESS 14

70 OF THESE WERE YOUTH AGE 16 - 24 YEARS OLD
Education is related to better health, a longer life, and better living standards – for current and future generations. With the fast pace of change, artificial intelligence and globalization, life-long education has never been more important.

**OUR STRENGTH**
- We are an educated population

**WE ARE EDUCATED**

- **Guelph**
  - 35.6% of people have a Bachelor’s degree or higher
  - 30.6% of people hold an apprenticeship, trade, college, CEGEP or other non-university diploma or certificate

- **Wellington County**
  - 20.1% of people have a Bachelor’s degree or higher
  - 37.8% of people hold an apprenticeship, trade, college, CEGEP or other non-university diploma or certificate

**HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETED (AGED 25 - 64, 2016)**

- **Canada**
  - 11.9% No certificate, diploma or degree
  - 25.3% High School or Equivalent
  - 29.8% Apprenticeship or trades
  - 23.7% College and non-university post-secondary
  - 18.5% University at bachelor level or above

- **Ontario**
  - 10.4% No certificate, diploma or degree
  - 27.0% High School or Equivalent
  - 27.8% Apprenticeship or trades
  - 24.5% College and non-university post-secondary
  - 31.5% University at bachelor level or above

- **Guelph**
  - 11.5% No certificate, diploma or degree
  - 14.7% High School or Equivalent
  - 35.6% Apprenticeship or trades
  - 36.2% College and non-university post-secondary
  - 24.6% University at bachelor level or above

- **Wellington County**
  - 14.7% No certificate, diploma or degree
  - 27.4% High School or Equivalent
  - 9.3% Apprenticeship or trades
  - 28.0% College and non-university post-secondary
  - 20.1% University at bachelor level or above

**GUELPH & WELLINGTON COUNTY VITAL SIGNS REPORT**

For more information visit the data portal towardcommonground.ca
Education, income, employment, food security, access to housing and social networks: these are the foundation of good physical and mental health.\(^{21}\) At the same time, a person’s health is connected to educational attainment, employment, income and ability to participate fully in society.

**OUR CHALLENGES**
- Some of us struggle with obesity
- Some of us have a health issue that limits our activities
- Decrease in “very good” or “excellent” mental health ratings in Guelph
- Some struggle with substance use

**HEALTH**

**ONE IN THREE PEOPLE IN WELLINGTON, DUFFERIN AND GUELPH HAVE A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL Health ISSUE THAT LIMITS ACTIVITIES AT HOME, WORK, SCHOOL OR IN THE COMMUNITY\(^{25}\)**

**People in Guelph & Wellington County are MORE LIKELY TO TAKE PART IN HIGH RISK DRINKING when compared to Ontario residents\(^{55}\)\)**

**WE ARE IN GOOD OR EXCELLENT HEALTH**

A higher percent of Wellington County residents rated their physical health as very good or excellent, compared to Guelph which was in line with Ontario averages.\(^{23}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of population 18+ considered obese (2011-2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wellington County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guelph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity rates dropped during the 20-44 year stage of life. In Guelph, they continued to decline in the 45-64 year range, whereas in Wellington County they rose.\(^{22}\)

**SUBSTANCE USE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED) VISITS FOR OPIOID POISONING RATE PER 100,000 PEOPLE (2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guelph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellington County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In general, compared to Ontario between 2003 and 2016, Guelph had higher rates of ED visits for opioid poisoning, while Wellington County had lower rates.

**OLDER AGES STRUGGLE**

**OVER 65**

This age group was least likely to rate their mental health as “very good” or “excellent”\(^{24}\)

**POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH RATINGS BELOW PROVINCIAL AVERAGE FOR GUELPH**

Ontario’s average was 70.6%\(^{15}\)

Wellington County rates have been stable around 76% since 2007/08.

\(^{15}\)GUELF & WELLINGTON COUNTY VITAL SIGNS REPORT 15
Many factors attract us to a community and make us feel like we belong.

OUR STRENGTHS
- We help each other and donate generously
- We live in safe communities where many people feel they belong

90% OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE GUELPH CMA DESCRIBE THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD AS A PLACE WHERE NEIGHBOURS GENERALLY HELP EACH OTHER

THE INCREASED CSI RATE FOR GUELPH IS RELATED TO AN INCREASE IN NON-VIOLENT CRIME, SUCH AS VEHICLE THEFT

GUELPH'S VIOLENT CSI VALUE IS AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY WHEN COMPARED TO CITIES THAT ARE SIMILAR IN SIZE OR BIGGER, AND IS FAR BELOW THE CANADIAN VALUE OF 75

CSI in Wellington County is half that of Guelph & Ontario

3 OUT OF 4 RESIDENTS OF GUELPH (73%) AND WELLINGTON COUNTY (75%) HAD A SOMEWHAT OR VERY STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY BELONGING IN 2013/2014

1 IN 3 RECENT IMMIGRANTS (WHO WERE SURVEYED) FELT OUT OF PLACE AT WORK, SCHOOL OR IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD DUE TO THEIR CULTURE, LANGUAGE, RACE OR RELIGION

OUR CHALLENGES
- Not everyone feels like they belong
- Local democratic participation needs improvement
- Non-violent crimes (including vehicle thefts) have risen over the last few years

A GIVING & HELPFUL COMMUNITY

25% GUELPH TAX-FILERS DONATED TO CHARITY IN 2015 FOR A TOTAL OF

$35.5M

27% OF TAX-FILERS IN WELLINGTON COUNTY (EXCLUDING GUELPH) DONATED

$36.6M

THAT'S HIGHER THAN ONTARIO'S 22% AND CANADA'S 21%

GUELPH & WELLINGTON COUNTY VITAL SIGNS REPORT
From the air we breathe and the water that fuels us, to the parks and trails that bring us closer to nature and to one another, our environment - and our role in protecting it - plays a critical role in our personal and community wellbeing.

**OUR STRENGTH**
- We value our environment
- Our air quality is good

**2 MILLION TREES PLANTED**
In Wellington County, making it the largest municipal tree planting program in North America since 2004, under the Green Legacy Program.

**ENVIRONMENT**
- Residential waste diversion rates could be higher
- Guelph has added more bike lanes
- Wellington County has connective trails
- Guelph citizens have shorter commutes

**OUR CHALLENGES**
- Residential waste diversion rates could be higher
- Walking and biking rates are low

**WASTE DIVERSION**
- Wellington County residential diversion rate of 39.7% in 2016 was below the average for similar rural regional municipalities (44.6%) 44
- Guelph reported low risk air quality

**GUELPH REPORTED LOW RISK AIR QUALITY**

**THE CITY’S GOAL IS TO DIVER 70% OF RESIDENTIAL WASTE BY 2021**

**GETTING AROUND**
- Guelph has added more bike lanes
- Wellington County has connective trails
- Guelph citizens have shorter commutes

**GUELPH HAS 2x MORE ON-ROAD BIKE LANES NOW THAN IN 2009 FOR A TOTAL OF 70 km**

**IN WELLINGTON COUNTY, THE ELORA CATARACTION TRAILWAY CONNECTS TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITH 47 km OF TRAIL**

**OUR STRENGTHS**
- Wellington County has connective trails
- Guelph citizens have shorter commutes

**OUR CHALLENGE**
- Walking and biking rates are low

**WALKING OR BIKING TO SCHOOL**
- Only 4 in 10 Grade 7 students and 1 in 4 Grade 10 students regularly walked or biked during the 2014-2015 school year.

**FROM 2015 TO 2017 GUELPH TRANSIT RIDERSHIP DROPPED 4.6%**

**BUT SINCE THE END OF 2017 RIDES HAVE BEEN BACK ON THE RISE**

**TOTAL TRIPS IN 2017** 6,090,486
As individuals, leisure and culture help us express ourselves, learn new skills, stay fit and build belonging. As a society, social offerings are among the top three factors for community attachment, along with openness and a community’s beauty. 39

**OUR STRENGTHS**
- We’re active
- We love our libraries
- We have access to great cultural events and opportunities

**THE ARTS CONNECT**

Canadians who rate Arts, Culture and Leisure in their city or town as “Excellent” are **2x more likely** to report a “Very Strong” sense of belonging to their city or town, compared to those who rate it as “Poor”. 50

People who regularly go out to hear live music, use the library or rec centre have a stronger sense of belonging than those who say that’s “Not really me”. 50

**LIBRARIES ARE WELL USED**

**GUELPH**

- Ranked **#1** for total circulations per capita among Ontario libraries serving similar size communities in 2015 51

- More than **2x** the Ontario average 51

- Circulation per capita is more than **2x** the Ontario average 51

- **57,282** active library card holders

**WELLINGTON COUNTY**

- Ranked **#3**

- Almost **1.5x** the Ontario average 51

- Circulation per capita is almost **1.5x** the Ontario average 51

- **28,021** active library card holders

**TOP 10**

Guelph ranked among the **top 10 cities** for number of Culture Day events among cities its size in 2017, 2016 and 2015 52

**INCOME INFLUENCES PARTICIPATION**

- Income over **$100K** 53.5%
- Income under **$40K** 24.3%

Guelph families with incomes over $100k participated in sports organizations at more than twice the rate of families with incomes below $40k. 53

Guelph families with incomes below $40k are **4x** more likely to say that cost is a barrier to participate 53
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were launched in 2015 after three years of negotiations between 193 countries. They represent the world’s collective vision for a thriving and sustainable planet. The 15-year plan includes 17 goals and 169 accompanying targets, with a completion goal of 2030.

The SDGs are universal and connect cities and towns all across the world. For Guelph and Wellington County, they help us connect our efforts locally to create change as part of a big picture. In particular, SDG 11 is aimed at achieving sustainable communities.

The Global Goals recognize that ending poverty and ensuring global prosperity must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build sustainable communities. To reach these goals, community foundations, and philanthropy more broadly, have an important role to play alongside government, civil society and the private sector.

Through Vital Signs and other philanthropic initiatives, we have an opportunity to connect what is happening in our communities to a global agenda for action. The grassroots approach of Vital Signs to collect data, spark conversations and inspire civic engagement offers an opportunity to understand well-being trends in our community in the context of global well-being goals.

Nationally, Statistics Canada will begin to track and align their data with SDGs in 2018. For more information on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development visit sustainabledevelopment.un.org

Foundations who view the goals as essential and urgent calls to action for every sector, will have a clear way of connecting their own local efforts to broader humanitarian goals.”

What Next?

Where do we go from here?

Vital Signs is an easy to read snapshot of local data and information intended to spark meaningful community conversations. What you do with this information is up to you as a community member, policy maker, community developer, volunteer or donor. What’s your passion? How can you improve our community within your circle of influence? What can we all do to make a difference?

Examples of how Vital Signs will be used:

1. The Guelph Community Foundation’s Grants Committee will be referencing the report findings as they establish their criteria for grant applications for 2018. For more detail visit guelphcf.ca/grants/grantprograms
2. The City of Guelph will use this report to inform community conversations across the city. The information they gather will be used to identify priority areas for their Community Plan. Join the conversation and share your thoughts and ideas. Dates can be found at guelph.ca/communityplan
3. The Oak Tree Project (The Mactaggart Family), a local initiative that supports the core operations of local charities, will be aligning their 2018 focus with the findings in this report. For more details, please visit oaktreeguelph.ca

Looking for more data?

If you are interested in finding more data and information about Guelph & Wellington County or digging deeper into what you’ve read in this report, there are data portals available for your use.

Data portals:
towardcommonground.ca and wdgreportcard.com

Electronic version of this report:
guelphcf.ca/communityinitiatives/vitalsigns

Citizen Satisfaction Survey:
If you would like to go beyond the statistics and data in this report to find out what people say about belonging, safety and living in Guelph, visit the 2017 Citizen Satisfaction Survey results at guelph.ca/TheCount

Share it

Share and inspire the community as you connect Vital Signs to your work, participate in a community conversation, or have stories to share that support what is in this report.

Facebook: @GuelphCF #VitalSignsGW #VSBelonging
Twitter: @guelphCF and @towardcg #VitalSignsGW

Conversation Starters

Education

• Are we a community that supports lifelong learning?
• How do we ensure everyone - including people who are vulnerable - have access to education?
• How do we ensure children are in nurturing environments during their early years to support their learning, positive behaviour, physical and mental health?
• What role does education play to address the coming changes in the economy?

Health

• What’s behind the decline in self-rated mental health in Guelph and higher levels of positive self-rated mental health in Wellington County?
• What do those of us with limited mobility need to fully participate in our community?
• What makes it easier for people to have a healthy lifestyle?
• How do we remove barriers to the social determinants of health?

Community Vitality

• How do we make everyone feel like they belong and matter?
• What populations are invisible in our community?
• What needs to happen for more people to participate in our democracy?
• How do we come together as a community to ensure that everyone is meaningfully included and has what they need to thrive?

• How does language diversity effect our community?
• How do we meet the needs of people who are aging in our community?
• What is at the root of the increase in non-violent crime in our city?
• How do we ensure decisions about our community are informed by diverse voices and experiences?

Environment

• How can we reduce waste?
• Why does active transportation decline in high school?
• What would entice local commuters to embrace public transit?
• What works for green transportation in rural communities?

Leisure, Culture & Recreation

• Do we place enough importance on the human, social and economic value of leisure, culture and recreation?
• How do we increase arts, culture and recreation opportunities?
• How do we ensure everyone in the community can benefit from them?
• How do we make sure we have leisure, culture and recreational activities that engage young people?

How do we build on our strengths, help those who are struggling and position ourselves to be a thriving community in the future?
WITH GRATITUDE AND RECOGNITION TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT:

FUNDING SUPPORT:

THE TOWARD COMMON GROUND PARTNERSHIP IS MADE UP OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

RESEARCH SUPPORT:

Toward Common Ground

COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP INSTITUTE