



Community Foundations
of Canada

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du Canada

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NEWS RELEASE

Community Foundations of Canada announces release date for *Vital Signs*, annual report card on health of communities

OTTAWA (July 4, 2007) – Community foundations across Canada today announced they will release their annual *Vital Signs* report cards, aimed at measuring the vitality of their communities, on Tuesday October 2nd, 2007.

The reader-friendly report cards track and grade each community's quality of life in key areas such as the economy, health, housing, and the environment –transforming local facts and figures into research you can read on the bus.

“*Vital Signs* uses local and national research to provide communities with a clearer snapshot of their quality of life and to help them make connections between disparate issues and trends,” said Monica Patten, CEO of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), the membership association of Canada's community foundations.”

This year 11 community foundations are releasing *Vital Signs* reports, giving each foundation, its donors, and the community-at-large valuable insight into the community's strengths, challenges and opportunities:

- Victoria
- Vancouver
- Calgary*
- Medicine Hat*
- Red Deer*
- Ottawa
- Toronto
- Sudbury*
- Waterloo Region* (Ontario)
- Montreal
- Saint John*

(*denotes a community releasing its first *Vital Signs* report)

CFC will also issue a national *Vital Signs* report that will track trends across the country or from various communities. “Our national network of local foundations gives us access to incredible success stories that can be learned from, and possibly replicated, across the country,” said Patten. “We plan to share those stories and a bird's eye view of some national issues in this report.”

The national *Vital Signs* project, coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada, is based on

Toronto's Vital Signs® an extremely successful indicator report developed by Toronto Community Foundation and first published in 2001. It is now a recognized and respected resource used by the City of Toronto and many other community organizations.

Local research you can read on the bus

Canada is home to a number of good quality of life initiatives. What sets *Vital Signs* apart is its truly local nature and the fact that it is designed to be user and reader-friendly, making excellent research more accessible than ever before.

Vital Signs consolidates research from a wide range of sources, much of it local, creating a comprehensive resource that can be used by the entire community. Expanded, in-depth reports are also published on each foundation's website, complete with links to the original research.

About Community Foundations of Canada

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) is the national membership organization for the 157 community foundations found in cities, towns and rural areas across the country.

Community foundations build and manage permanent endowments to support local priorities. They use their deep knowledge of their communities' needs to connect donors to the causes and organizations that matter most to them, helping them make a lasting difference.

With more than \$2.7-billion in assets, the community foundation movement is one of Canada's largest grantmakers, providing more than \$137-million in grants last year to thousands of charities.

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Note to editors/producers: Media contacts for each community foundation publishing *Vital Signs* can be found at www.vitalsignscanada.ca.

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