

Mississauga's Vital Signs



FAST FACTS ABOUT VITAL SIGNS

An Overview of Vital Signs®

Vital Signs is an annual community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our cities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in at least ten areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is based on a project of the Toronto Community Foundation and is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. Each city's report card data is a compilation of numerous research sources, much of it local, that help communities make connections between issues and trends in different areas. The findings are presented in a reader friendly format to make them as accessible as possible.

Community foundations are well-suited to this kind of work because of the broad role we play in our communities. Community foundations work with a wide range of community groups - not just one charity or sector. This gives us a comprehensive view of local issues and the ability to make connections between various needs and issues.

Measuring the vitality of our city in critical areas will help our community foundation:

- Increase the effectiveness of our grantmaking
- Better inform our donors about issues and opportunities in the community
- Assist us in making connections between individuals and groups to address those issues

Each community chooses its own indicators, but every year there are a set of common issue areas and core indicators that all foundations include in their reports and upon which Community Foundations of Canada bases its national report.

Vital Signs indicators used in the reports will be grouped into the following ten (10) issue areas:

- Gap Between Rich and Poor;
- Safety;
- Health & Wellness;
- Learning;
- Housing;
- Getting Started in Our Community;
- Arts & Culture;
- Environment;
- Work;
- Belonging and Leadership.



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Fast Facts

The 2011 Vital Signs reports will be released on October 4, 2011

The name Vital Signs is a registered trademark in Canada administered by Community Foundations of Canada (CFC).

Information used in Vital Signs reports is collected from credible sources and represented accurately and in an unbiased fashion.

21 community foundations across Canada are participating in Vital Signs in 2011.

The web site address for the national Vital Signs program is www.vitalsignscanada.ca

Vital Signs adds value to other indicator initiatives by collating a broad range of community specific data, presenting information in an accessible format and ensuring local trends are tracked at a national level.

Mississauga's Vital Signs is being funded by the Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga and AstraZeneca Canada.