

Vital Signs Fact Sheet

South Saskatchewan Community Foundation



WHAT IS VITAL SIGNS?

Regina's *Vital Signs* is part of a Community Foundations of Canada program which sees *Vital Signs* reports published each year in communities throughout Canada. The *Vital Signs* report is a periodic check-up through which the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation measures the vitality of our city, identifies trends, and assigns grades in twelve areas critical to quality of life. The report card data is a compilation of numerous research sources, much of it local, that will help the community 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.

Regina's *Vital Signs* also has national implications. Our report is part of a national initiative led by community foundations across Canada and its findings will be part of a national summary issued annually by Community Foundations of Canada

WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?

We will be considering the following 12 key issue areas for inclusion in the analysis:

- Gap Between Rich and Poor
- Safety
- Health
- Learning
- Housing
- Getting Started
- Arts and Culture
- Environment
- Work
- Belonging and Leadership
- Getting Around
- Economy

WHY ARE YOU LAUNCHING THIS PROGRAM?

Because our community foundation works with a wide range of community groups, we get a comprehensive view of local issues. Measuring our community's vitality in critical areas will increase the effectiveness of our granting, help us to inform our donors about issues and opportunities in the community, and assist us in making connections between individuals and groups to address those issues.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In addition to detailed statistical analysis and data mining, the SSCF will engage the community in a consultative process that will provide a subjective sense of our community's health as it relates to each of these issue areas.

WHAT MAKES VITAL SIGNS DIFFERENT?

The power of this report is in its accessibility. We will be hiring research experts for the statistical analysis, but the final report will be written in a way that makes it interesting, understandable, engaging, and above all, actionable for everyone living in our community.

Regina's *Vital Signs* will build on existing initiatives in four valuable ways:

- Collate broad range of data. We will develop a distinctly broad picture of the community using relevant national data and identifying local research on a wide range of subject areas.
- Engage the community: Vital Signs will reflect the community because it will involve the community at every level, from determining the report's indicators and exploring research sources, to assigning grades.
- Create a national report: Because community foundations across Canada are participating in this project, we will be able to share results and track local trends at the national level.
- Publish research you can read! We are committed to publishing a reader-friendly document that appeals to a wide range of readers looking for a snapshot of quality of life and of community vitality.

HOW IS IT USED?

Experience in other communities has shown that the Vital Signs report is an important discussion piece for the community and provides much needed clarity around the current, potential, and perceived issues facing our citizens. It invariably becomes a key tool for many different groups working for the betterment of our community.

WHEN WILL IT BE AVAILABLE?

We are starting to work with the community now and plan to publish our first Vital Signs report in October 2014.

For more information, please contact:

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