

Community Foundation of Medicine Hat & Southeastern Alberta

Community Foundation to issue annual report card on health of community

The Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta is launching a new project aimed at measuring the vitality of our community on an annual basis. The yearly report card will track and grade our quality of life in key areas such as the economy, health, housing, learning and the environment.

This is part of a new national initiative of Canada's community foundations coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada (CFC)

"*Vital Signs*" will stand back and take the pulse of our communities every year, giving community foundations and other local organizations a new perspective on pressing issues and valuable insight into the community as a whole," says Monica Patten, President and CEO of CFC.

CFC's national project 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.

The pilot phase of the national *Vital Signs* project is beginning this year with community foundations in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa, and Montréal participating. A national summary report will also be issued annually by Community Foundations of Canada starting next year.

"*Vital Signs* is a natural fit for us because of our broad reach, and experience of working with organizations, public, private and not for profit across all sectors of our community," says Mike Christie Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta, "We intend to use the information we gather to inform our donors of the strengths and issues we face and also to provide valuable information to our grant-making process

Vital Signs will consolidate research from many different sources, much of it local, to help make connections between issues and trends in areas critical to community health. As in Toronto, community foundations will work with local organizations to determine their report's key indicators and to identify sources of community data.

Expanded, in-depth reports will also be available on each foundation's website, complete with links to the original community research.

Every local *Vital Signs* report will share ten themes and a set of common indicators on which Community Foundations of Canada will issue a national annual summary. Some of those themes include: Economy, Safety, Health & Wellness and Housing.

For more information on your local Community Foundation or the *Vital Signs* project please contact:

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