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## **Community Consultations set for 2011 *Vital Signs*: Community Foundation asks for public input**

**Medicine Hat, Alberta (March 31, 2011)** – ‘Hatters will have two chances in April to add their input to the 2011 *Medicine Hat’s Vital Signs* report. The Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta is hosting two separate public consultations in order for citizens to express what they would like to see in this year’s report.

Both consultations will take place at the Medicine Hat Public Library, Legion Room. The first will be on April 6 from 12-12:45pm and the second on April 20 from 12-12:45pm.

Community consultations play an important role in the kick-off to the *Vital Signs* process.

“These consultations allow us to hear what citizens believe are the strengths and weaknesses of Medicine Hat,” said Mike Christie, executive director of the Community Foundation. “It also helps us create a better report because we hear what issues are important to ‘Hatters.’”

Medicine Hat’s *Vital Signs* will be released on October 4, marking the fifth consecutive year that the organization has participated in the publication. In 2010, 15 Community Foundations across the country produced the report for their individual communities. *Vital Signs* serves as a community report card, with volunteers grading each indicator before publication.

Christie urges citizens of all ages to come to a consultation to express their views.

“*Vital Signs* has become a platform for local action amongst community leaders and volunteers,” Christie said. “Citizens’ input, especially in the early stages of the process, is integral to the final *Vital*

*Signs* report. The contributions that residents make at these meetings can help us grow a better community.”

The events include free beverages, and attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch. The Medicine Hat Public Library is located at 414 1<sup>st</sup> St SE.

No reservations are necessary to attend the events; however, each location has limited seating. For more information regarding the consultations or the Vital Signs report, please call the Community Foundation at (403) 527-9038 or email [info@mhcf.ca](mailto:info@mhcf.ca).