



What is *Vital Signs*?

Squamish's Vital Signs is part of a Community Foundations of Canada program which sees Vital Signs reports published each year in 15 to 25 communities. The Vital Signs report is a periodic check-up that measures the quality of life in Canadian communities, identifies trends, and shares opportunities for action.

*a periodic check-up
measuring quality of life*

What does it measure?

While the process is just beginning, we will be considering the following issue areas for inclusion in the analysis:

- Arts and culture
- Belonging and leadership
- Environment
- Gap between rich and poor
- Getting started in our community
- Health and wellness
- Housing
- Learning
- Safety
- Work

ten key issue areas

How does it work?

In addition to detailed statistical analysis and data mining, the Community Foundation 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.

*statistical analysis &
community consultation*

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.

*relevant, interesting,
accessible, actionable*

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.

*discussion piece, clarity,
planning tool*

Squamish's Vital Signs will be published on October 4, 2011 as part of a nationally coordinated launch event.



SQUAMISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
moving forward. giving back.

VitalSigns[®]

What is 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.

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.

How it Works

- **Collate broad range of data.** Community foundations 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* reflects the community because it involves the community at every level, from determining the report's indicators and exploring research sources, to assigning grades.
- **Publish research you can read!** Community foundations 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.
- **Issue areas** - Each foundation collects data in at least 10 shared issue areas such as health, the environment, education, work, health and wellness.

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 Canadian communities in critical areas will help community foundations:

- 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