

Quality of Life Indicators Project (QOLIP)

**A common language
for dialogue**

CSAE

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Quality of life - what does it mean?

- Ample job opportunities?
- A sustainable environment?
- Safe, crime-free neighbourhoods?
- Healthy children?

(It depends on who you ask)

Where are we coming from?

- Diverging viewpoints across sectors
- Different tools and measures across disciplines
- Multitude of initiatives
- No common language
- UN ranking with little credibility

Where do we want to be?

- A balanced, holistic perspective on QOL that reflects Canadians' priorities
- A mechanism for making links/connections across economic, social and environmental spheres
- Tools (indicators) to measure progress over time – universally accepted and widely used
- Common language for further study, debate and research

How do we get there?

Step 1: Laying the Foundation -- QOLIP

- Development of a “draft” prototype set of national quality of life indicators

Step 2: Testing, refinement, data collection

- Widespread trial and refinement of indicator prototype across all sectors and disciplines and among citizens

Step 3: On-going use of national indicators

- Widely accepted tool in place to measure quality of life - continuous review and improvement

QOLIP - The First Step

Why CPRN?

- Non-profit research organization with extensive experience in social and economic policy analysis
- Neutral space
- Experience in bringing citizens into public policy work (TSWW) - citizen engagement
- Mission to make Canada a more just, prosperous and caring society
- A key player in the debate on national indicators of QOL

QOLIP - The First Step

Key partners with CPRN

- Project Steering Committee
- Expert/researchers
- Citizens and communities
- Public, private and not-for-profit sectors
- Funders

QOLIP - The First Step

Core elements of QOLIP

- a) Solid research base
- b) Community building
- c) Citizen dialogue

a) Solid Research Base

- Review of existing societal indicators and models
- Summary of lessons learned in citizen engagement in QOL work in Canada and abroad
- Review of polling activity on QOL in Canada
- Previous experience in citizen engagement

b) Community Building

- Workshop - Steering Committee and indicator researchers and practitioners
- Web site, e-networks, newsletter
- Outreach to experts, leaders, citizens in Canada and abroad
- Outreach into government where interest in societal indicators to track and measure progress

c) Citizen Dialogue

Why?

- Bring the voice of citizens into deliberations on policy issue of direct relevance/interest to citizens
- Provide essential input to guide development of prototype
 - Suggests definition of QOL
 - Establishes priorities for indicators
 - Identifies information needs and responsibilities
- Ensure range of citizen views and concerns are reflected
- Secure “buy-in” and action down the road

c) Citizen Dialogue

How?

- several hundred Canadians, random sample, hard to reach and influencers
- urban/rural, English/French, young, old,
- dialogue versus debate versus focus groups
- trained moderators/recorders

c) Citizens work with “experts”

- analyze and report on citizen input
- workshop with various players
- develop prototype set of national quality of life indicators
- produce a community handbook

Looking Ahead

Step 2: Testing, Refinement and Data Collection

- Promote awareness, discussion and debate among public, researchers, governments
- Forge new relationships within and among sectors
- Test prototype “in the field” and refine it
- Collect and analyze data on indicators

Looking Ahead

Step 3: On-going use of national indicators

- Continuous collection and analysis of indicator data
- Using indicators in public policy development
- Periodic reassessment of indicator validity

The Challenge to/for Canadian associations

- Build links to other community groups
- Help validate the prototype - use it, challenge it, build on it
- Link to community projects

For additional information:

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Join our weekly news service:

e-network

(see web site for details)

