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# Indicators of Healthy & Vibrant Communities Roundtable

## Presentation to the Roundtable on Community Indicator Models

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## Community-based indicators are important to us.

- OTF believes that we need to measure what matters, in order to advance our mission.
- Community indicators can help clarify what we mean by “*healthy*” and “*vibrant*” communities.
- They will help us understand more clearly how communities are changing and if our granting and other activities are contributing.



## Leading community-based models map well to our priorities

- The Canadian Council on Learning – Composite Learning Index
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities -- Quality of Life Reporting System
- Canadian Council on Social Development – Community Social Data Strategy
- Community Foundations – Vital Signs



## The *Composite Learning Index* addresses our priority of “enhanced success for learners”

- It measures performance in key areas related to lifelong learning:
  - Learning to know (school-based learning)
  - Learning to do (work-related learning)
  - Learning to live together (community and interpersonal learning)
  - Learning to be (personal development)
- It draws attention to the multi-dimensional character of learning and its important contribution to community well-being.



## The *Quality of Life Reporting System* is a rich source on “healthy, active Ontarians” and “civic engagement”

- It draws on hundreds of variables that help define a healthy and vibrant community across 10 topics:
  - demographic and background information;
  - affordable, appropriate housing;
  - civic engagement;
  - community and social infrastructure;
  - education;
  - employment and local economy;
  - natural environment;
  - personal and community health;
  - personal financial security; and
  - personal safety.



## The *Community Social Data Strategy* enables access to a broad range of relevant indicators

- For example, Sault Ste Marie's *Community Performance Report* includes indicators across seven key areas that contribute to a healthy and vibrant community
  - Economy & Business
  - Education
  - Culture & Recreation
  - Health
  - Environment
  - Governance
  - Human Well-Being
- CSDS members now include municipalities, health and family service agencies, police, social planning councils, school boards, libraries, United Ways and community-based NGOs.



## ***Vital Signs* is a great new tool for understanding how communities are changing**

- All Vital Signs reports are based on 10 common topics:
  - learning;
  - work;
  - belonging and leadership;
  - getting started in our community;
  - housing;
  - safety;
  - arts and culture;
  - health and wellness;
  - gap between rich and poor; and
  - environment.
- These indicators help paint a good picture of community health and vibrancy.
- It's great to see it spreading from its origins at the Toronto Community Foundation, with the support of Community Foundations of Canada.



## What else could we possibly need?

- Is the landscape covered in terms of indicators of healthy and vibrant communities?
- Is there anything that isn't captured in these models that is relevant to what we need to know?
- Where can we improve in terms of data gathering and sharing and evidence-based decision-making?
- Who can we work with to build a simple, robust, clear model that will help us advance our mission?