

# ***Community Focus Bulletin:*** ***Creating Community Conversations***



Prepared by Merriam & Associates

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## **Community Foundation of Peterborough Releases Vital Signs, 2015**

**Read the special edition Vital Signs report at [cfgp.ca/vitalsigns](http://cfgp.ca/vitalsigns)**

Greater Peterborough's Vital Signs is a collaborative community initiative led by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. It is a snapshot of our community that measures the vitality of Greater Peterborough, identifies needs, strengths and trends, and supports actions on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Most importantly, it promotes conversation and thus encourages connectedness.

The recently released report provides information to our community, that helps us understand how the community shapes us, and to know how best to give back to sustain the vitality of Greater Peterborough.

*According to the CFGP, "Vital Signs is more than a simple report on our quality of life or just an engaging glimpse into what makes our community tick. It's community knowledge in action: Vital Signs is used as an outreach and education tool by our partners. It's an accessible and engaging read for community members who want to know more about the place they live, and where they fit into it. And at CFGP, we use Vital Signs to help us connect the dots between caring community members and local causes that matter, informing our community leadership and granting activities at the Foundation."*

This year's edition focuses on belonging and inclusion.

### **Did you know?**

- Greater Peterborough's sense of belonging has decreased 9.8% since 2003. (Source: As per CFC, Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 105-0501, based on Canadian Community Health Survey 2014)

- In a 2015 survey conducted by the Peterborough Council on Aging in Greater Peterborough, 56% of respondents indicated that they were concerned about respect and social inclusion as they age.  
(Source: Age Friendly Peterborough Survey 2015 <http://peterboroughcouncilonaging.ca/> )
- 75.1% of people from higher income households reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2011/2012, compared to 61.1% of people from lower income households.  
(Source: As per Peterborough County City Health Unit, Canadian Community Health Survey 2011/2012, Statistics Canada, Share File, MOHLTC)
- People who earn less than the median employment income are ten times more likely to ride transit to work than those who earn more. People who use public transit have limited access to transportation on holidays, with few options for getting around in the County of Peterborough.  
(Source: 2014 Peterborough City and County Active Transportation and Health Indicators Report [http://www.pcchu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/AT\\_Health\\_Indicators\\_Report-FINAL-web.pdf](http://www.pcchu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/AT_Health_Indicators_Report-FINAL-web.pdf) )

### **Questions we must ask ourselves:**

1. How can we increase our ability to be a more inclusive community?
2. Are we reaching out to all ages of citizens to make sure that they are able to participate in our community?
3. Are we seen as a welcoming community to newcomers? And if not, how can we change this?

### **For more information go to:**

#### **Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough**

261 George Street North, Suite 202

Peterborough, ON K9J 3G9

**Telephone:** (705) 740-2347

**Email:** [info@cfgp.ca](mailto:info@cfgp.ca)

**Charitable Registration Number:** 8762 32315 RR001

#### **Or contact:**

**John Good**, Executive Director [john.good@cfgp.ca](mailto:john.good@cfgp.ca)

**Nicole Gagliardi**, Program Coordinator [nicole.gagliardi@cfgp.ca](mailto:nicole.gagliardi@cfgp.ca)

For more information about our upcoming Community Focus Bulletins go to <http://www.merriam-associates.com/contact-us>

Or email Dawn Berry Merriam at [dawnbm@merriam-associates.com](mailto:dawnbm@merriam-associates.com) or call 705-743-8050.