

Vital Signs Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS VITAL SIGNS?

Vital Signs is a program of Community Foundations of Canada. It sees *Vital Signs* reports published every October across the country. (Note: this timing has become much more flexible.) The *Vital Signs* report is a periodic check-up that measures the quality of life in Canadian communities, identifies local strengths, and shares opportunities for action.

WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?

While every community must choose the subject areas most relevant to them, these are the core 10 issue areas:
Arts and culture • Belonging and leadership • Environment • Gap between rich and poor • Getting started in our community • Health • Housing • Learning • Safety • Work

WHAT AREAS ARE COVERED?

A report about the Southern Gulf Islands would include Galiano, Mayne, Pender, and Saturna Islands. Each community would have its own report and there would be a regional report as well.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In addition to data collection and detailed statistical analysis, it is essential to engage the community in a consultative process that invites the inclusion of local opinions and information. This is especially important in the Southern Gulf Islands, where census information is limited.

WHAT MAKES VITAL SIGNS DIFFERENT?

The power of this report is in its accessibility. Alongside statistical analysis, the final report will be written in a way that makes it interesting, understandable, engaging, and actionable for everyone living in the Southern Gulf Islands.

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 local citizens. *Vital Signs* reports are often used in funding applications, strategic and community planning, and community engagement activities.