

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
May 25, 2017

## Vital Signs 2017 Kicks Off in Golden

*Project combines data and public perceptions to help set community priorities*

(Golden, BC) – Thanks to some dedicated volunteers and collaboration from a number of organizations, come October, the Golden & Area A community will have a better idea of it's performance and direction.

Golden & Area A's Vital Signs will continue to rely on local experts and volunteer researchers, who can lean on the Golden & District Community Foundation and the Vital Signs community from across Canada and around the world to help collect and analyze local indicator data and share ideas for community development.

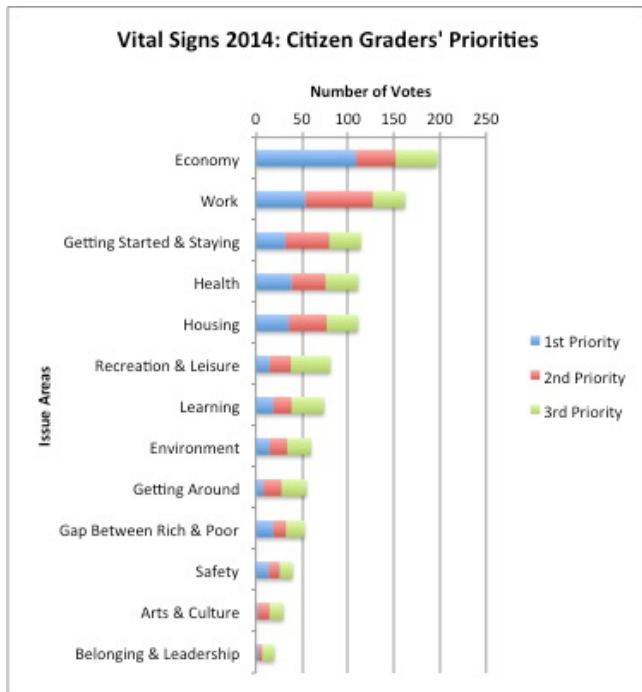
The Golden & District Community Foundation (GDCF) received the needed funding from Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives & Affected Areas Program (CIP/AAP) for Vital Signs 2017 and the project kicked off on Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> with a dozen local volunteer researchers present.

"While considered one of the better Vital Signs reports from a small community," explained Ryan Watmough, GDCF Executive Director, "the GDCF compiled feedback over the last 3 years, which will help improve the 2017 process and the outcomes."

"Our volunteer researchers will have access to some new data sources and partners, like the Vancouver Foundation's 2016 BC Community Survey and the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute's Community Data Program, along with the 2016 Census – to draw on. Through this process, we hope that this 3-year update can provide a clearer picture of the community, and direction for interested individuals, local organizations, and government."

A balanced mix of experienced and new volunteer researchers attended the Kick-Off Meeting, who had offered to help collect, analyze and interpret data on one of the [Vital Signs](#) "Issue Areas."

The 2014 Golden & Area A's Vital Signs Issue Areas are listed shown below in the citizen-selected priority order:



In the coming months, every citizen in Golden & Area A will be asked to provide their input on how our community has progressed with respect to these issue areas and priorities the community should focus on into 2020.

Anyone that could not make the Kick Off Meeting, but does want to participate in the [Vital Signs](#) project as an Issue Area Researcher, is asked to please contact Ryan Watmough at [admin@goldencommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:admin@goldencommunityfoundation.ca).

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***About the Golden & District Community Foundation***

*The Golden & District Community Foundation's mission is to attract and effectively grow permanent funds; provide leadership and administration that helps in addressing significant community needs; and help donors fulfill their philanthropic interests.*

To learn more about your community foundation and *Golden & Area A's Vital Signs* report, please bookmark [www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca).

**For more information contact:**

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