



# Lanark County **VitalSigns**<sup>®</sup> 2017



**Taking the Pulse of our Community**

# Why?

A community is much more than a collection of parts – it is a complex integrated fabric. When that fabric is strong, we become proud of this place we live in and are a part of. We feel inspired to give of our time and resources to make our community stronger, to show that we care. That, in turn, gives us a sense of belonging, and keeps us here.

This **Lanark County Vital Signs 2017** report is the result of an impressive, community-driven process that explores the essence of Lanark County. It shows where the overall fabric is vibrant and strong, as well as where it is worn, faded and the connecting threads weak. These are the areas where we need to focus our attention, in a caring and collective way.

Please – read this report, learn about strengths you didn't know about, and take pride in the ones you are part of. Most importantly, think about the areas where we need to take action. Let it inspire you to weave some of *your* time and resources into Lanark County.

**Together, we can make a better, more diverse, and richer community for all.**

## The Vital Signs Program



The Vital Signs program was developed by the Toronto Community Foundation and shared nationwide as a program coordinated by the Community Foundations of Canada. **There are 32 Canadian community foundations actively engaged in Vital Signs 2017 and over 80 globally.** It has proven to be a very effective program that allows community foundations to create a snapshot of how their community is doing.

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

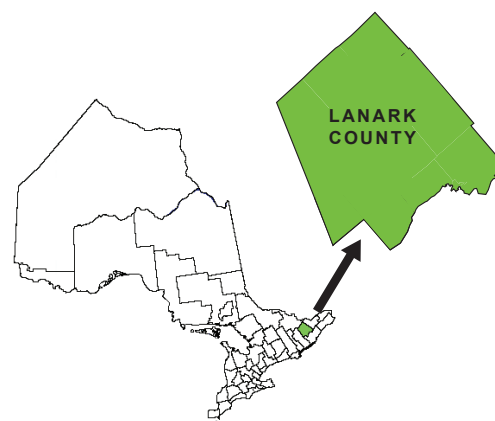
*The Vital Signs trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.*

For more information about Vital Signs® across Canada visit [www.vitalsignscanada.ca](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca)



## PDCF – Who We Are

Established in 2002, by a group of dedicated forward-thinking community-minded individuals, the Perth and District Community Foundation (PDCF) builds community vitality by encouraging endowment building and facilitating partnership within Lanark County. The PDCF provides grants to a broad spectrum of charitable organizations, and, where relevant and necessary, identifies community issues and convenes community discussion on these issues.



## Population: 68,698 (2016)

The Towns of Carleton Place, Perth, Almonte, Smiths Falls and the Village of Lanark are the largest “urban” areas. The Townships of Beckwith, Drummond/North Elmsley, Lanark Highlands, Mississippi Mills, Montague and Tay Valley, are rural areas of vast open and natural landscape, with some villages and hamlets.



# Welcome!

Welcome to the first **Lanark County Vital Signs** report, produced by the Perth and District Community Foundation (PDCF). This report gives a current overview of Lanark County, looking from 30,000 feet at **ten themes related to life in Lanark County**, and how they connect with and support each other. This Vital Signs report will help the PDCF and the community at large focus on those areas that are most in need of creative community action. It is our hope that the report will generate discussion, forge new partnerships that focus on collective impact, and, ultimately, result in a healthier and more vibrant community.

Our Vital Signs program tells us that **Lanark County is a great place to live**. It is a place where citizens have a real sense of belonging, with tremendous opportunities to access and enjoy the natural environment. It is a collaborative and supportive community, and a leader in many different areas.

Not all is ideal, though. A primary issue that came up repeatedly is the lack of adequate transportation. In a rural setting, particularly for youth, seniors and people living on low or fixed incomes, the lack of regional public transportation presents major challenges, such as access to health and community services, education and employment opportunities. What became clear through the Vital Signs program is that solving our transportation issue will go a long way towards improving many of these challenges.

Our community has a higher than average proportion of retirees. The expertise, life experience and volunteerism of these individuals is an incredible asset. Lanark County also has higher than average household incomes, but the disparity between the wealthy and the needy is growing, and the most vulnerable members of our community are struggling to get the basic services and support they need.

This report identifies opportunities to bring people together and to build partnerships which will ultimately enrich life for us all. The PDCF is proud to lead the conversation towards a **more inclusive and vital future for Lanark County**.



Dan Allatt, President PDCF and Fundholder



Lynn McIntyre, Executive Director and Fundholder

## Ten Themes



**Belonging and Civic Engagement**



**Environment and Nature**



**Arts and Culture**



**Health & Well Being**



**Housing**



**Gap Between Rich & Poor**



**Learning**



**People & Work**



**Safety**



**Transportation**

### Front Cover:

top photo by David Zimmerly, Blueberry Mountain, one of the Seven Wonders of Lanark County

bottom left photo by North Lanark Community Health Centre

bottom middle photo by Lynn McIntyre

bottom right photo by Lynn McIntyre

# Methodology

Several methods were used to engage community members and leaders in the creation of this report:

306 people completed the Vital Signs survey;  
652 people completed the “Be Well Survey on Community Health and Wellbeing” conducted by the North Lanark Community Health Centre;  
40 ‘key informants’ were interviewed;

54 people participated in focus groups; and  
Numerous presentations to municipal councils and community groups  
This input and conversations yielded a wealth of community opinions, resources and success stories on a broad range of themes.

## Vital Signs Survey

306 people completed this survey that asked the following open-ended questions:

**What do you like most about living in this area?**  
(respondents could list several topics)



### 54% Community & People

44% lakes and nature  
28% health and community services  
22% recreation  
20% arts and culture

What **challenges** make it difficult for you or your family to enjoy a good quality of life?

### 31% Transportation

17% Income  
17% Employment  
17% Health Care and Services  
10% Recreation

If you or our community leaders could change one thing to improve quality-of-life for you or your family, what would it be?



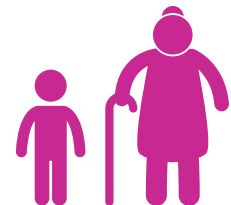
### 13% provide affordable public transportation

10% help people get good jobs and stable incomes  
9% create and maintain roads, bike lanes and paths

Who would you say are the **most vulnerable members** in our community?

### 40% Children and Youth

37% Seniors  
15% People living on low-income  
10% People with mental, physical disabilities



If community leaders could do **one thing to improve** the quality-of-life for the most vulnerable members of our community, what would it be?

### 14% provide affordable public transportation

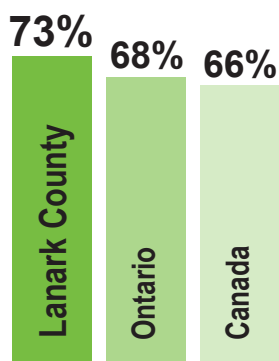
13% provide more services and programming for children and youth  
12% provide more information on services that exist and increase availability

# Be Well Survey

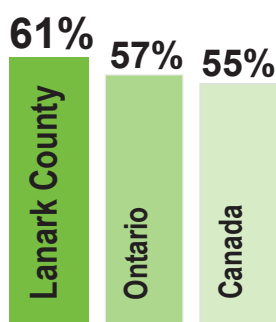


652 people completed the “Be Well Survey on Community Health and Wellbeing” conducted by the North Lanark Community Health Centre. The results were benchmarked against Provincial and National figures and support our Vital Signs Survey. Those figures show that our community has a greater than average sense of belonging and trust, and volunteerism.

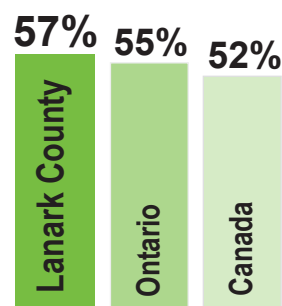
## Sense of belonging



## Sense of trust

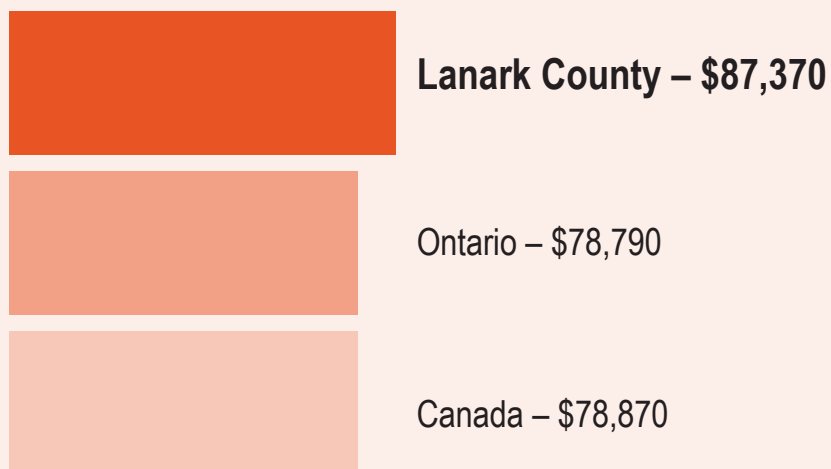


## Volunteerism



## Statistics Canada

### Median Census Family Income 2014



### Percent of tax filers making charitable donations

Lanark County – 23.2%  
Canada – 22.0%

### Voter Turnout – Federal election 2015

Lanark County – 72.3%  
Canada – 68.3%

Sources and detailed statistical and survey data reports can be found online at [www.pdcf.ca](http://www.pdcf.ca)

# Working Together

This Vital Signs program is about more than the various parts of the community – which in this report we have broken into ten theme areas. It is about how those parts work together with each other, support and strengthen each other, and weave together into a vibrant fabric that becomes the community we love and call home.

It is also about how **WE** work together to achieve that, as a community of caring individuals and groups. The PDCF and its many partners have played a vital role in creating, nurturing and supporting these links. This report will stimulate proactive, strategic collective and collaborative action, targeted at those areas where the community fabric is weakest, and where the most vulnerable members are not getting the support they need.

Lanark County has a rich history of caring community members coming together to create new groups to fill in weak portions of our societal fabric. Just think of the **Two Rivers Food Hub**, creating a host of links to help support local farmers with new markets, processing and storage opportunities. Or the various **Youth Centres**, giving adolescents in our community the support and safe spaces they need. Or the **Lanark Community Justice Program**, providing creative restorative justice solutions. Or the **Rideau Environmental Action League**, launching a wide range of great programs related to reuse, and water quality, and Pitch In Week, and so much more. Or **The Table Community Food Centre**, tackling a range of basic social issues related to the most vulnerable members of our community. Or the **Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement**, that recently came together to find meaningful local ways to support a humanitarian crisis.

These, and other creative community solutions, profiled in Success Stories are sprinkled throughout this report. They are just a small sampling of what we could have included.

It is hard to imagine what Lanark County would be without these groups, without our summer festivals and fairs, theater groups, our seniors and service clubs, our sports leagues and tournaments, our community advocates and social activists, our environmental and natures groups, our lake associations.

Now, just **imagine** if we use the findings from this Vital Signs 2017 report to tackle emerging and impending issues? **What could our community look like ten years from now?**

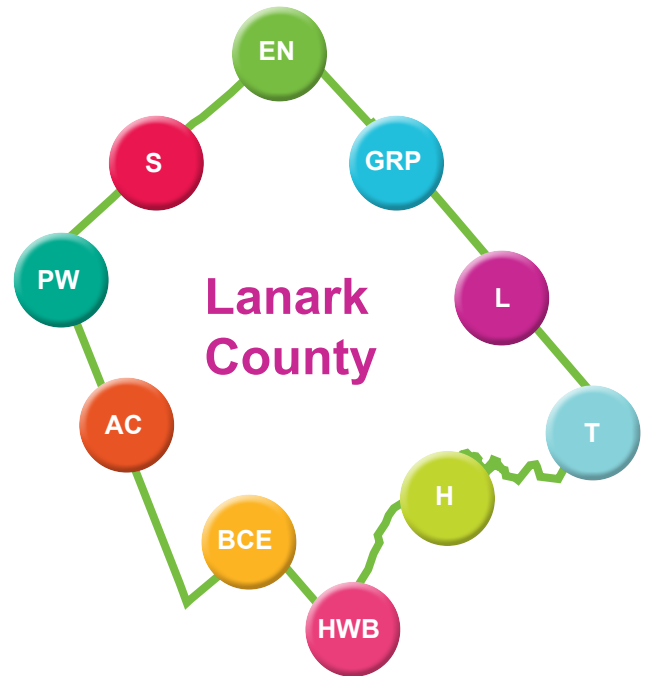


photo by Marie White

Belonging is the sense of being part of the collective, the community. It is why people come to a community and stay in a community. It is also what inspires people to engage and get involved – to strive to make the community a better place for themselves and others.

The sense of belonging came through in this study as one of the primary reasons why people are here, and staying here, making this their community. It is also what is prompting them to civic engagement – to volunteer of their time and resources.

## Success Story: Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (CARR)



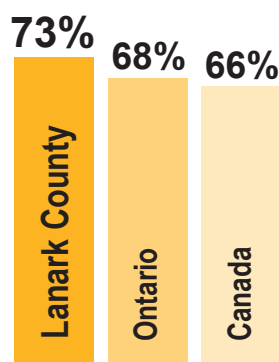
When the Syrian refugee movement happened in 2015, the PDCF convened a town hall meeting that attracted people from across Lanark County. The community response was overwhelming. Over **100** volunteers stepped forward and formed the **Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (CARR)**, raising over

**\$100,000** in eight weeks! Within six months, the Almdhe family had made Perth their new home followed shortly by the Hido family.



photos by David Zimmerly

### Sense of belonging



**Sense of trust** 61% Lanark County; 57% Ontario; 55% Canada

**Volunteerism** 57% Lanark County; 55% Ontario; 52 % Canada

*“Love living in this community – there is a sense of pride about our town. It is a great place to raise our family”  
(survey response)*

*“Thank you for showing our community and the world that Canadians still care.” (A donor)*





photo by Mississippi Valley Conservation

The natural environment is the foundation of life on earth. We depend on and are stewards of the environment. It not only provides the essentials of life, it inspires us and is critical to our health and vitality.

Our survey respondents stated that the environment and access to nature was one of the reasons they love living here. However, more has to be done to protect our natural treasures, and restore areas that have been degraded.

### Success Story: Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL)



In 1989, 150 local residents came together to form the Rideau Environmental Action League. Based in Smiths Falls, it often serves the much larger region of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville counties. Starting with tree planting projects, shoreline cleanups, and waste reduction projects, it soon went on to deliver the EnerGuide for Houses and

Well Aware programs for rural well owners, opened the REAL Deal Reuse Store and planted a town's first community garden.



photo by REAL



About 100 years ago much of Lanark County was reduced to 30% forest cover. Today, over **57%** of Lanark County is forested.

### ecoPerth

This organization started up in 1998 to show how a rural community could respond to issues of climate change. From an extensive Lanark Local Flavour program, to solar panels, to tree sales and much more, ecoPerth has been tackling climate change while stimulating the local economy.

The County has **47** provincially significant wetlands and the natural diversity of the landscape supports over **1,300** species of plants, **17** of which are outstanding examples of plant diversity.

Purdon Conservation Area supports Canada's largest native colony of Showy Lady Slipper Orchids. The rare orchid colony exists thanks to Joe Purdon, who discovered a few dozen orchids on his property in the 1930s. Through his perseverance and protection the area is home to more than **10,000** orchids.

*"First I love to live in, and with, nature. I love to be able to have an opportunity to be a good steward of the land I own and the other creatures that live alongside me. Nature has many lessons to teach us."*  
(survey response)



A vibrant arts and culture scene benefits our health, well being, sense of belonging and impacts our local economy and tourism. This cultural capital provides employment opportunities and is the calling card to attract new residents to our community. Lanark County Vital Signs 2017 substantiates what we already are aware of, and proud of – we have a rich, diverse and growing arts and culture community.

## Success Story: Perth's World Record Kilt Run



photo by the Running Goat

An open challenge from the Mayor of Perth to the community on how best to celebrate the 800th anniversary of our twin city Perth, Scotland initiated the 8 kilometre Perth Kilt Run. Intended as a one time event, over 1,000 kilted runners set a Guinness World Record. It has become an annual event and not to rest on its laurels grew to over **4,500** kilted runners in 2016 in celebration of Perth, Ontario's 200th anniversary, breaking its own **Guinness World Record**.



**In Lanark County, jobs in arts, entertainment and recreation make up over 6% of the labour force, and their share is growing faster than any other sector.**



*"We are new to Perth, but so far we are impressed with the level of social activities including theatre and special events"*  
(survey response)

**Did you know...**there are more than **100** festivals and fairs take place every year in Lanark County – many of them free to the public.

*"There is a rich historical and cultural heritage and a vibrant music and arts scene"* (survey response)

Good physical and mental health is easy to take for granted when we have it. When it's missing, the impact can be felt in every aspect of our lives. Many of the factors that contribute to good mental and physical health are influenced at the community level and determined by policies and standards set provincially and nationally.

Health-promoting behaviours such as keeping physically fit, eating healthy foods, maintaining physical and mental health, maintaining oral health and managing life stress can all influence our risk of chronic disease, infections and injury. There is consistent evidence that people with the lowest incomes bear a heavier burden of illness and mortality, and that residents across Lanark County have differing opportunities to be healthy.



photo by North Lanark Community Health Centre



## Success Story: The Table, Community Food Centre

Until 2012, the Table was the Perth and District Food Bank, providing much needed food access services to people in Perth and surrounding areas. They had a vision to harness the power of food to make this a healthier, stronger, more just and inclusive community.

Beginning in January 2012 with the support of Community Food Centres Canada they transitioned to a new model and became the second affiliate Community Food Centre and the first rural one in Canada. They now offer integrated programs that provide access to healthy and delicious food. Community Food Centres work to bring people together to grow, cook, share, and advocate for good food. In 2016 the Table offered over 800 sessions in community gardening, after school and community kitchen programs and helped feed nearly 2,000 individuals facing food insecurity. The Table served well over **15,000** healthy meals over the course of last year.

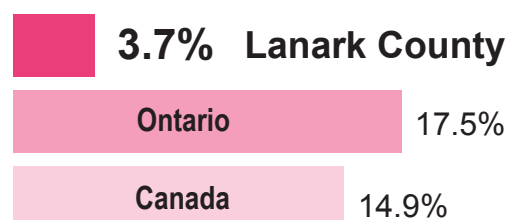


photo by by Hinda Goldberg

Empty Bowls Perth has raised over **\$200,000** for local Lanark County food security programs since 2002. Local potters handcraft bowls to remind us that access to food is a basic right.

## Good News!

% of people **without** family physician (2015)



## Challenges!

**60.5%** of the overall population of Lanark County report eating **less than 5 servings of fruit and vegetables daily**.

**8.5%** of the overall population reported being diagnosed with an **anxiety disorder** and **10.6%** with a **mood disorder**.

**35.1%** of the overall population reported **NOT** having **dental insurance**.

# H

## Housing

While basic shelter is a human right, having a place to call “home” is a human need and a pre-requisite for healthy people, healthy relationships and healthy communities. Lack of adequate affordable housing can aggravate other problems associated with low income. People who spend a disproportionate amount of their income on housing can have difficulty covering necessities – food, transportation, heat, hydro and basic phone service – let alone recreational or educational activities.



### Success Story: Lanark County Homelessness

The Lanark County Housing Coalition, Cornerstone Landing, United Way Lanark County, Lanark County Youth Centres along with many others, have been championing the cause to develop “Made in Lanark County” solutions to address youth homelessness. Cornerstone Landing responded to 80 calls for service last year and worked with over 60 young people between the ages of 16-24. They have 46 youth on their current caseload.



1 in 5 Lanark County households spend more than **30%** of their income on shelter costs .



photo by Sandy Grey



photo by Sandy Grey

*“My house is falling down”*  
*“I’m worried about the water and too far away from stores”*



When there is a gap between the rich and poor in our community, **we are all affected**. When people don't have enough money to pay for their basic needs, all areas of their life will be affected and their ability to make positive changes in their lives will be compromised. When all citizens have adequate resources to ensure that their basic needs are met, then communities are more healthy and resilient. While our community has slightly lower poverty rates provincially and nationally, they are still too high.



### Success Story: Lanark County Volunteer Income Tax Program

In 2013, when local anti-poverty activist Martina Flanagan became aware that the "Community Volunteer Income Tax Program" in Lanark County was in jeopardy, she put out a plea to others for help. In four years, the number of volunteers, clinics, locations and returns has grown exponentially. Based on Canada Revenue Agency estimates, between 2014-2016, millions of dollars have gone back into the hands and pockets of income-vulnerable people across Lanark County who have used the Volunteer Income Tax Program!

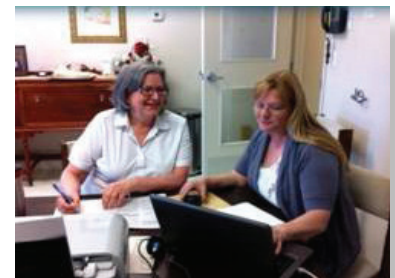
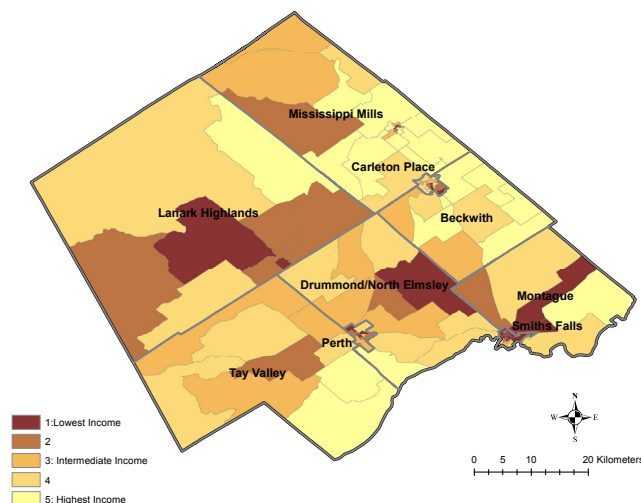
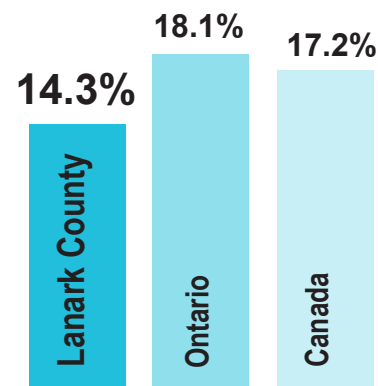


photo by Lanark Community Programs



### Poverty Rate



*"It's been a couple of tough weeks since losing my job and my wife is working hard at two jobs to provide. It's nice knowing there's someone there to help."  
(The Table 2016 Annual Report)*

The poverty rate among **children** is **16.7%** in Lanark County compared to 18.8% provincially.

The poverty rate of **elderly** in Lanark County is **1.7%** compared to the provincial average of 6.8%.

**25.6%** of **lone-parent families** in Lanark County are living in poverty compared to 32.4% provincially.

# L

## Learning

Helping our children, youth and young adults grow into healthy, caring and resilient adults requires the involvement of the whole community – from parents, immediate and extended networks of families and friends, neighbourhoods, schools, municipalities, businesses and more. It starts early in life (during pregnancy), and extends through the teenage years into young adulthood.

*“We believe that a caring, healthy and vibrant community is fundamental to a higher standard of living.”*  
(Jim Noble)



### Success Story: The Perth and District Union Library Children’s Summer Literacy Program

The Perth and District Union Library Children’s Summer Literacy Program has been up and running for **28 years**! Over 1,500 children have received one-on-one tutoring in reading and writing skills during the summer months – boosting their skills and confidence before heading into the next school year. In 2015, the Summer Literacy Program was presented with the Ontario Library Association’s Angus Mowat Award of Excellence. Other Lanark County libraries are now participating in the program, ensuring all children can develop a love of reading.



photo by Jim Noble

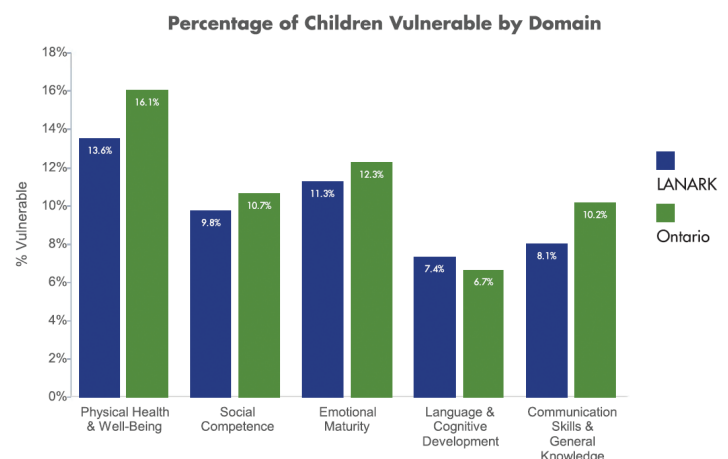
*“Library in Perth is a wonderful hub and valuable asset for the community.”*  
(survey response)

To sustain this important program, an endowment fund has been established through the Perth and District Community Foundation. Over **\$500,000** has been raised – securing the program in perpetuity.

The community identified **“Children and Youth”** as the most vulnerable members in our community, and wanted community leaders to provide more services and programming for children and youth (ranked just behind transportation).

### The Facts – Using the Early Development Instrument (EDI)

The EDI is a teacher-completed assessment developed at McMaster University that is used across Ontario and Canada to measure children’s ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations at school entry. Data collection across Canada shows that in most jurisdictions, 25% or more of the children entering kindergarten are vulnerable in at least one aspect of their development and this can impact lifelong health, learning and behaviour.





## People at Work

Quality of life, in all its aspects, is greater for all residents when the economy is strong. Businesses and residents have greater resiliency when the economy is robust. The Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark projects job growth to continue through 2021.



### Success Story: The Two Rivers Food Hub (TRFH)

Two Rivers Food Hub, a not-for-profit social enterprise, was established in 2013 as the only full-service, year-round distributor of 100% local foods serving the small and medium size farmers for the area. Over 90 producers supply local markets and connect farms to communities. This created over 50 new jobs.

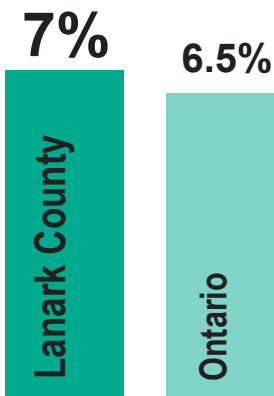
### According to the Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark the top five employers are:

1. Health care and social assistance
2. Retail trade
3. Manufacturing
4. Accommodation and food services, and
5. Education

*"Our food production, increased market access and connections to the farm community all continue to grow because of the Hub. We just bought our own farm."  
(TRFH participant)*

### Unemployment Rate

for people 15 and older



Ours is an older community: in 2016 more than **54%** were over 45 vs. Ontario at 44%.

**New job growth** will be in the health care and social assistance sector.

Did you know that agriculture, forestry and fishing account for less than **1%** of the jobs in Lanark County?

Did you know that the largest increase in employment since 2012 is in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector – up 41%

*"More job coaching so people can learn to contribute to the community." (survey response)*



# S

## Safety



photo by LCCJP

A safe community is one where everyone can go about their daily lives without fear of harm or injury to themselves, their loved ones or their property. Having a strong sense of belonging and a strong sense of trust are important factors ensuring

community safety. Finding a way to heal the harm between people and within a community once a crime has been committed is another important element of safety.

**Good news!** Recent statistics have shown that there is a **downward trend in thefts** and **disturbances** in Lanark County.

*"It is a quiet and beautiful place as it has been a wonderful area to raise kids as well as you feel safe and not have to look over your shoulder as you would in the big cities."*  
(survey response)



### Success Story: Lanark County Community Justice Program

What began as a prank in a small Lanark County town resulted in a store gutted by fire and the death of two citizens. Concerned citizens came together to find a way forward to heal the harm from the tragedy resulting in the Lanark County Community Justice Program.

The Program has changed conversations across Lanark County from retribution to restoration – by facilitating forums that bring together victims of crime with the offenders. The LCCJP's latest endeavour is to proactively bring conflict resolution, problem-solving and respectful communication skills to every school and youth centre in Lanark County.

**Satisfied with how the case was handled**

**90%** Restorative Justice

68% Traditional Programs

**Compliance Rate in Completing Sanctions**

**100%** for Young Offenders

**Would recommend to a victimized friend**

**98%** Restorative Justice

24% Traditional Programs

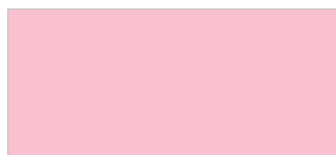


**Average Number of Days to complete a case:**



**82 days**

for Lanark County Community Justice Young Offenders



**156 days** for Perth Court Youth Criminal Justice

# T

## Transportation

Community transportation is important because it enables people – regardless of income or ability – to access jobs, education, services, recreation and social activities. Transportation plays a key role in keeping people connected with one another and the broader community. However, the lack of regional transportation directly impacts the most vulnerable, namely youth and seniors.



### **Success Story: Lanark Transportation Association (LTA)**

Lanark Transportation Association is a community-based, not-for-profit, personal transportation service that has been serving the residents of Lanark County and the Town of Smiths Falls since 2001.

LTA's 15 vehicles, including four wheelchair-accessible vehicles, are used to provide transportation related to medical appointments, hospital discharges and mental health services and has recently expanded their mandate to include "life-enhancing" services or appointments. Last year 23,500 rides were provided to seniors and to younger people with disabilities.

**Trails and Paddling Routes:** Lanark County has hundreds of kilometres of trails and paddling routes for all abilities. The Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation continues to convert old rail lines to trails for multiple uses.

#### **Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month:**

Every June, Mississippi Mills hosts a series of bicycle events for people of all ages and abilities, including Pakenham's Parade on a Bike, the "Tour de Mississippi Mills", a women's mountain bike ride, Birders on Bikes, and a Tri-Brew Tour to three local breweries.



photo by Lynn McIntyre

*"I'm a widow. I live alone on a fixed income and don't drive. I rely on my neighbours to take me to doctor's appointments and get groceries. I worry that I'm a burden to them and that I'll have to move to town."  
(focus group participant)*

# The Big Picture – What Have We Learned?

The Vital Signs program has shown us that Lanark County is brimming with community spirit and resources. The various elements, profiled in the previous pages, are woven together to create this community of ours, with its strengths and weaknesses.

Through the Vital Signs survey, and other community engagements such as interviews with 40 key community members, and focus groups we know that:

- we are very proud of our community, our people, our lakes and natural environment, our services, our recreational opportunities and our arts and culture
- we have a higher than normal proportion of retirees, which, though it presents certain challenges, is also a treasure trove of resources (skills, knowledge, time and money)
- we have a rural “can do” approach to solving problems, where we pull together and make things happen, rather than wait for others to solve the issues for us.



photo by Lynn McIntyre

We also know that there are some areas where we could do better, where the most vulnerable of our community are not being supported, where people can't get the services they need. We have learned that:

- the lack of rural transportation options is the biggest single issue because it impacts many different aspects of our community, including access to services, income, employment and recreation
- youth and seniors are the most vulnerable members of our community
- there is an ongoing need for good jobs and stable incomes

***“Inspired that there is this Foundation willing and organized to address these issues.”***

***“PDCF – keep up all the good work you do!”***

***“Keep up the good work! Thanks”***

***“Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our feelings in this survey!”***





## Moving forward

We now have a wonderful, up-to-date picture of our community – a better understanding of what makes us great, how the parts work together, and where we need to do better. But that is just ideas and words – what really matters is what we **DO** about it.

The lack of good, viable and affordable rural transportation is a primary issue that we need to address. Not only did it come out repeatedly as an issue, but solving it will go a long way to solving many other issues in the community that were identified through this Vital Signs program.

Some steps have been taken, and groups formed, to deal with these issues. These include groups like the **Lanark Transportation Association** and **Mills Community Support**. An exciting and very recent development is the formation of the Transit Advisory Group to Lanark County Council. These are great building blocks that, with stimulation and support, and the involvement of other community stakeholders, will lead to creative and collaborative local solutions to our transportation issues. These solutions that will have tremendous collective impact on improving access to services and economic opportunities for youth and seniors in our community.

In conjunction with addressing transportation needs, we need to find the most effective ways to engage our citizens and the groups they are part of to address the need for:

- new and improved community services for youth and seniors
- finding better ways to let those youth and seniors in need know about the services that already exist
- improved good and affordable housing

We **CAN** do this. We **NEED** to do this. **YOU** can help, by:

- getting involved
- joining community groups and organizations
- donating time, money and/or resources

**Together, let's make Lanark County stronger, better, more vibrant.** Let's build even more community pride. Let's make it even more of a place to be, and a place to stay!

It is important to note that Lanark County is part of unceded lands originally inhabited and used by the Algonquin nation. Efforts are underway to address this longstanding issue.

**The Perth and District Community Foundation** extends its sincere appreciation to all the organizations and individuals who have provided information, guidance, data, photos, stories or support for the production of this important report. We hope you will be inspired to help make Lanark County a great place, where everyone feels they belong.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this report.**

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