

KINGSTON & AREA'S

# VitalSigns® 2010

economy  
work  
getting started  
income & poverty  
housing  
safety  
health&wellness  
environment  
learning  
belonging  
arts & culture



**Community Foundation**  
for Kingston & Area

# Welcome to Kingston & Area's Vital Signs® 2010

Vital Signs® is an annual community checkup conducted by community foundations across Canada and is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

Welcome to the second annual Kingston & Area's Vital Signs®, published by Community Foundation for Kingston and Area. Vital Signs® aims to give a picture of some aspects of life in our community. Its purpose is to help us recognize what our community does well so we can support it and to identify areas where we want to do better and to encourage us to look for ways to do better.

This Vital Signs® includes on pages 21 and 22 a survey to gather your opinions on some community issues, and we encourage you to respond.

## **Community Foundation for Kingston & Area**

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# About the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area

The Community Foundation for Kingston & Area is one of 174 community foundations in Canadian cities and towns.

It was created in 1995, and we changed our name in 2008 to reflect our activity in all of the former Frontenac County and Loyalist Township. We are also active in Prince Edward County through the Stark Family Fund.

## **Our Foundation's Vision:**

"A vibrant community where everyone has the opportunity to take part in building a caring, healthy and culturally rich community"

This is a widely held hope for many in our community and all of our stakeholders have roles in realizing this vision.

Our Foundation's Mission is threefold:

- to work with donors to make strategic and effective grants to projects that enhance community life;
- to grow and carefully manage a lasting endowment to fund grants;
- to serve our community as a resource and partner.

Since 1995, the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area has awarded 887 Community grants totalling more than \$1,640,000 to 392 organizations using investment income from our endowments. We currently manage approximately \$11 million in 126 funds.



Dan Norman (Vital Signs editor), Florence Campbell (President),  
Vikram Varma (Executive Director)



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# What is Vital Signs®? What's New and Why?

This is the second time the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area has produced Vital Signs®. We are one of 16 community foundations from B.C. to Nova Scotia who are producing the report this year. Vital Signs® presents a “snapshot” or “report card” on the community by selecting statistical measures or “indicators” for a number of “issue areas” that tell us what is happening in these areas. What is going well in our community? Where should we be working to do better?

The Vital Signs® project follows guidelines set by Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) which specify issue areas, and in some areas, “core indicators” that are to be used in all communities. Much of the data in this report comes from Statistics Canada sources, specifically selected for participating foundations by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards and is for the Kingston Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) (see map, page 6). Local organizations have also provided us with data and information, usually for the City of Kingston. This report and a listing of the sources of the indicators in the report will be available at <http://www.cfka.org/content/vital-signs-2010>.

Following suggestions for improvement we received after publishing our first report last year, this year we invited members of Focus Kingston, the Social Planning Council and the United Way to join our Vital Signs steering committee and they have helped shape this year's report. (Focus Kingston led to the creation of Sustainable Kingston.) We have also consulted more widely this year and again received useful information from several organizations. Some of the issue area pages have been created or produced using input from various people, listed in a section of Acknowledgements. The Vital Signs committee at the Community Foundation is ultimately responsible for the contents of the report.

Last year's Vital Signs contained a page on Getting Around. This is not a standard page in the national guidelines but it is interesting and important. However, there is not a lot of fresh data, so we decided to replace it with a page on the impact on Kingston of the city's largest employer – Canadian Forces Base Kingston.

We (and others) were not very satisfied with the survey results included in last year's reports. We have decided to depart from the usual Vital Signs practice and conduct a different kind of survey in October as a follow-up to this year's report. It is not intended as a scientific poll. It is short and invites readers to share their opinions on a few issues with us anonymously. We will report the results on our Foundation website, in the hope that it will encourage wider discussion and perhaps action on some of these issues. We encourage you to participate on line at <http://www.cfka.org/content/vital-signs-2010-survey> or to reply by cutting the survey from the paper version, completing it and returning it to the Community Foundation.

## “Communities need to address problems themselves”

Judith Maxwell, former Chair of the Economic Council of Canada and the Canadian Policy Research Network, in her report *Looking Down the Road: Leadership for Canada's Changing Communities, 2006*. A highly respected observer of Canadian society, she was commissioned by Community Foundations of Canada to review challenges facing communities. The report states clearly that Canadian communities face a “long list of wicked problems”. As a result of cutbacks, senior governments are no longer likely to take a leadership role in solving community problems. Communities will need to take the leadership to develop solutions based on broad consensus and common goals. Once communities have developed broad coalitions to achieve goals, senior governments may support worthy solutions that bring about systemic change. A report such as Vital Signs can help us understand our community and build support for initiatives.



# Introduction: Background on Kingston

The Kingston Census Metropolitan Area includes the City of Kingston, Loyalist Township, South Frontenac Township and the Township of Frontenac Islands.

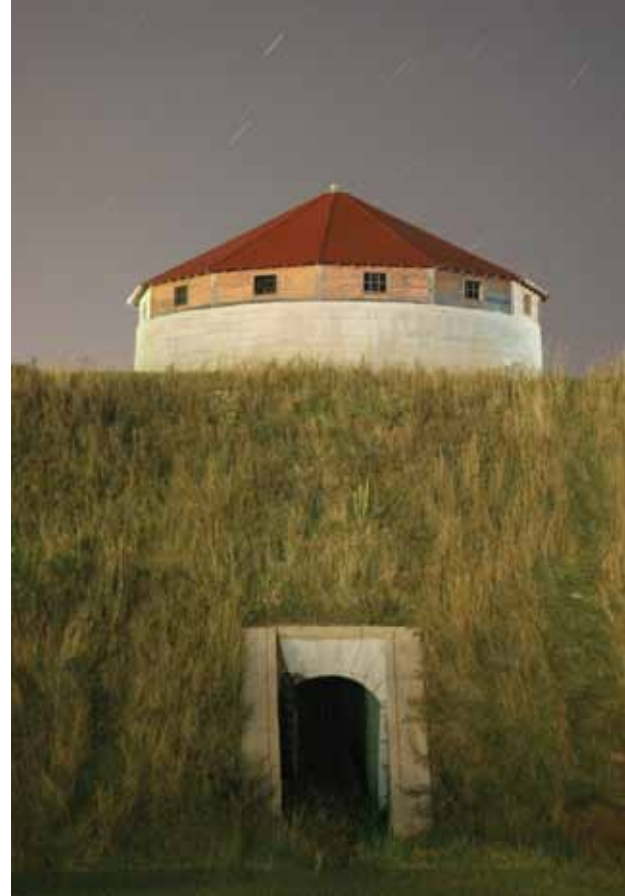
The population of Kingston CMA on July 1, 2006 was estimated to be 158,039. Three years later in 2009 it was estimated to be 160,723. In 2006 there were 43,025 families, of which 6,540 (15.2%) were single-parent families. This was a little below the provincial percentage of 15.8%. Broken down by age groups, youth (under 15) comprised 15% and persons 65 and older represented 16% of the population. The proportion of youth has been declining every year over the past decade from 17.5% of the population in Kingston CMA in 2001 to an estimated 14.7% in 2009. Provincially, over the same period, the percentage decreased from 19.4% to 15.8%. On the other hand, persons 65 and over made up 14.3% of the Kingston population in 2001 and increased to 16.0% in 2009, while the percentage of persons 65 and older in Ontario grew from 12.5% to 13.7% over the same period.

Data from the 2006 census (also reported in Kingston & Area Vital Signs® 2009) lists the median age as 40.7 in Kingston, 39.5 in Canada. 32.9% of Kingston's population 15 and over was single. In Kingston CMA 18,505 persons were foreign-born, which was 12.5% of the total population in 2006, compared with 28.3% in Ontario. Visible minorities represented 5.8% of the population in 2006, about 8,600 persons.

Last year's report showed that Kingston's economy was heavily weighted towards government and institutional employment – more so than the economy of most cities other than Ottawa. The large numbers employed by governments, CFB Kingston (see the page on CFB Kingston), Queen's University, RMC, St. Lawrence College and the three hospitals meant that Kingston's economy was better insulated from the recession than that of most Ontario cities. Youth unemployment in Kingston, however did follow the rising trend seen in Ontario and Canada because of the recession (see Getting Started).

Kingston businesses benefited from Ontario and federal government stimulus packages. One problem businesses faced, according to interviews KEDCO conducts regularly, was an inability to hire skilled tradesmen even at the depth of the recession. Paradoxically these businesses hesitated to take on more apprentices because of uncertainty about the future.

In Kingston CMA in 2009, 21.3% of workers were working part-time, while in Ontario 19.3% were part-time. In Kingston, about 29% of part-timers worked part-time involuntarily, but Kingston also has a considerable pool of people who choose to work part-time, some of whom retired from first-careers in their 50's. (See Work).



## Did You Know?

Kingston City Council has endorsed the City becoming a Community Partner of Sustainable Kingston, one of 19 community partners to date. The aim is to make Kingston Canada's Most Sustainable City, as described in the Community Plan developed by Focus Kingston.

"A sustainable community is defined as a place where people want to live and work, it meets the needs of its citizens, now and in the future. It is sensitive to the environment and reaches for a higher quality of life. It is active, inclusive, safe, well-planned, well built, well run, well connected and thriving. A sustainable community offers equal opportunity(ies) and good services for all."

Details about Sustainable Kingston can be found at [www.sustainablekingston.ca](http://www.sustainablekingston.ca).

# Map

The top map indicates where the Kingston census metropolitan area is located in Ontario.

The bottom map indicates the entire granting area for Community Foundation for Kingston & Area

The light blue indicates the Kingston Census Metropolitan Area .

## Did You Know?

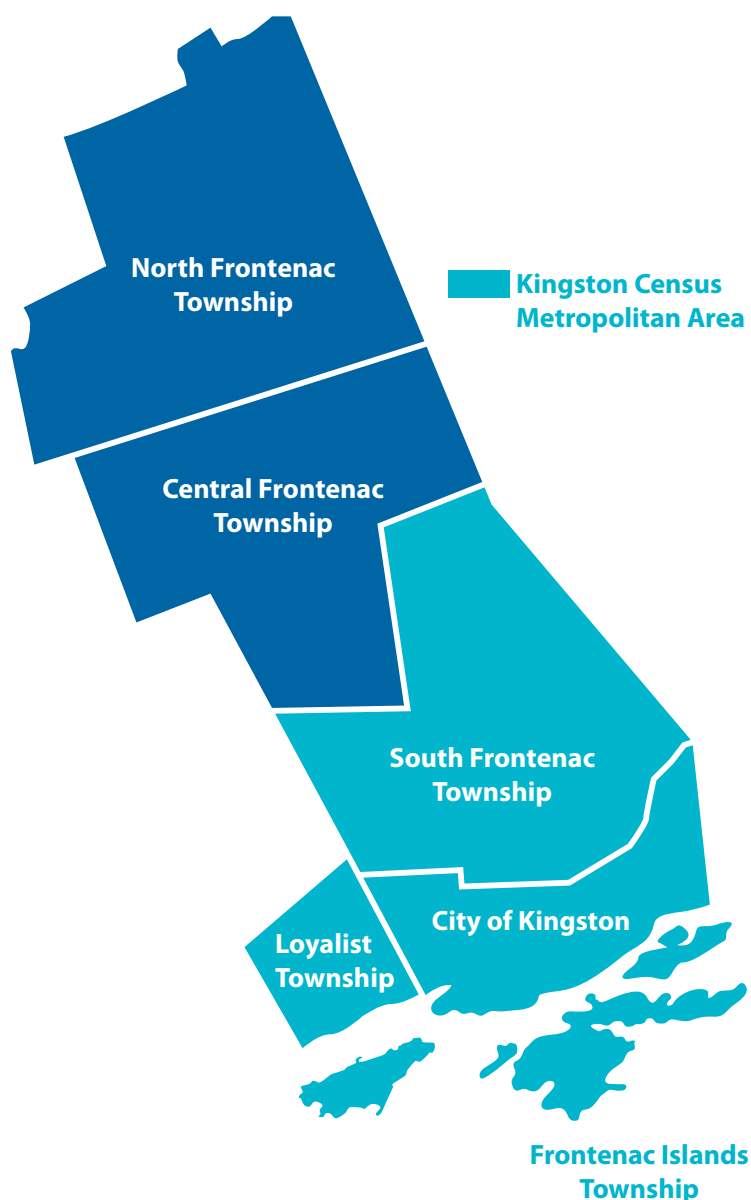
Municipal elections for Mayor or Reeves and Councillors and also School Board Trustees will be held on October 25. In the City of Kingston there will be advance polls on Saturday October 16 and Wednesday October 20

## Did You Know?

On July 1, 2009, the population of Kingston Census Metropolitan Area was estimated to be 160,723.

## Did You Know?

Kingston Transit introduced two new routes on September 7. Route 7 runs from Dalton and Division along John Counter Boulevard and Outer Princess Street to the Cataraqui Centre and the Invista Centre. Route 18 runs from the train and bus stations to downtown and student areas. More improvements of service are being explored.



# Economy

## Overall Competitiveness

KPMG compiles an index for some Canadian cities using 27 cost components for 12 industries. The index is 100 for an average of some American cities. An index less than 100 means that costs are less than the American average. Kingston's index for 2010 was 94.4 compared with 95.8 for Toronto and 94.2 for Montreal. (A Kingston figure for other years was not available in the table provided. The table does show that the index for some other Canadian cities was close to or even above 100 in 2008.)

## Real GDP in millions of constant 2002 dollars

	2001	2007	2009
<b>City of Kingston</b>	\$4,695	\$5,454	\$5,312
<b>Ontario</b>	\$463,840	\$532,726	\$506,368

In 2002 dollars, the City of Kingston's Gross Domestic Product increased from the 2001 to 2007 by 16%, (better than Ontario's 15%), but then decreased by 2.6% to the 2009 figure (a smaller decrease than Ontario's 5%). In 2009, the real GDP per worker in Kingston was \$72,889 (2002 dollars), which was 94% of the real GDP per worker in Ontario; this percentage had increased from 91% in 2001.

## Business Bankruptcies

A table of business bankruptcies per 1000 businesses shows that the rate for Kingston CMA was higher than the Ontario rate every year from 1997 to 2008 except for 2004. The table gives recent figures.

	2006	2007	2008
<b>Kingston CMA</b>	4.2	3.6	3.1
<b>Ontario</b>	3.1	2.9	2.7



## Housing Starts

For the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 there were respectively 860, 672 and 717 housing starts in Kingston CMA. The 7% increase from 2008 to 2009 is against the provincial trend – provincially there were 33% fewer housing starts in 2009 than in 2008.

## Total Residential Housing Sales

Sales in Kingston CMA were below 2,000 until 1996 when they reached 2,272. They passed 3,000 in 2001 with a total of 3,274. In 2007 there were 3,725 sales and in 2008 3,473. (No figures for 2009.)

## A Positive 2010?

The Conference Board of Canada, to which KEDCO subscribes, has positive forecast projections for Kingston for 2010 in its Summer 2010 Metropolitan Outlook. Among its projections for Kingston are a GDP increase of 2.8%, a manufacturing output growth of 4.2%, 791 housing starts and a decline in unemployment.



# Work

## Employment Insurance Beneficiaries

From 2002 to 2008, Ontario and its cities showed modest annual fluctuations in the total number of people receiving EI benefits. However from 2008 to 2009 Kingston(CMA)'s number of beneficiaries increased from 2,490 to 3,148, an increase of 26%. Other Ontario Vital Signs communities had larger increases. The overall Ontario total jumped by 54% from 249,202 in 2008 to 382,704 in 2009. The Kingston(CMA) number had increased further to 3,793 in the first quarter of 2010. In 2009 in Kingston, 1,808 were "regular" beneficiaries, the rest were on special programs for training, job creation, self-employment, sickness, maternity, fishing, work sharing, adoption or parental leave.



## Employment Levels and Growth

The numbers (in thousands) employed in Kingston CMA during the past three years were 78.3 in 2007, 79.4 in 2008 and 77.9 in 2009. The compound growth in employment numbers over the period 2000-2009 was 2.27% in Kingston compared with 1.71% in Ontario. The numbers above are yearly averages. Looking at monthly employment levels (seasonally unadjusted), we see 76.5 thousand employed in June 2009, a peak of 79.5 thousand in December 2009 – February 2010 and 75.7 thousand in June 2010.

## Unemployment Rate

The annual average unemployment rate in Kingston was roughly similar to the rates in Ontario and other Ontario Vital Signs communities until 2007 when Kingston's rate fell below the provincial rate.

	2007	2008	2009
<b>Kingston CMA</b>	5.3%	5.6%	6.1%
<b>Ontario</b>	6.4%	6.5%	9.0%

The 2009 rates in Toronto, London and Kitchener-Waterloo-Guelph were all over 9%, while Ottawa's rate was 5.6%. Monthly figures for Kingston (seasonally unadjusted) were 6.5% in June 2009, about 5.5% in December 2009 – January 2010 and 6.1% in June 2010 while Ontario rates stayed close to 9%.

## Part-time Work

In Kingston CMA in recent years, about 20% of those employed are working part-time: in 2007, there were 17.0 thousand working part-time (21.7% of the figure for all workers), in 2008 there were 15.9 thousand (20.0%) and in 2009 there were 16.6 thousand (21.3%). Some of these were part-time involuntarily: 4.9 thousand in 2007, 4.3 thousand in 2008, 4.8 thousand in 2009 – slightly less than 30% each year.



# Getting Started



Immigrant youth on an ISKA camping trip

## Average Family Income of Recent Immigrants

In analyzing the 2006 census recent immigrants were defined as those arriving in 2001-2004 and their average family incomes were calculated.

<b>Kingston CMA</b>	\$58,207
<b>Ontario</b>	\$55,031

The Kingston figure was better than most other Ontario Vital Signs communities other than Guelph (\$60,792) and Ottawa (\$59,235). The Kingston figure was 71.5% of the average income (\$81,441) of non-immigrant families in Kingston. It is interesting to look at the ratio of the recent immigrant incomes to non-immigrant incomes in some Ontario communities.

Kingston	Guelph	Hamilton	London	Ottawa	Toronto
71.5%	65.4%	57.1%	56.5%	55.5%	42.8%

While Kingston's favourable percentage is partly due to the fact that the average income for Kingston's non-immigrant families was lower than the average in the other communities, this ratio suggests that newcomers to Kingston do not face the degree of income disparity apparent in larger cities.

## Youth Unemployment Rates 2007-2009

		Kingston CMA	Ontario	Canada
<b>Youth</b>	2007	11.4%	13.0%	11.2%
<b>Unemployment</b>	2009	14.5%	17.6%	15.3%
<b>Overall</b>	2007	5.3%	6.4%	6.0%
<b>Unemployment</b>	2009	6.1%	9.0%	8.3%

Kingston's youth unemployment remained lower than Ontario's but followed a similar upward trend to the trend in Ontario and Canada while overall unemployment in Kingston did not increase in the same major way as overall unemployment in Ontario and Canada.

## Top 5 Occupational Categories of 2001-2006 immigrants in Frontenac County in 2006

Immigrant Profiles published by 1000 Islands Regional Workforce Development Board gives the following list:

<b>25.3%</b>	Professionals in Social Science, Education, Government Services and Religion
<b>11.9%</b>	Elemental Sales and Service
<b>9.3%</b>	Clerical
<b>8.7%</b>	Intermediate Sales and Service
<b>8.0%</b>	Professionals in Natural and Applied Sciences

## Did You Know?

The annual number of immigrants arriving in Kingston over the past 10 years has not increased. Over the ten years 1999-2008 the number averaged 383 with a low of 307 in 2002 and a high of 480 in 2004. The Kingston Immigration Partnership (KIP) was launched in 2009 by Kingston Community Health Centres, KEYS Community Employment Centre, and the Kingston Economic Development Corporation, to create a community-wide approach to the welcoming and integration of New Canadians to Kingston. Immigrants bring skills and new ideas to our community. Over 75 community organizations, service providers, businesses and government offices have engaged with the KIP. For more information see: [www.kchc.ca](http://www.kchc.ca) or [www.immigrationkingston.ca](http://www.immigrationkingston.ca)

# Income & Poverty

## Did you know?

That Kingston's Aboriginal population grew by 63% between 2001 and 2006 to 3295 persons. The number of persons self-identifying as Métis increased from 520 to 1,130 persons. Kingston draws Aboriginal peoples from across Canada for reasons of health, education, employment and family. Ontario has the largest Aboriginal population in Canada.

## Did you Know?

The Roundtable on Poverty supported by the City of Kingston is preparing a "Kingston Deprivation Index" to be released this fall. It will provide fuller information on issues around poverty. Among the facts used will be the numbers using the Food Bank. The Partners in Mission Foodbank (established in 1986) distributed 10,247 hampers in 2009, the highest ever except for 1994 at 10,572. The increase from 2008 to 2009 was the largest single year increase on record. So far this year, the demand has continued to increase.



## Children and Youth Poverty

In 2006, in Kingston there were 4,355 children (about 14% of the total population age 0 to 18 years), who were living in low income private households. The prevalence of low income is highest amongst children age 6 to 9 years.

## Young Adults Low Income Rates

In 2006, 27% of Kingston's young adult population was living in low income households. This is equivalent to 3,980 individuals between the ages of 18 to 24 years. Median before tax income in 2005 of individuals over 15 years of age was \$24,486. There is a concentration of individuals with low income in the central section of Kingston's urban core. These individuals may benefit from the provision of a wider diversification of housing locations, housing types and more affordable rental costs across Kingston.

## Ontario Works / Ontario Disability Support Program Rate changes

Social assistance income support available through the City of Kingston (Ontario Works) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) were increased by 2% in December 2009. The maximum assistance available to a single person under Ontario Works is \$585. A couple with one child would receive \$1,150. The maximum assistance available to a single person under ODSP is \$1,042. A couple with one child would receive \$1,738.

## Aboriginal Poverty

Aboriginal households (North American Indian, Métis, Inuit and other Aboriginal identity) in Kingston form a distinct segment of poverty. Median household income is significantly below income indicators for the non-Aboriginal population in Kingston. The Kingston median total income of the Aboriginal population aged 15 and over in 2005 was \$20,115, compared to \$27,762 for the non-Aboriginal population in the same age group. Aboriginal median income for Kingston was slightly higher than that for all of Ontario, urban and rural, which in 2005 was \$19,006.

# Housing & Homelessness



## Residential Vacancy Rates

In 2009 and 2010 Kingston has experienced some of the lowest vacancy rates and highest rents in Ontario. Average two bedroom rents in Kingston are now comparable to those found in the Greater Toronto Area and Ottawa.

As of October 2009 the vacancy rate overall was 1.3%, making it the lowest in Ontario and fifth lowest in Canada. Detailed vacancy rates: 1 bedroom 0.9%; two bedroom 1.7%; three + bedrooms 0.9%. The availability rate for Kingston is 2.6%, the lowest in Ontario. Average rental rates: one bedroom unit \$756; two bedroom \$909; three bedroom \$1100.

## Permanent Affordable Housing Starts/Land availability

The level of affordable housing starts for 2009 and 2010 has declined as a result of the drying up of federal and provincial capital and operating funds. There are no new affordable housing starts in 2010. In addition, the City of Kingston's own land bank of immediately available sites for new construction is limited to one or two possible sites. Other sites are currently under review by the city as a way of creating a larger land bank for affordable housing. The new provincial housing strategy to be released in the fall of 2010 is expected to contain strategies for the development of more affordable housing.

## Rent Supplement Unit Availability

Rent supplements to reduce shelter costs are available from two major sources: Municipal/Provincial Income Support programs (Ontario Works and ODSP) and rent supplements available largely through existing not-for-profit housing providers and some private and portable rent supplements. As of August 2010 there are approximately 20 unallocated supplements available for new affordable housing development. Both Federal and Provincial governments have ceased funding new rent supplement programs.

## Social Housing Registry (Waiting List)

The number of households on the City of Kingston's Social Housing Registry waiting list for not-for-profit affordable housing in Kingston has remained virtually unchanged at about 1,000 households since 2005. Single occupant households form a majority of the waiting list.

## Homelessness: Shelter Demand

Homeless shelters in Kingston continue to operate at close to 100% of shelter bed capacity. Overall shelter usage is climbing and broader system capacity has been reduced with the closing of Bridge House in 2010.

Homelessness is driven by a number of factors: limited funding for not-for-profit affordable housing, closing of institutional housing for those with mental illness; social assistance rates that have been reduced and not kept up with inflation, and accelerating increases in Kingston rents.

### City of Kingston – Annual Shelter Bed Nights (funded and unfunded)

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
18,615	18,615	18,615	18,666	22,104

## Permanent Affordable Housing Capital funding availability

No new federal or provincial capital funding for affordable housing has been allocated to Kingston in 2010. Kingston City Council has indicated a willingness to use \$5 million its own capital borrowing capacity for the development of new affordable housing along with the dedication of land and the waiver of various development and building charges to reduce costs for building projects.

## Did you know?

That Ryandale Shelter for the Homeless has created the first family shelter accommodation in Kingston. The new family section of the shelter will open in September 2010.

# “Horrendous Housing Issues”

By: Joanna Moon



As a recent Queen's graduate, I moved from the “Queen's Bubble” last year and stepped into another Kingston. I was dismayed to discover how many people in our city have to pay more than they can afford for housing, and how many live in bad quality housing. Born here, I grew up in a comfortable home in Peterborough and came back to Kingston to attend Queen's.

After graduation I was employed as an intern at Bethel Church where my focus was compassion and social justice. My goals were to inform myself and my church about the issues facing Kingstonians. I have also tried to facilitate learning and serving opportunities for the members of my church. It was soon apparent to me that horrendous housing issues face many families living with low incomes – a blight on my city.

This fact was reinforced by a recent community needs assessment of North Kingston (this includes Inner Harbour, Williamsville, Kingscourt, Marker's Acre and Rideau Heights). When asked “if you could change one thing to improve the lives of people living in north Kingston, what would it be?”, the number one response from people living in north Kingston was “Improve the quality and affordability of housing.” This complaint was shared by many Kingstonians, not just those living in the north end. According to the 2009 United Way Report, half of the households in Kingston spend more than a 30% of their income on housing, putting them at risk for homelessness.

As I discovered in talking to people over the course of the past year, there are three main housing issues in Kingston: the lack of affordable housing, the lack of standards and inspections of existing housing, and the problem of ghettoization. While there are a limited number of affordable housing units in Kingston, the wait lists for these apartments are incredibly long. A good friend of mine applied for a one bedroom apartment with Kingston Housing two years ago, only to be told that she would have to wait 6 years for affordable housing. This year she was told that she should still expect to wait 6 years. This woman is extremely hard working, often holding down 5 or 6 jobs at once. She is a grandmother, summer camp cook and community volunteer. She's also one of a 1000+ applicants for affordable housing in Kingston.

Even if people find affordable housing, it does not mean that they have found safe or adequate housing. In private rentals conditions can be abysmal. These conditions can lead to serious health and safety issues. I have friends whose apartments are infested with a variety of insects, and have heard accounts of people with severe respiratory ailments that are aggravated by the persistent mould.

Poor quality housing too often means high heating costs. While there are property standards bylaws, they are not always followed by some landlords. And many do not report their complaints for fear of negative repercussions from their landlord.

The third big issue that I have discovered is ghettoization. As many are aware, a debate over affordable housing in Barriefield has been raging recently. There are historical preservation concerns, as well as worries about the current lack of transportation and services for people on low income, if affordable housing were to be built in the Barriefield area. These concerns need to be considered, but the resistance to affordable housing in typically middle/ upper class areas is a recurring theme in the history of Kingston. In the 1960's, residents of similar areas of town resisted the building of affordable housing in their neighbourhoods. Instead, the majority of these units were built in the north end, and the result was that this end of town continued to have the reputation of being on the “wrong side of the tracks”.

Similarly, the student ghetto (or the Student Village as the university is trying to convince us to call it), is known as a slummy part of town. Having lived at the top of Aberdeen Street for three years, I know how unfair it is to stereotype any neighbourhood. Sure, the housing may be of lower quality and some of the residents may be rowdy at times, but people should not be stigmatized because of their address. This is especially true of the north end – many people would love to live in a more convenient, better serviced area of town, but cannot afford to. If we had affordable housing sprinkled all over the city, we would have a well-balanced, healthier community.

The longer I live in Kingston the more I love it, and it grieves me to know that so many people in this town have a very real and well-grounded fear of becoming homeless, or living in substandard conditions. I am leaving Kingston in the fall to continue my studies in Toronto, and while I am reluctant to leave the city that I now call home, I am excited for the next stage of my learning journey. I plan to study Theology and Urban Poverty/Development at Wycliffe College, because I firmly believe that the issues facing people in poverty need to be addressed by government, faith communities and everyone else. I am so thankful for all that I have learned this year, and I dearly hope to return to Kingston in the years to come, finding a place with more affordable, adequate, and geographically diverse housing.



# Safety

## Total Property Crime Violations per 100,000 population

	2001	2008	2009
<b>Kingston CMA</b>	4,712	3,841	3,491
<b>Ontario</b>	4,125	3,245	3,170
<b>Canada</b>	5,124	4,247	4,081

Property crime rates have been declining for the past 20 years in Ontario and Canada. (Note: these statistics were reported differently in Vital Signs 2009, using a table of "Property Crime Incidence" which gave different figures, but also showed a long-term decrease.)

There were fewer reported break-ins in Kingston City in 2009 (552 incidents) than in 2008 (684). In 2009 there were also 792 reported cases of thefts from motor vehicles.

## Violent Crime Severity Index

The Violent Crime Severity Index for Kingston CMA in 2009 was 71.9, low compared with an Ontario rate of 81.7 and a Canada rate of 93.7. This index weights the volume committed of each type of crime by its incarceration rate and average incarceration period; the 2009 rate is up from the 2008 rate of 60.6, at least in part due to the murder of four women in one family. However, this index fluctuates considerably from year to year in many Ontario cities and there is no clear trend since 2001.

## Domestic Violence

In the City of Kingston the number of calls for police service related to domestic violence in 2009 was 718, a significant decrease from 936 calls in 2008. It is hoped that this reflects a decreased incidence of domestic violence. The police and various community agencies have made joint efforts to address this serious problem by establishing supports for those reporting domestic violence. In April 2009 the Kingston Police dedicated the Victims of Domestic Violence Memorial in the entrance to the Police Headquarters.



## Hate Crimes

The number of crimes identified as hate crimes is generally small and fluctuates considerably from year to year. It is more informative to give an average for the three-year period 2006-2008. (Data is not available for earlier periods or for 2009 and so it is not possible to identify trends.) The average number of hate crimes per year per 100,000 population for this period in some Ontario cities and in Ontario is as follows:

Kingston	6.9
London	6.6
Ottawa	6.0
Toronto	5.3
Ontario	4.2.

The numbers depend on reporting by citizens. Kingston police have worked with community groups to encourage and provide support for those reporting hate crimes.

## Accidents, pedestrians and cyclists

Kingston City Police recorded 2,533 accidents involving motor vehicles in 2009. Of these, 31 involved bicyclists, and 37 involved pedestrians. In 2008 the numbers were 2,430 accidents, 27 with bicyclists and 45 with pedestrians, and in 2007 there were 2,416 accidents, 24 with bicyclists and 45 with pedestrians.

# Health & Wellness

## Did you know?

In Ontario, the percentage of youth who are current (that is, daily or occasional) smokers decreased significantly between 2001 and 2007.

## Did you know?

Some health problems associated with excess body weight are coronary heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and hypertension.

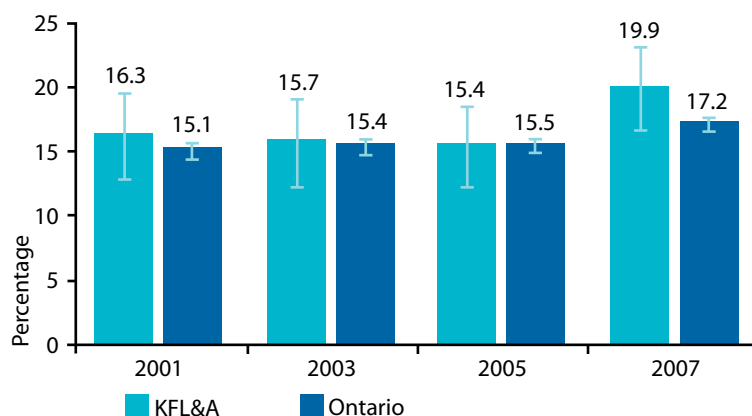


## Confidence Intervals:

The source of data for the graphs below is the Canadian Community Health Survey. Results presented in the graphs show the percentage of respondents in Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A). They include 95% confidence intervals shown on the graphs as  $\pm$ . This means that 19 out of 20 similar surveys in KFL&A would produce a result within the 95% confidence interval shown. As the sample size for KFL&A is fairly small, the 95% confidence intervals tend to be wide and caution should be used when interpreting results.

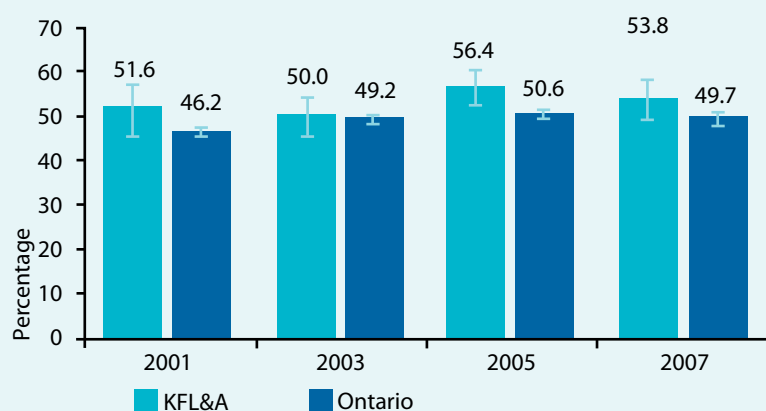
## Obesity in Adults (18 and over) in KFL&A and Ontario 2001-2007

This graph shows the percentages of residents (excluding pregnant women and those under 18) who are obese. Obesity is defined as having body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30. Some health problems associated with excess body weight are coronary heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and hypertension. CCHS uses self-reported measurements which may lead to an underestimate of BMI. With small sample sizes for KFL&A (and thus wide confidence intervals), one needs further data to assess whether obesity rates are increasing in KFL&A, but the increase in rates for Ontario between 2005 and 2007 is significant.



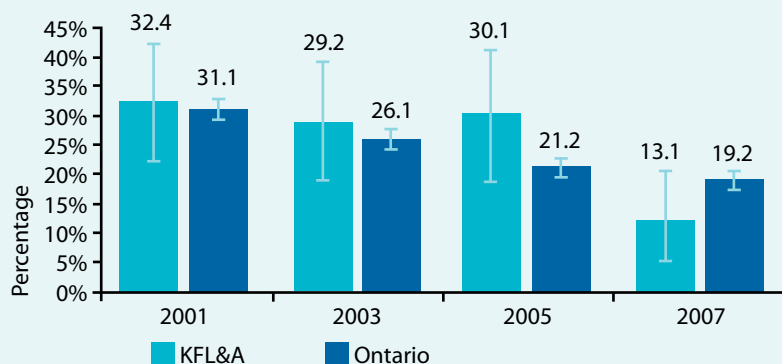
## Physical Activity in KFL&A and Ontario 2001-2007

This graph shows the percentages of resident 18 and over who are "moderately active" or "active". The physical activity index uses the total daily Energy Expenditure values (kcal/kg/day) to categorize respondents as being "active", "moderate" or "inactive". In 2005 a larger percentage of KFL&A residents than Ontario residents were active, but there was no significant difference in 2007.



## Youth Smokers 2001-2007

The following graph displays the percentages of ever-smokers aged 12-19 in KFL&A and Ontario. The confidence intervals for KFL&A are wide and caution should be used when interpreting results. In Ontario, there is a significant decreasing trend in the proportion of youth ever-smokers, with about 31% ever-smokers in 2001 down to about 19% in 2007. Also, in Ontario, the percentage of youth who are current (that is, daily or occasional) smokers decreased significantly between 2001 and 2007. In 2001 the 95% confidence interval was 15.3%-17.9%, while in 2007 it declined to 7.9%-10.2% (graph not shown).



## Family Health Teams

At the beginning of August there were three Family Health Teams in Kingston (Maple, Kingston, and Queen's) with over 75,000 enrolled patients, nearly half the population of Kingston CMA.

67 physicians participate (some part-time, having other roles at a hospital or in teaching) in addition to almost 50 interdisciplinary health care providers. The purpose of Family Health Teams is to improve access for patients and improve quality of care in a collaborative team environment.

In addition to the Family Health Teams, most of the other family physicians in Kingston participate in other primary care models such as Family Health Organizations/Groups. These models provide after hours care to patients and promote the management of chronic diseases and health promotion/prevention. 54 Kingston physicians participate in these models and they care for over 47,000 patients.

Participation in FHTs varies across Ontario. In Peterborough, nearly all family physicians participate – 81 physicians with 103,000 enrolled patients.

## Hospital Beds and Wait Times

In mid-June, Kingston General Hospital held 50 patients waiting for transfer to an Alternative Level of Care. 30 of these were waiting for beds in Long Term Care homes, 20 were waiting for transfer to facilities for rehabilitation or complex care.

[www.ontario.ca/waittimes](http://www.ontario.ca/waittimes) showed KGH Emergency Room average wait time in July 2010 for uncomplicated cases (from registration to departure, for 9 patients out of 10) was 5.2 hours; the provincial average was 4.4 hours and the target is 4. For KGH, for complex cases, requiring more time for diagnosis or treatment or admission to a hospital bed, the July wait time (for 9 patients out of 10) was 16.8 hours, improved from 22.6 hours earlier this year. Initiatives are under way to get closer to the provincial average of 11.2 hours and target of 8.

# Environment

## Did You Know?

Kingston City Council approved the Corporation of the City of Kingston's Drinking Water Supply System Financial Plan on June 15, 2010. The plan was developed to ensure safe drinking water and financial stability, while enabling long-term infrastructure renewal. The renewal, which includes very substantial investments, is already in progress – visible in some neighbourhoods as the pipes are replaced or rehabilitated. The plan includes all costs and provides for cost-recovery. See the City website for details.

## Did You Know?

The City of Kingston website has a section on Environment with information on many environmental issues for residents, such as Clean Air Tips, Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Belle Island Landfill, and many more.



## Air Quality

The number of smog advisories in Kingston and the number of days covered by those advisories in recent years is shown in this table. 10 advisories for 32 days is shown 10 – 32.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
10 – 32	5 – 12	9 – 23	4 – 8	2 – 4

When air quality is poor, the major problem is usually ozone; less frequently it is fine particulate matter. The Kingston monitoring station was moved in 2007 from Dalton Street to King Street West.

## Household Waste, Recycling and Green Bin

Curbside pickup is provided to households in buildings with no more than six residence units.

- 86% of these households participate in the recycling program.
- In the first year of operation of the Green Bin program (April 2009 to April 2010), 55% of households participated (including people who put out the Green Bin less frequently than every week).

The amounts collected curbside in these programs were:

- Green Bin (April 2009- April 2010) – 4,574 tonnes (equivalent of 457 garbage trucks of organic waste); of this only 1% was contaminant (items that didn't belong in the green bin);
- Recycling (2009) – 8,600 tonnes (equivalent of 860 trucks' worth) (78% fibres, 12% plastic, steel and aluminium containers, 10% glass).

In comparison, 17,784 tonnes of garbage for landfill was collected (April 2009 — April 2010). The garbage tonnage decreased by 1,773 tonnes from 2009 to 2008.

The environment would benefit if we can decrease all these tonnages by reducing and reusing.



# Learning

## High School Completion

Statistics Canada provides the percentage of the population over the age of 15 who have not completed high school. (This may seem a strange age cut-off, since most people complete high school at age 16 or later, but it has to do with the 5-year age groups Statistics Canada uses with data.) Generally, as one would hope, the percentage has been decreasing. In Ontario, it decreased from 26.2% in 2000 to 19.6% in 2009, and in Kingston CMA over the same period from 24.3% to 15.7%. Cities such as Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, London and Hamilton are fairly close to the provincial average but Ottawa is has a much lower percentage at 9.5% who have not completed high school.

## Literacy and Basic Skills and Academic Upgrading (LBS/AU)

Some adults, including some who completed high school in the past, need courses in Literacy, Basic Skills or Academic Upgrading to qualify for some kinds of employment or for further training. The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) provides assessments and funding for these courses which are offered locally by Kingston Literacy, our two English-language School Boards, St. Lawrence College, La Route du Savoir and, in Sharbot Lake, Northern Connections. A rough estimate is that approximately 1060 adults received LBS/AU training in Frontenac County in 2008-2009. Funding for an additional 206 people was provided for 2009-2010.

## Proportion of Population with a University degree, Post-secondary Certificate or Diploma

Over 50% of the population of Kingston CMA 15 years old or older have completed some post-secondary education – this has been true since 2005. In 2009, our percentage was 55.1%, which is higher than in other Ontario Vital Signs cities except for Ottawa at 62.9%. The overall 2009 figure for Ontario was 51.8%.



## Did You Know? Pathways to Education

Kingston Community Health Centres launched the Pathways to Education program in June of this year. Pathways to Education Canada is a charitable organization created to reduce poverty and its effects by lowering the high school dropout rate and increasing access to post secondary education. Grade 9 students in the Rideau Heights and Inner Harbour neighbourhoods of Kingston will receive academic tutoring and mentoring support as well as financial incentives for their participation. This program has been a tremendous success particularly in the Regent Park area of Toronto where the drop out rate was reduced from 56% to 10%. Please visit [www.kchc.ca](http://www.kchc.ca) for further information.

# Canadian Forces Base Kingston



One of the longest full time residents of Kingston and surrounding area has been the military, whose presence dates back to a French trading post in 1673. Later, the garrison town “King’s Town” was home to important naval dockyards and British sailors and soldiers for over 250 years.

Today, Canadian Forces Base Kingston directly employs over 8,000 Regular Force, Reserve Force and civilians, providing support for operations in Afghanistan, providing training and education through the schools of Military Intelligence and Communications, providing higher education at the Royal Military College of Canada and training staff officers at the Canadian Forces Land Command and Staff College. At any time during the year, there are over 2500 students attending full time studies at one of the training or education facilities in CFB Kingston.

CFB Kingston also provides officers, sailors, soldiers, airmen and airwomen for operational duty overseas, with over 600 personnel deploying on an annual basis to operations in Afghanistan or in support of UN operations worldwide.

There are approximately 2500 military families who live in Kingston, including about 450 on the base. 800 single personnel also live on the base. These families are supported by the Kingston Military Family Resource Centre, a support agency that is closely linked with United Way Agencies in Kingston to ensure that effective and comprehensive support is available to military families, especially those who have a family member deployed overseas. Roughly 500 families move in or out of Kingston each year, contributing to an active real estate market.

Members of the military in Kingston are deeply committed to their community and provide leadership and volunteer support to many critical events such as the United Way Campaign, Sky is the Limit Festival, Syl Apps Golf Tournament for the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston, the Canadian Olympic Regatta Kingston (CORK), Dragon Boat Races and hosts the Limestone City Charity Triathlon.

The military presence in Kingston also provides a financial boon to the city, whether directly through \$6M Payment in Lieu of Taxes, or indirectly through the purchase of goods and services to support base operations and the salaries of its 8,000 personnel; CFB Kingston is the largest employer in the city. The garrison is also spending an estimated \$400M over the next five to eight years for new and replacement infrastructure and buildings.

# Belonging and leadership

## Citizen participation in Voting

In Kingston's 2006 municipal elections only 40% of eligible voters actually voted, in spite of the fact that these local representatives oversee the investment in and provision of many vital services (utilities, roads, police, education, waste collection, parks, recreation and culture) and make decisions about spending millions of our tax dollars. The highest voting rates were in the districts of Lakeside (50.5%), Pittsburgh (49.8%) and Collins-Bayridge (46.6%). The lowest rates were in Williamsville (28.3%), Sydenham (28.3%) and King's Town (29.4%). In the federal election of 2008, 60.1% of those eligible voted

## Charitable Giving

Kingston does well compared to many Canadian cities in the percentage of the population who claim charitable donations on their tax returns. This percentage has decreased slowly every year recently. It should be noted that in a two-income family, one member often claims all of the family's charitable donations on his/her return. Also, some donors simply do not claim their donations on tax returns.

	Kingston CMA	Ontario	Canada
<b>2002</b>	29.2%	27.3%	25.1%
<b>2008</b>	26.9%	25.7%	24.1%

At the same time, the median donation (in current dollars) has increased somewhat.

	Kingston CMA	Ontario	Canada
<b>2002</b>	\$240	\$260	\$210
<b>2008</b>	\$300	\$300	\$250

This means that in Kingston in 2008, half who claimed donations on their tax return claimed less than \$300 and half claimed more than \$300.



## Sense of Belonging

In Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington in 2009, 68.1% of respondents 12 and over said they felt a strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging in their community. This percentage is consistent with KFL&A numbers going back to 2003. It is slightly higher than the Ontario figure of 67.1%, which is dragged down by lower percentages in Toronto and York Region. The percentage for Canada is 65.4%, with higher figures in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and much lower figures in Quebec. (Caution: the KFL&A percentage quoted is based on a relatively small sample, so it is subject to a fair degree of uncertainty.)

### Did You Know?

If you are a taxpayer and you have charitable receipts for donations, in Ontario you will get a reduction of your total income tax payable of about 21% of total receipted donations up to \$200 and about 40% for donations beyond \$200 – provided you file the appropriate information.



# Arts and Culture



## Numbers employed in arts, culture, recreation and sport

There is no data since the 2006 census, when 2,400 were employed in these roles in Kingston CMA. This was 3.04% of the experienced labour force, compared with 3.10% for the province. Toronto CMA at 3.90% and Ottawa at 4.37% were considerably higher, other Ontario Vital Signs cities generally lower. Changing the category to cultural industries, there is no data available to us later than 2008, when 1,700 were so employed in Kingston CMA (and this was reported in our Vital Signs 2009).

## City of Kingston Grants to the Arts

The city's program of arts grants is administered by the Kingston Arts Council. This year there were 9 Operating Grants totalling \$318,360 to established arts organizations. The largest of these grants were \$75,000 each to the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and the Kingston Symphony. In addition there were Project Grants to another 18 organizations for a total of \$130,000. Details can be found at the City of Kingston website in a July 21, 2010 press release or at [www.artskingston.ca](http://www.artskingston.ca)

## Arts Organizations in Kingston

The City of Kingston has no "cultural mapping" so it is not possible to give a precise count. One person very interested in the Arts in Kingston has compiled his own list, which he emphasizes is preliminary and incomplete. It includes completely professional groups, some businesses, many community groups. Their goals may vary, some aiming for high level professional standards with appropriate financial rewards, some emphasizing skill development or community participation, some with a mix of all of these. Some of these groups are very active, some much less so, and since the list was compiled in 2009, others may have vanished or sprung into existence. It does not include church music groups, nor the considerable arts activity in our high schools.

- In Visual Arts and Artisans, the list has more than 50 organizations, galleries, exhibition spaces, events for Visual Arts and Artisans.
- In Music, there is no list for the many bands and people that entertain in restaurants and bars or large venues, although some of these are renowned beyond Kingston. There appear to be about 20 choral groups (including 6 in Cantabile), and over 10 classical (or semi-classical) instrumental groups ranging from the symphony and subgroups of the symphony to community groups plus bagpipers and a fife and drum band. As well there are about half a dozen organizations (including the Grand and K-Rock Centre) that present a variety of musical events. In addition there are at least three or four groups presenting musical theatre or opera once a year.
- In Theatre a dozen or more groups are listed.
- In Dance, there are about 10 schools or performing groups..
- The Kingston Association of Museums has 22 member institutions.
- There are a number of Festivals

In summary, there are opportunities to enjoy the arts, many opportunities for those who wish to participate, and opportunities for those who wish to support the arts as volunteers.



# Vital Signs for Kingston & Area Survey 2010

The intent of this survey is to improve the quality of life in our community by getting residents of the Kingston area to share their views on some issues discussed in Vital Signs.

This is not a scientific survey using a random sampling of our population. Rather we want to encourage many people to consider how we can improve life in our community and how we can support or strengthen things that are already good in our community life. Results will be posted on the Community Foundation website.

In the survey, an issue is stated and then some possible opinions are given. Please indicate the response that most closely represents your view on the issue. You may make up to two(2) choices per issue. If no stated opinion agrees with you, make no choice and move to the next question. We encourage you to do the survey on the web at <http://www.cfka.org/content/vital-signs-2010-survey>. Or you may do the survey on paper by cutting the survey from the newspaper or booklet and circling the letter ((a) or (b), etc.) identifying your choice(s) on each issue. Mail or deliver your paper response to

Survey, Community Foundation for Kingston & Area  
165 Ontario Street, Suite 6, Kingston, ON, K7L 2Y6.

---

**1. Growing up in poverty makes it much harder to become successful as an adult. How can we improve the incomes for low income families?**

- (a) Good available day care would reduce some of the disadvantages of poor children and allow their parents to earn more.
  - (b) Local communities can help people living in poverty but cannot change the fact that many families have inadequate incomes.
  - (c) The best solution is Kingston Senator Hugh Segal's proposal for a guaranteed annual income.
  - (d) An improved minimum wage would solve the problem.
  - (e) The poor will always be with us.
- 

**2. Lack of affordable housing for low and moderate income people is considered by many to be an extremely serious problem in Kingston.**

- (a) A mixed approach of the not-for-profit, public and private sectors is the way to provide more permanent affordable housing
  - (b) Income support is also needed to allow people to access better housing
  - (c) Governments at all three levels must contribute to provide more permanent, affordable and suitable housing
  - (d) Given financial incentives, the private sector will solve the problem.
- 

**3. In the past Kingston welcomed many immigrants from outside Canada and they have contributed to the strength and richness of our community. We have been less successful lately in attracting immigrants.**

- (a) just let people come who want to
- (b) we should actively encourage immigrants to settle in Kingston
- (c) we can't compete with the attraction of large ethnic communities in big cities

## Survey continued

4. Various things affect how safe we feel. Which of these problems concerns you most about safety and well-being – either for you personally or for others in the Kingston area?

- (a) home and vehicle break-ins and thefts
- (b) fraud, scams, identity theft
- (c) risk of collisions between motor vehicles and cyclists or pedestrians
- (d) motor vehicles speeding, driving unsafely or running red lights or stop signs
- (e) domestic violence

5. Different things contribute to poor health in our community and it would be good if we could address them all. To improve overall health which of the following should we work hardest at in our community?

- (a) obesity, particularly in children
- (b) smoking
- (c) environmental issues that affect health
- (d) encouraging active lifestyles
- (e) improving incomes and housing for those with lower incomes

6. There are many environmental issues; some where individuals play the key role. Which of the following would you choose for community action?

- (a) improve the quality of water in the lake and river
- (b) improve overall air quality
- (c) reduce motor vehicle usage and the resulting greenhouse gas
- (d) reducing and/or recycling packaging to reduce the burden on landfill
- (e) increase domestic composting and/or green bin usage

7. What is most important to your feeling of belonging to a community?

- (a) your neighbourhood
- (b) your workplace
- (c) a faith, social or activity group
- (d) belong to the Kingston area
- (e) extended family
- (f) I don't have a sense of belonging

8. There are a lot of Arts and Culture activities in Kingston, with varying goals and quality.

- (a) the City already provides enough support for the Arts
- (b) individuals and companies should be asked to donate more
- (c) participants and audiences should pay the full costs of the activity
- (d) the City should provide more support

## Please tell us a little about yourself.

9. Neighbourhood area where you live

(for example, Amherstview, Rideau Heights, Polson Park, Greenwood Park)

For the following, answer by circling your answers

10. Age:

under 18      18-30      31-60      61 or older

11. Did you know anything about the Community Foundation before seeing this report?

Yes                  No

12. If answer to 11 is yes, how did you know?

- (a) From a friend
- (b) from Ripples insert in Whig
- (c) from organization that got a grant
- (d) Other \_\_\_\_\_

13. I knew the Community Foundation

- (a) made grants to charities for projects
- (b) built endowments
- (c) invested funds for other charities

14. The Community Foundation has a monthly email newsletter. If you would like to receive it, please give us your email address.

Thank you for participating in this survey.

# Acknowledgements and Thanks

## Vital Signs Steering Committee

**Dan Norman**, (Chair & Editor) CFKA volunteer

**Dave Jackson**, (Research Lead Social Planning Council)

**John Morse**, CFKA Director

**Bob Pritchard**, CFKA Director and Past President CFKA

**Ernest Sterns**, CFKA volunteer

**Vikram Varma**, CFKA Executive Director

**Linda Whitfield**, (Chair, Focus Kingston)

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Community Foundation for Kingston & Area.  
This report can also be found at  
[www.kingstonandareavitalsigns.ca](http://www.kingstonandareavitalsigns.ca)

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