

## 2009 City of Greater Sudbury's Annual Check-up



### **October 16, 2009. For Immediate Release**

The Sudbury Community Foundation (SCF) has launched its 2009 Vital Signs report, which features a special focus on both the senior and youth populations of Greater Sudbury. A launch event was held on October 16, 2009 at Pioneer Manor, on Notre Dame Avenue in Sudbury.

Vital Signs is an annual community check-up measuring the vitality of our city across 11 issue areas critical to Sudbury's quality of life. This reader-friendly report covers Seniors, Arts & Culture, Belonging & Leadership, Environment, Gap Between Rich & Poor, Getting Started in Our Community, Health & Wellness, Housing, Learning, Safety, and Work.

"Vital Signs is so much more than the sum of its parts," said Gisèle Chrétien, honorary chair of Vital Signs. "We can learn a lot from the information contained in the report. When we start to put the pieces together and see how each area impacts our community, we begin to get a good picture of how we can move ahead to make Sudbury a better place to live."

SCF first launched Vital Signs in 2007 to help disseminate local information on a wide range of community topics. The Vital Signs project benefits SCF by increasing the effectiveness of its grant making, and helping to inform donors about issues and opportunities in the community.

Vale Inco officials were also on hand for the launch of the 2009 Vital Signs report to announce that the company is giving \$150,000 over three years to SCF to continue publishing the report.

"We are very grateful to Vale Inco for this generous contribution to what we truly feel is an important tool for our city. This funding will help us to continue to produce a high-quality product over the next three years," said Elyse Clements, SCF president.

Sixteen cities across Canada also publish Vital Signs reports, including Toronto, Greater Montreal, Victoria, Calgary, Ottawa, and London, among others. Community Foundations of Canada, a national

### **Vital Signs 2009 Highlights**

- In 2007, the cost per bed day in a long-term care facility in Sudbury was \$146, significantly lower than the costs in London, Ottawa, Toronto, and Waterloo.
- Real GDP per worker in Sudbury was \$78,166 in 2008 (in constant 2002 dollars), down 2.4% from its 2007 level.
- In March 2008, the total number of unique people using food banks in Sudbury was 13,779, up 34.4% from 10,252 in March 2007.
- In 2008, 2,198 students at Laurentian University qualified for provincial and national loan assistance totaling over \$20.5 million.
- In 2006, 55,620 Sudburians drove a car, van or truck to work. This compares with 6,805 people who were passengers in an automobile, 3,710 people who took public transit, and 4,925 people who walked.
- In 2007, Greater Sudbury's Solid Waste Service landfilled 113,389 tonnes of waste. This is up 13.3% from the year 2000.
- At 153 police officers per 100,000 persons in 2008, the number of police officers in Sudbury was lower than both the national average of 191 and the provincial average of 194.
- In 2008, the rental vacancy rate of two bedroom apartments in Sudbury was 0.4%, compared to 0.3% in 2007. This is lower than Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal with vacancy rates of 1.9%, 1.6%, and 2.1% respectively.

organization representing 168 community foundations across the country, also launched a national Canada-wide report, which includes findings from all 16 local reports.

Greater Sudbury's two previous Vital Signs reports highlighted Arts and Culture as an issue area with exceptional concerns. As part of SCF's mandate is to take a leadership role in the community, the Foundation acted on this need by establishing Sudbury's Performing Arts Endowment fund, dedicated to support the local performing arts community, and organizing Jazz Sudbury, the city's first jazz festival.

"We have received overwhelming support and encouragement from the community after publishing our last two reports and we are very proud to be able to continue with our work on Vital Signs," said SCF Executive Director Carmen Simmons. "Our staff, our volunteers, and all the members of our expert panel work very hard to ensure we have a report that tells a true story about our city. This year's report, like our two previous, sheds a light on both the good and the not so good aspects of our community. The question now is how do we build off our strengths and improve on our weaknesses?"

Sudbury Community Foundation is an independent public foundation and registered charity. The Foundation has been a gateway to the community since 1996, enabling donors to create philanthropic legacies that will benefit Sudbury and its people both now and in the future. The Foundation's unique combination of grant-making expertise, knowledge of community needs, professional financial and fund management expertise and knowledge of donor philanthropy, provides donors with higher impact for every dollar donated. In addition, it gives local charities access to a permanent flow of grant dollars. For more information about the Sudbury Community Foundation, please visit [www.sudburycf.ca](http://www.sudburycf.ca).

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