







Going Together

A Vital Signs® message from the Community Foundation Chairman and Executive Director

Quality of Life

- Making a Strong Start in Our Community
- A Sustainable Environment
- Building Our Community
- Mobility
- Health & Wellness
- Lifelong Learning
- Access to Affordable Housing
- Availability of Arts Culture and Recreation
- Food Security
- A Vibrant Community with Both Economic and Cultural Diversity

Did You Know?



Vital Signs® is the result of an idea developed by the Toronto Community Foundation, which published the first Vital Signs® report in 2001. Since then, under the auspices of Community Foundations of Canada, Vital Signs® has grown into a national program. The WindsorEssex Community Foundation is proud to bring the program to our community, knowing that the annual Vital Signs® report will add to our area's vitality.



The WindsorEssex Community Foundation represents the interest of both the city and the county. These areas are inseparable given the way we live our daily lives. But as much as they are similar, they are also different. This report will delve into some of the specifics of our similarities and differences. Here are some general guidelines to help you understand what you are reading.

When this report talks about Windsor, it refers to the city proper. When we talk about the Windsor area or Windsor region, we are referring to what Statistics Canada (StatsCan) calls the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area (Windsor CMA). This area includes Windsor, Lakeshore, Tecumseh, LaSalle and Amherstburg. Finally, the term Essex County refers to the areas not included in Windsor or the Windsor CMA.

In the spring and early summer of 2014, the WindsorEssex Community Foundation conducted a survey asking the residents of Windsor and Essex County a number of questions related to their quality of life. We released the results of that survey this summer, and will also use the information in this report. In order to be consistent with StatsCan data,

we have normalized the results of that survey for the Vitals Signs® report. The quotations you will see inserted throughout this report are the voices of our local residents, taken from comments made in our 2014 survey.

Windsor has a population of approximately 211,000 people and is growing after a slight decline in population over the last several years. Windsor and Essex County as a whole have a population of approximately 402,000 people, an increase of 20,000 people since our last report. This represents a small increase for the county as a whole, while the Windsor CMA maintains its growth rate over the last fifteen years.

The largest segment of our population is between 40 to 54 years of age, as reported in 2013, and we are slowly becoming an older population. Efforts to attract retirees to this area contribute to this aging. 56% of residents over the age of 15 are either married or in a common-law relationship and 52.8% of these families have children between the ages of 20 and 29 living at home. This is the highest proportion of any census area in Canada except Toronto.

To access copies of all of the Vital Signs® reports, go to www.vitalsignscanada.ca. Please let us know your thoughts by contacting the WindsorEssex Community Foundation by e-mail at info@wecf.ca, or by phone at 519-255-6572.







"Going Together"

A Vital Signs Message from the Community Foundation Chairman and Executive Director

Welcome to Windsor-Essex County's second Vital Signs® report. There are now more than 27 other community foundations across Canada that have prepared and distributed similar report cards. We are proud to be among them.

Vital Signs® reports indicate the vitality of the communities we call home. Although multiple reports are published every year in our community, and a significant amount of data is available through other reports, we feel that Vital Signs® goes a step further. Through comment, local survey input and the dialogue to come, our report is intended not only to convey the data, but to bring it to life.

Last year we indicated that we would publish the report annually. This year's edition affirms our commitment to make Vital Signs® an annual gift to our community.

This year's Windsor-Essex County Vital Signs® continues the conversation we started last year. As you read through Vital Signs® today, you will notice that we have added comments

received in the Vital Signs® on-line survey we posted this past June. We are pleased to have received so many replies from a broad cross-section of individuals living in both the City of Windsor and Essex County. We sincerely thank all those who filled out the survey this year. It was a more

arduous and time consuming request than we had anticipated and we truly appreciated your involvement. We promise to make it more "user friendly" next year!

As you read through Vital Signs® 2014, we trust that you will gain a better understanding of our community. We hope that, again this year, you will be inspired to send us your comments, observations and suggestions.

As always, we owe much of the success of our efforts on behalf of the Windsor-Essex County community to our community partners. We would like to thank our media partner, *the Windsor Star*, for their continued assistance with the printed and electronic report compilation and distribution. In addition, we welcome PricewaterhouseCoopers as a valued new partner for the project. Both organizations have been key to the success of this report, and we commend them for their commitment to our community!

In closing, living in Windsor and Essex County is all about choices.

With the municipal elections just a few short weeks away, we are more than ever aware of the importance of making good, well informed choices. We trust that our Vital Signs® 2014 report will provide additional information to help make your choices constructive ones.



Marty D. Solcz, Chair of the Board



Glenn Stresman, Executive Director









Making a Strong Start in Our Community



In our survey you graded integrating immigrant newcomers into our communities as follows:

Windsor: **B-** County: **C+**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Increasing learning opportunities for English as a second language (ESL) 20.8%
- Improving foreign accreditation recognition 16.7%
- Increasing awareness of diversity and racism issues 16.3%

What the Data Says:

Your responses to our survey questions on integrating immigrant newcomers into our community reflected the data that we presented in our 2013 Vital Signs® report. Your responses also indicated that we are a diverse population (21% of our population are immigrants) and that we need to provide employment opportunities for our immigrant newcomers.

Last year we reported that the unemployment rate of recent immigrants (entered the country within the last five years) in the greater Windsor area was 22.5% in 2011, 134.4% above the non-immigrant rate based on 2011 statistics. This was up 3.2% from

19.3% in 2006 and compares to an unemployment rate of 15.6% for those who have been in Canada for five to ten years.

This year's data pointed out that youth unemployment had similar trends. In 2013, the youth (15-24 years old) unemployment rate in Essex County was 19.9%. This was 9.2% above the national youth unemployment rate of 13.7% and 3.8% above the provincial youth unemployment rate of 16.1%.

While these trends could be viewed as alarming, there could also be hope in the recent trend. The youth unemployment rate has increased 11.1 percentage points since 2000, but is down by 4.8 percentage points since its peak in 2012. The trend continues to be a positive one in 2014 with a 20.7% improvement in employment for our younger workforce over the last year.

Economic growth depends on the development of a strong and experienced young workforce and is essential to our future growth as a community. We will add youth employment as a question in next year's survey, begin the dialogue this year and continue to monitor the trend.

What You Said:

"We need to increase opportunities for new immigrants to participate in community leadership."







ASustainable Environment

"Our park system and beautification projects are making people think about taking care of the environment in the city." "Recycling is good. But we still need to engage people to not litter.

In our survey you graded our environment as follows: County: **D** Windsor: **D**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Improving air quality 21.8%
- Enhancing local food production 14.5%
- Reducing reliance on cars 11.6%

What Stats Canada Says:

We are aware of poor air quality. As we reported in Vital Signs 2013, 48% of Windsor households know when poor air advisories are posted as compared to 32% of Ontario households and 23% in households across Canada. And 60% of households changed their daily routines/behaviors when the advisories went into effect.

Looking at the priority items, reducing our reliance on automobiles has a direct influence on air quality, so there is a correlation between concerns and action.

However, improving water quality in our area did not make the top three priorities in spite of the concerns raised this spring and summer about the blue-green algae problem in Lake Erie. Perhaps water quality concerns will register higher in next year's survey.

Concerning sustainability, the number of LEED certified buildings (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) in Windsor and Essex County has doubled in the last year alone, which is a positive sign. We do, however, have some "catching up" to do as we are still last in the province in total number of LEED certified structures.

Building Our Community

In our survey you graded our strong neighbourhoods, sense of community, connectedness, and local leadership as follows:

Windsor: **D+** County: **D**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- · Improving opportunities for local small business 18.5%
- Improving walkability 18.1%
- Reducing isolation of seniors and persons with disabilities 15.7%

In our 2013 Vital Signs® report, we communicated the following to you: "As reported by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, 67.9% of people aged 12 and over reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2012...The 2012 level was 2.7% higher than the national average." But the results of our own 2014 survey of the Windsor-Essex community appear to contradict this, with local residents issuing a failing grade for our sense of community.

Since there was a difference between our survey results and last year's data, we looked to the three top priorities assigned by our local residents to ascertain a clear direction for our strong neighbourhood initiatives. The unfortunate outcome is that there is no clear direction from our community at this time. As we move into 2015, we hope to continue this dialogue - in hopes that next year's survey will give us a clearer picture.

In our survey you graded our citizen engagement and getting involved as follows:

> Windsor: **D** County: D

You identified the top three priorities as:

- · Increasing awareness of community engagement activities 22.6%
- · Improving voter turnout 17.1% · Increasing youth voice 14.1%

Here, however, there was a definite correlation between data reported in Vital Signs® 2013 and our 2014 survey results.

- In Vital Signs® 2013 we reported that voter turnout was 53.4%, below the provincial average of 61.5% and the national average of 61.1%.
- You listed "Improving voter turnout" as the second highest priority at 17.1%. With our municipal elections less than a month away, will our citizens heed a call to exercise their right to vote?

What You Said: "Windsor and Essex County residents are famously generous."

"Many not-for-profit groups are starting to get Windsorites engaged – urban gardens, down-town markets, youth panels, etc."











In our survey you graded our safety as follows:

Windsor: **B-** County: **C+**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Reducing levels of property crime 13.7%
- Increasing the visible presence of police 13.6%
- Reducing use of illegal drugs 13.6%

Our personal safety and the safety of our loved ones influences our ability to enjoy life. Police, emergency response times, and crime rates all affect our feeling of security. Your comments in our Community Survey reflect this, illustrating an almost equal commitment to reducing property crime, reducing illegal drug use and increasing police visibility.

Statistically, the violent crime rate in the Windsor CMA was 18.1% below the national average of 1,092 per 100,000 and 7.4% above the provincial average in 2013.

You identified reducing levels of property crime as your number one priority. Again, statistics report that in 2013, the comparable rate of property crime in the Windsor CMA was 5.7% below the national average. While we would like to see it lower, the rate shows an overall trend towards improvement with the current rate 44.9% lower than the rate in 1998.

Many of our 2014 survey respondents made special mention of the work of our first responders as significant to their feelings of security – something to be taken into consideration in light of recent news commentary questioning cost of police staffing in Windsor and other cities.

What You Said:

"Create a safe system for seniors and those who live alone at home."

"I feel very safe in Windsor-Essex."

Mobility

In our survey you graded our transportation and the ability to get around the city as follows:

Windsor: **F** County: **F**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Creating a regional bus system or some form of light rapid transit throughout the county 19.8%
- Improving and expanding cycle facilities (safe bikeways, bike racks, etc.) 12.3%
- Improving bus service 12.1%

What the Data Says:

Last year Vital Signs® listed the following statistics from the National Household Survey, which is still the most current available data: In 2011, 12% nation-wide used public transit to get to work. Provincially, that number rose to 14%. However, only 2.5% of county residents and 3.0% of Windsor residents used public transit to and from work. In fact the local numbers have dropped by 0.1% from 2001.

While our local numbers continue to drop, our survey respondents are indicating that public transit across the region needs to be made a priority. This correlates well with the Pathway to Potential transportation survey published in May 2014. Go to www.pathwaytopotential.ca and click on the report that analyses the transportation needs of the community.

Our statistics also indicate that in this region bicycling, classified as a low-impact form of transportation, has lagged behind the provincial and national averages. However, as more bike-friendly roads and trails come on-line in the following years, we anticipate a growth in usage, a statistic that we will continue to track.

What You Said:

"The next most important infrastructure project to benefit the regional economy is a regional transit system with an electric light rapid rail system, joining Belle River, Windsor, Amhertsburg and Leamington."

"The bike paths are a start but they need to connect and they need to be safe."



Health & Wellness



In our survey you graded our aging population and the well-being of seniors as follows:

Windsor: **C-** County: **D**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- · Developing more options for assisted living 16.7%
- Increasing social, recreation and arts opportunities 13.7%
- Reducing isolation 12.9%

In our survey you graded the overall health and wellness of our citizens as follows:

Windsor: **D** County: **D**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Shortening wait times for medical procedures 16.5%
- Ensuring everyone has a family physician 13.4%
- Reducing Emergency Department overcrowding 11.9%
- · Improving access to mental health services 11.8%

What the Data Says:

Your responses regarding health and wellness reflect a continuing perception that the region's greatest challenge is timely access to appropriate medical services. Indeed, each of your top three concerns focused on this larger issue. These lingering concerns appear to remain at the forefront of the region's consciousness, given its historical position as an underserviced community with regard to family physicians and other practitioners. As of last year, 11.8% of the region's population aged 12 and over did not have a primary care physician. This rate was up 3% from 2012, and placed us in approximately the same position as we were in ten years ago.

This impression, however, may also be fueled by a lack of awareness of currently existing resources. For example, residents within the region can locate primary care physicians and other specialists who are currently accepting new patients by visiting the Essex County Medical Society's

web-page at: www.ecms.org. Increasing the visibility of, and access to, resources that are already in place may help to alleviate the ongoing health and wellness concerns regarding frontline medical services.

You also indicated a desire for greater opportunities for seniors in terms of living facilities and leisure options. This is hardly surprising given the fact that many cities in the region, including Windsor, Tecumseh, Kingsville and Leamington all have populations of individuals aged 65 and over which exceed the national average. Once again, access, awareness and utilization of existing resources, such as the Erie St. Clair Community Care Access Centre (www.healthcareathome.ca/eriestclair/en/Contact-Us), seems to be more important than ever.

What You Said:

"We need to educate and promote healthy lifestyles through dietary needs and activity."

"More attention needs to be paid to seniors. They are forgotten."







Lifelong Learning

In our survey you graded our learning and education as follows:

Windsor: C+ County: C

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Improving the affordability of post-secondary education 19.1%
- Improving the quality of school curricula 15.0%
- Ensuring adequate resources for a high quality public school system 11.8%

What the Data Says:

Our 2014 Vital Signs® responses indicate that the region's top focus was reducing the cost of post-secondary education for area residents. This is consistent with last year's Vital Signs® report which based its conclusions on StatsCan data. Such concern from our residents is hardly surprising, given that Ontario typically has the highest post-secondary tuition fees of any Canadian province, with such fees continuing to rise each year.

The cost of a post-secondary education seems unlikely to decrease in the near future. This reality makes the existence of financial assistance for education, such as scholarships and bursaries, more important than ever. Helping to fund such measures is a challenge that we will need to embrace in order to achieve the desired goal of improved affordability.

Residents also expressed concern for adequate funding to ensure a high level curriculum in our local public school system. This need is also well-documented at the provincial level with the province estimating that nearly 70% of new jobs created in Ontario will require some form of post-secondary education. Without the building blocks of a solid primary/secondary education, gaining admittance to post-secondary programs could be out of reach for local students.

What You Said:

"I love that you have your choice of college, university or combination without leaving the area. The University getting the satellite medical/dental school has been fantastic. Art, history, music, technology, agriculture, manufacturing-it's all right here in Windsor/Essex."

Affordable Housing

In our survey you graded our housing as follows:

Windsor: C County: C

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Improving the affordability of housing ownership 15.4%
- Increasing the availability of housing with various levels of assisted care 14.3%
- Providing housing for the homeless 14.1%

Your impression that Essex County is generally an affordable place to live is correct! The City of Windsor and the surrounding communities continue to remain one of the areas with the lowest cost of home ownership in Canada. This fact, combined with an economy that is taking positive steps, has created renewed demand for home ownership within the region.

Our 2014 survey results also indicated a desire to extend the availability of affordable housing to the homeless and to those requiring some level of assistance at home. Volunteering even a little bit of your time or money is one

of the easiest ways we can ensure that these goals are achieved. Together we can help to ensure these priorities receive the attention they need.

Many organizations that work to provide assistance with new home ownership, such as Habitat for Humanity (www.habitatwindsor.org/current-opportunities.html) have local chapters within Essex County. Additionally, other organizations, such as the Community Support Centre of Essex County (www.communitysupportcentre.ca/contact), provide services for existing home owners, such as Meals on Wheels and home maintenance and repair. By providing such services, residents who might otherwise have to leave their homes are able to maintain their independence. Even an otherwise "ordinary" home can become an "assisted living facility" with the right bit of volunteer effort from a neighbour who cares.

What You Said:

"It (the Windsor and Essex County area) is pretty affordable as compared to the rest of Canada, but we need incentives to restore or refurbish older homes."

"Our housing is inexpensive! We need to have more mixed housing, however, so that we minimize pockets of poverty."



For more data related to this report visit wecf.ca



Quality of Life

Availability of Arts Culture and Recreation

In our survey you graded our sports and recreation as follows:

Windsor: **B-** County: **C+**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Improving pathways and bikeways 22.7%
- Providing more affordable recreational and sports opportunities 22.6
- Increasing the number of children and youth involved in recreational or sports activities 17.3%

What the Data Says:

Overall, county residents seem relatively happy with the state of sports and recreation, but feel there is still room for improvement. Desire for improvement appears to be focused on upgrades to facilities that are accessible to a wide range of users, such as bike trails and walking/hiking pathways. This is in line with the county's other core concern, namely providing affordable and accessible physical activities for both young and old. The county consensus is that everyone, including you, should be able to find something that will motivate us to get out, get fit and enjoy some exercise!

With regard to the arts and culture scene, however, residents were a bit less optimistic. There appears to be a general feeling that arts and culture should not be so restricted to a limited number of venues. In our survey you graded our arts and culture as follows:

Windsor: **D+** County: **D**

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Offering more affordable arts and cultural activities 19.8%
- Increasing promotion of arts and culture events 19.1%
- · Providing more art in public places 13.8%

but should be made more accessible. This would include providing cultural and artistic experiences to those who are not necessarily able to pay the typical costs associated with attendance. There appears to be a strong desire to keep arts and culture in the county, but definitely to bring it outside the concert hall. In order to accomplish this goal, residents are looking to the business community to step forth and take the lead in improving the local cultural scene.

What You Said:

"Many children are involved in sports and there are recreational activities for all ages."

"Create more ties between business and arts to make them sustainable without taxpayer support."

In our survey you graded our access to healthy and affordable food, access to locally grown food and food security as follows:

Windsor: C+ County: C+

You identified the top three priorities as:

- Increasing access to locally grown food 24.4%
- Increasing access to affordable, nutritious food 20.2%
- Increasing support for community programs such as community kitchens/gardens to produce fresh, locally grown foods. 15.3%

Food Security What the Data Says:

In the 2013 Vital Signs® report, the issue of food security was given national attention. By all indications, including the appeals for food by local food banks over the course of the year, food security remains an issue.

As we reported last year, Windsor and Essex County has a significant agricultural base and our survey responders recognized that fact. They also recognized that there is at times a disconnect between local suppliers and consumers. Our residents' first priority is increasing access to locally grown food. We need to open lines of communication to forge supplier–consumer connections that will realize this goal.







Windsor-Essex is an exceptional community known for achievement far beyond expectations. In fact, many Canadian "firsts" occurred in our region. Our research has uncovered the following firsts:

- The first Gas Station in Canada opened at the corner of Ouellette Avenue and Park Street in 1911.
- Highway 18 was the first road surveyed and constructed in Ontario.
- The first international submarine telephone line in the world was constructed between Windsor and Detroit in July 1881.
- Delos Davis was the first black lawyer in Canada. He practiced in Amherstburg and Sandwich in 1886.
- Canada's first black detective was Alton C. Parker, who became a detective on the Windsor Police Force in 1953.
- In 1886, Windsor was the first city in Canada to construct an electrified street railway.
- The first residence for married students in Canada opened at the University of Windsor in 1966.

Windsor and Essex County continues to enjoy international recognition in 2014. Here are some of our current distinguishing features:

- Windsor and Essex County sit at the apex of North America's most integrated transportation network.
- The region is located at the heart of the world's richest consumer market.
- More than 50% of the North American population lives within an 8-hour drive of our region.
- Windsor-Detroit is the busiest border crossing point between Canada and the US, with approximately one third of all trade crossing the border here.
- There are five surface border crossing points in Windsor-Detroit: the Ambassador Bridge, the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, the Detroit-Windsor Truck Ferry, the Detroit-Windsor Railway Tunnel and the Port of Windsor.
- We are home to some of the world's most prominent brands including Caesars, Chrysler and Canadian Club.
- Windsor-Essex is second only to Vancouver in cultural diversity with 175 different ethnic groups.
- We are globally recognized for our manufacturing and engineering capabilities (and have been for decades).
- Windsor and Essex County resides in the far south of Ontario at the same latitude as Northern California and Rome - and enjoys the warmest climate of any of Ontario's cities.
- The average temperature reaches above 10°C (50°F) 223 days of the year.

We thank the Windsor Community Museum, the City of Windsor, and Community Foundation Staff for collecting and sharing this information.

What You Said:

"I would like local food to be more common and identifiable in large grocery stores."

"We have everything at our doorstep, but access is hard for low income people or finding culturally relevant food is a challenge."









 In Essex County, occupations related to Arts, Culture, Recreation and Sport employed 3,510 persons in 2011, a decrease of **0.1%** from 2006.

These occupations accounted for 1.95% of total employment in Essex County. By comparison, these occupations accounted for 3.09% of total employment in Ontario and 2.86% of employment in Canada.

At 4.0 police-reported hate crimes per 100,000 people in 2012, the rate in Windsor (CMA) was marginally above the national rate of 4.1 hate crimes per 100,000 people. It was significantly below the provincial rate of 5.6 hate crimes per 100,000 people.

Although we can be proud the relatively low numbers involved, this represents an increase of 30.0% from 2.6 hate crimes per 100,000 people in 2006. Any hate crimes are too many.



 Snow depths of greater than I cm are seen on about 53 days each year in the Windsor-Essex region, compared with about 65 days further north in Toronto.

The Great Lakes ensure that this region has mild winters with very little snowfall, and long, warm summers. This temperate climate provides one of the longest growing seasons in Canada, extending from April to October.

 At 203 police officers per 100,000 in 2013, the number of police officers in Windsor (city) was 3.0% higher than the national average (197) and 4.1% higher than the provincial average (195).

The rate was down 1.5% from 206 in 2012. Being a border city has its own unique challenges.















• In 2013, the obesity rate for the population aged 18 and over in the Windsor-Essex area was 22.5%, 19.7% above the national average of 18.8% and 25.7% above the provincial rate of 17.7%.

The rate was up 13.1% from 19.9% in 2012. Overall obesity rates have changed very little over the last ten years which is not a good sign.

• You might think that given the economic challenges of the last several years, people in the Windsor-Essex region would be experiencing much more stress than those in other parts of the province and the country.

Maybe people in our community are finally experiencing the signs of recovery. In 2013, 18.7% of the population aged 15 and over in the Windsor-Essex region reported experiencing quite a lot of stress on most days. This represented a decrease of 17.3% from 22.6% in 2012. The 2013 level is 20.8% below the provincial level of 23.6% and 18.2% below the national level of 23.0%.

More than ever before, economic development is about talent attraction, and retention. In the global

economy, regions must create a community that is attractive for creative workers. The Creative Class seeks communities which are open, diverse, and thick with amenities (a vibrant arts scene, good restaurants, a safe community, etc.). Arts organization should be interacting with the local economic development organization and public leaders to evaluate investments and the "return" on them (i.e. increased community involvement, more arts awareness, and fostering a niche talent).

- Richard Florida, professor and Director of the Martin Prosperity Institute, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.









Random Act Of K\(X\)ndness Day_{TM}

Perform a Random Act Of Kindness for a fellow citizen on November 7th, 2014



SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

kindness@wecf.ca

@WindsorEssexRAK **#WERAK OR #RAKDAY** for more information visit www.wecf.ca

Thank You We would like to thank the WindsorEssex Community Foundation Board and staff for planning and implementing Vital Signs® 2014.

The members of the WECF Board are:

Marty Solcz, Chair • Jelle Donga • Kay Douglas • Susan Easterbrook • Romeo Girardi • Denise Hrastovec Fred Quenneville • Mark Skipper • Jay Strosberg • Loretta Stoyka • Rob Tamblyn • Robert Yovanovich

The Executive Director of WECF is Glenn Stresman, the Executive Program Manager for Vital Signs® is Robin Easterbrook and Marketing & Fund Development Coordinator is Gisele Levasseur.

> We extend a special "thank you" to Barbara Peirce Marshall and Dwayne Stresman for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

WindsorEssex 2575 Ouellette Place Tel: (519) 255-6572 Email: info@wecf.ca

Tel: (519) 255-6572 Email: info@wecf.ca