



WINDSOR-ESSEX'S VitalSigns®



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Acknowledgments

Welcome to the 2018 Windsor-Essex Vital Signs® report

This is the sixth Vital Signs® report published by the WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF) in partnership with Community Foundations of Canada. It wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors and partners. Thank you to all members of our community who took the time to fill out the survey, share it, promote it, and to those who are reading it now. We encourage you to use this tool to identify priorities to help guide our region's resources and planning.

We thank each and every one of you for your interest and support of the Vital Signs® program. We hope this report will reaffirm what makes Windsor-Essex a great place to live, work, play and grow.

Lisa Kolody

Executive Director

How to read this Report

The data presented in this report is organized into 11 issue areas, and within those areas, local, provincial and national data is presented.

GRADES: Letter grades are shown within each issue area representing the views of survey respondents from Windsor (CMA), Essex County, and those that identified themselves as being aged 65 and over (seniors), or aged 24 and younger (youth).

WHAT YOU SAID: In the Vital Signs® survey, respondents were asked a series of questions pertaining to the 11 issue areas. This section highlights the results of those questions.

TOP PRIORITIES: Survey respondents were asked to select the top priority for each issue area. This section highlights the top answers for each issue area.

DID YOU KNOW: This section includes information on local news to help inform the community on what exists in our region.

How can I use this report?

The Vital Signs® report is a starting point for further conversations. It is intended to inform the community on our priorities in order to better direct our region's resources and planning. First, read the report – draw your own conclusions and thoughts about the direction of our community. Second, share the report – talk to your friends, family and colleagues about the findings in the report. Lastly, use the report – access the programs and services outlined in the report or develop programs and services to meet local needs.

Who can use this report? EVERYONE!



Teachers: Introduce this report to your students to engage them in our community. Discuss with your students the ways they can help create change.

Politicians: The Vital Signs® report is a great tool to understand the needs of our community. Let Windsor-Essex residents know their voice is being heard.



Charities: Create programs and services that respond to the needs in this report. Inform board members and volunteers on the needs of our community.

Families: Access the programs and services outlined in this report.
Take advantage of this knowledge – explore what Windsor-Essex has to offer.







About Windsor-Essex

Population

Windsor-Essex: 398,953 Windsor (CMA): 329,144 Essex County: 69,809

Statistics Canada defines our area as the Census Division of Essex County which includes the Census Metropolitan Area, Windsor (CMA). The Windsor CMA consists of: Amherstburg, Lakeshore, LaSalle, Tecumseh, and Windsor.

As part of the Carolinian Life Zone, Windsor-Essex has more biodiversity and more endangered species than anywhere else in Canada.

References: Statistics Canada Census 2016, National Household Survey 2011

About Our Survey Respondents

Income

14% \$0 - \$19,999

15% \$20,000 - \$39,999

20% \$40,000 - \$59,999

15% \$60,000 - \$79,999

20% \$80,000 or more 13% Decline to answer

■ 3% Not Applicable



In 2016, the youth population, 14 and younger, represented

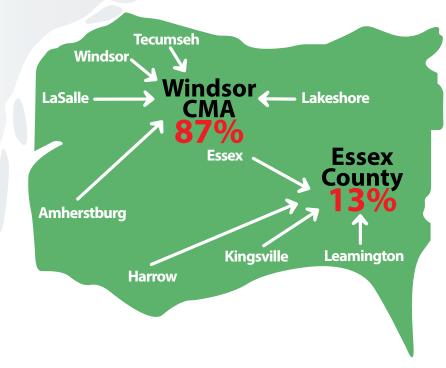
of the total population of Windsor-Essex. This was an 11% decrease from 2011.

Seniors, 65 and older, were

of the population, an increase of 5% since 2011.

The proportion of single-parent families in Windsor CMA in 2016 was 19%.

Respondent Current Residence



63% of survey respondents are married or common law, while 36% are single.

of survey respondents have lived in Windsor-Essex for over 10 years.

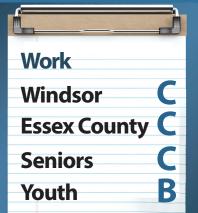




workforce WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL









Top Priorities

Providing a living wage to employees

Ensuring youth are better prépared for the workforce

Decreasing the unemployment rate **12**%



What You Said:

When asked if people in Windsor-Essex make enough money to support their needs,

of respondents said we're doing okay/ we're on the right track

Are there employment opportunities in Windsor-Essex for those

of respondents said we're doing okay/we're on the right track, while

said improvement is needed/ we should look into this

Respondents were asked if local graduates are prepared for today's workforce.

said improvement is needed/ we should look

said we're doing okay/ we're on the right track

of Vital Signs® survey respondents reported they are employed full-time (35 hours or more per week); while

are employed part-time, and

Men \$36,829 (an increase of 10% since 2011)

Women \$25,086 (an increase of 13% since 2011)

The median household income was \$59,274, up 12% since 2011.

are retired



Between the fourth quarter 2017 and first quarter 2018, the labour force increased by 2.2% and the participation rate rose by 2%. The unemployment rate rose to 6.0%.

According to a BMO analysis entitled "Where have all the good people gone, now?", Windsor ranked fifth among 21 Canadian cities for "Labour Market Attractiveness." (Source: Windsor Star)

Average hourly wages by gender in (2017):

Windsor(CMA) Ontario Men: \$26,50 \$28.20 Women: \$24.64 \$22.07

References: Statistics Canada, Community Census Profiles 2011, 2016 WE EDC, Performance Metrics 2018 02

Did You Know?

Workforce WindsorEssex creates labour market tools, research and guides that help job seekers, employers, students, educators and the community save time, money and effort. Learn more about the WEexplore tool at

www.workforcewindsoressex.com/weexplore/

The Town of LaSalle is creating an economic development strategic plan to attract and retain business and foster economic growth. As part of the planning process they intend to consult with businesses, citizens, and key stakeholders. For more information, visit www.lasalle.ca

The WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation is a dedicated catalyst for business growth and expansion. Visit their site www.choosewindsoressex.com for information about current market research, government funding, performance metrics, and resource libraries.



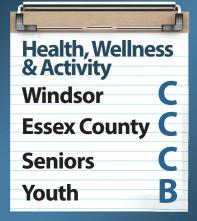






Health, Wellness & Activity







What You Said:

When asked if people in Windsor-Essex have access to mental health programs and services,

Respondents were asked if there are enough health professionals in Windsor-Essex to meet residents' needs,

When it comes to the accessibility of sports and physical activity programs in Windsor-Essex,

66% of respondents said improvement is needed/ we should look into this

63% said improvement is needed/we should look into this

42% of respondents believe we're on the right track/ we're doing great

Top Priorities

Improving access to mental health programs and services

Improving access to health professionals and services

29%



In 2015-2016,

of the Windsor population aged 15 years and over reported that most days in their life were quite a bit or extremely stressful

Windsor's rate was 4 percentage points below the provincial rate.

of youth (ages 12 to 17) perceived their mental health as being very good or excellent

This rate was 3 percentage points lower than the Ontario rate (77%) and 4 percentage points lower than the Canadian rate (78%).

12% of the population 12 years and over was without a regular medical doctor.

This was 2 percentage points higher than the provincial rate (10%) and 4 percentage points lower than the Canadian rate (16%).

References: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey CANSIM Table 105-0509 (2015-16)





Did You Know?

As of January 2018, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) intake and assessment services (phone and walk-in) were transferred to the Transitional Stability Centre — Crisis & Wellness Centre (TSC CWC). The combined CMHA/Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare team positioned at TSC CWC meet in real time to help navigate mental health and addiction services ensuring linkages have been achieved for clients seeking service, as well as to arrange for follow-up action for clients on waiting lists. www.cmha.ca

People First of Ontario, a province-wide organization that fights for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities, created a Charitable Agency Endowment Fund at the WECF to help support their agency needs. For more information about the organization, visit

www.peoplefirstontario.com

The Windsor Family Health Team offers high quality healthcare for residents. Social work services are offered onsite and in person. To learn more go to www.windsorfht.ca













Top Priorities

Increasing opportunities for people to feel included and connected

34%

Providing more initiatives to increase life satisfaction

Creating initiatives to

imprové voter turnout

18%



What You Said:

Respondents were asked if people in Windsor-Essex have a high level of life satisfaction

When it comes to people in Windsor-Essex actively volunteering or donating to charities

of respondents said we're doing ok/ we're on the right track

of respondents said we're doing ok/ we're on the right track, while

feel we're doing great

Respondents were asked if they feel they have a sense of belonging to Windsor-Essex feeling included and connected. feel we're doing ok, while

feel we're on the right

of respondents said that they intend to vote in the next election. Note: due to the survey time frame, this would include the provincial and/or municipal elections.

In 2015-2016, 74% of the population 12 years and over in Windsor (Windsor-Essex County Health Unit) reported they have a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. This rate was 5 percentage points above the national rate. By age group,

of 12 to 19 year olds and

of people 65 years and over also reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging.

Did You Know?

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Mayoral Debate on October 10th at the Fogolar Furlan. For more information, visit www.windsorchamber.org

The Windsor Pride Community Education and Resource Centre received a grant from the WECF for the creation of a Youth Suicide Awareness Prevention and Bullying Awareness Guide. For more information, visit www.windsorpride.com

During the 2018 Provincial Election on June 7th 2018, Ontario saw the highest voter turnout since 1999. Yet, according to Elections Ontario, out of 124 ridings, Windsor-West and Windsor-Tecumseh had the lowest voter turnout in the province, with 44% and 48% respectively. (Source: Windsor Star)

In 2016.

of tax filers in Windsor (CMA) gave a charitable donation. The median charitable donation was \$300, the same as the national average and \$70 lower than the provincial average (\$370).

References: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 105-0502 (2007-08 to 2013-14); CANSIM Table 105-0509 (2015-16). Statistics Canada, Table 111-0001.



Safety Windsor **Essex County** C **Seniors** Youth

What You Said:

When asked if Windsor-Essex is a safe place to live,

of respondents said that we're doing okay/ we're on the right track

Regarding adequate social programming for at-risk individuals,

of respondents believe that improvement





Housing





Top Priorities

Increasing the affordability of housing with various levels of assisted care

Improving the affordability of housing 2

Decreasing the cost of electricity

20⁹



What You Said:

Is housing affordable in Windsor-Essex?

45% of sa

of survey respondents said improvement is needed/ we should look into this When asked if Windsor-Essex has enough shelters to support the homeless population,

61%

of respondents said improvement is needed/we should look into this

Regarding the availability of housing with different levels of assisted care in Windsor-Essex,

53%

of respondents said improvement is needed/ we should look into this

In 2017, the rental vacancy rate in Windsor (CMA) was 2.4%, 13 percentage points lower than in 2009. In Essex County the rate was 0.7%.

In 2015, the share of home owners in Windsor (CMA) who spent more than 30% of income on owner's major payments was 13%. Compared to 2010, this share decreased by 24%.

The share of tenants in Windsor (CMA) who spent more than 30% of income on rent was 45%, representing a 4% increase compared to 2010. The share was 5% higher than the national average and 1% lower than the Ontario average.

In 2016, 72% of households in Windsor (CMA) were privately owned, 4% higher than the Canadian average and 2% higher than the provincial average.

According to the WECAR Residential Stats President Report for July 2018, housing market activity is down 9% compared to July 2017, while the average price of a house is up 23% to \$311,931.

www.wecartech.com/wecfiles/stats_new/2018b/july

References: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Organization, Housing Market Information Portal, Primary Rental Market data, Oct 2017

StatsCan Census 2016 Table Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016229 and 98-402-X2016008-T1

Did You Know?

Enwin Utilities Ltd. offers financial assistance for lower-income households. Through the Ontario Electricity Support Program customers in lower-income homes may qualify for a reduction on their electricity bill. www.enwin.com

The Windsor-Essex County Association of Realtors (WECAR) compiles and analyzes numerous factors affecting the real estate market for the public, realtors, and governments, providing a snapshot of the Canadian housing market. www.windsorrealestate.com

The Town of Kingsville is in the process of creating an Affordable Housing Strategy and held a Mayor's Round Table with community members and stakeholders to gather input and feedback on the implementation plan and future strategic actions, which will guide decision-making on affordable housing over the next 10 years. www.kingsville.ca

Through a partnership with the City of Windsor (Community Housing Corporation) and Housing Information Services, CMHA has provided training to Mental Health Services staff on the use of a standardized set of housing vulnerability assessment tools to better assist clients who are in need of housing. www.cmha.ca

In 2017, the overall crime per 100,000 population in Windsor (CMA) was 5,062. This was below the national average (6,006) and above the provincial average (4,199). This is a 6% increase from 2016 and a 34% decrease from 1998.

At 71.7 the overall crime severity index in 2017 in Windsor (CMA) was below the national average (72.9) and above the provincial average (55.4). This was an increase of 7% from 2016 and a decrease of 30% percent from 1998.

References: Statistics Canada. Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services; Crime Severity Index Table 35-10-0026-01

Top Priorities

Expanding social programming for at-risk individuals

32%

Reducing the use of illegal drugs

26%

Creating more proactive initiatives aimed at reducing youth crime

14%

Did You Know?

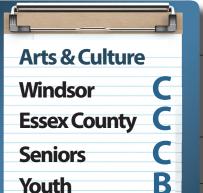
The City of Windsor has responded to an increase in property and violent crime by introducing a Problem-Oriented Police Unit consisting of 12 new officers who will focus on patrol efforts in certain areas, especially the downtown core.

GR8 Day Crossroads Addiction Recovery Support runs a We Can Help program which provides access to individual and group counselling for marginalized individuals who are living with, or have been affected by, substance abuse, and to help them address the issues and circumstances that will support their recovery. For more information, visit www.crossroadsc4pe.ca/qr8-day/

PRIVATE CAPITAL







Top Priorities

Increasing the number of arts and cultural opportunities for those wanting to pursue a career, education or hobby in the arts

Increasing the number of arts and culture programs for youth

Providing more art in public spaces

13%

33%

20%



What You Said:

When asked if arts and cultural events are accessible in Windsor-Essex.

66%

of respondents said that we're doing okay/ we're on the right track

Are there opportunities in Windsor-Essex for those wanting to pursue a career, education or hobby in the arts?

48%

of respondents said that we're doing okay/ we're on the right track

In 2016, in Windsor (CMA), 2% of the labour force, 15 years and over, was employed in occupations related to arts, culture, recreation or sport. This rate is up 0.1 percentage points from 2006 (1.9%).

References: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS profiles; 2016 Census profiles

Did You Know?

The WECF supported Pelee Island Community Arts (PICA) with a grant to fund their Community Outreach Art & Environment Series. The project consisted of a series of workshops to engage both children and adults in creating a sense of community while inspiring and educating participants through art and the unique biodiversity of Pelee Island. www.peleeartworks.org

The Bank Theater has been producing live theatre in Leamington since the fifties, putting on a wide variety of performances. In 2018, the Theater received a grant on behalf of a fund holder at the WECF for renovations to create a state of the art facility.

The Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra helps young people develop their talent through the experience of making music at a high level of excellence. It is open to 13-22 year olds who play orchestral instruments. For more information, visit www.windsorsymphony.com/wsyo





Getting Started
Windsor C
Essex County C
Seniors C
Youth B



What You Said:

When asked if there are both educational and employment opportunities for newcomers in Windsor-Essex,

52%

of respondents said we're doing okay/ we're on the right track.

Is Windsor-Essex welcoming to newcomers?

53%

of respondents believe that we're on the right track/ we're doing great.







of respondents said that Lake Erie's health is either extremely or moderately important

Environment

Windsor

Essex County C

Seniors

Youth



When it comes to Windsor-Essex having enough green spaces

of respondents said that we are doing okay/ we are on the right track

Every five years, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) releases a Watershed Report Card as a summary of the state of our forests, wetlands, and water resources. The 2018 report is available at:

www.essexregionconservation.ca

In 2017, ERCA planted and distributed over 100,000 trees, totaling 92.5 acres of forest, tall grass prairie and wetlands restored; and undertook 51 projects to improve water quality.

Regarding the air quality in Windsor-Essex,

36%

of respondents said that improvement is needed

34%

believe we are doing okay

After planting over 6.3 million trees, natural area cover in the region has only increased from 3.5% in 1973 to 8.5% – still a long way from the United Nations goal (12%). Green spaces and wetlands are vital for wildlife and habitats, deaner lakes and rivers, healthy communities, and as resilience to impacts of increased flooding and climate change.

References: Essex Region Conservation Authority

Top Priorities

Improving air quality 29%

Improving resiliency to climate change

Improving water quality

13%



Did You Know?

The Town of Tecumseh received the Robert Pullyblank Award for Municipal Environmental Achievement from ERCA in January 2018. This is the second time the Town has been recognized. The award acknowledges the work the Town has completed in environmental stewardship. www.tecumseh.ca

The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation received a grant on behalf of a fund holder at the WECF to support further development of the south pond to include interpretive panels and plantings, and for the development of a viewing platform and educational display panel. www.jackminer.ca

The western basin of Lake Erie is the heaviest impacted part of the entire Great Lakes watershed, and despite significant efforts and improvements, continues to experience Harmful Algal Blooms as a result of land use activities, intensification, and climate change.



An immigrant refers to a person who is, or has ever been, a landed immigrant or a permanent resident while a newcomer is an immigrant to Canada who has been here for five years or less.

10,800 newcomers settled in Windsor-Essex between 2011 and 2016.

1 in 4 people in Windsor-Essex is an immigrant.

of survey respondents were born in Canada.

In 2016, 21% of the population in Windsor (CMA) was classified as a visible minority, an increase of 8 percentage points over the 2001 rate of 13%.

This is lower than the provincial average (29%) and the national average (22%).

References: Census 2001, 2006, and 2016, National Household Survey Profiles 2011

Top Priorities

Increasing awareness of racism and diversity issues

Increasing employment and educational opportunities for newcomers

Improving foreign accreditation recognition

18%

Did You Know?

The WECF, in collaboration with the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) and Community Foundations of Canada, held a Vital Conversation on Getting Started and Sense of Belonging in December 2017. Local community partners and stakeholders discussed the newcomer experience as it relates to youth, seniors, employment, and welcoming. The report will be used to develop a community strategy and can be accessed at www.wecf.ca.

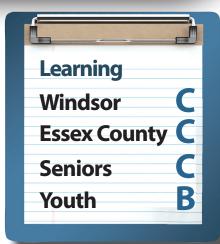
The Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County received a grant from the WECF to support their Health and Wellness for Newcomer Families project which provides educational opportunities for all newcomer family members, helping them connect with community resources and empowering them to make informed and healthy decisions. www.themcc.com













What You Said:

When asked if local educational institutions are providing proper skill development for the workforce.

of respondents said we're doing okay/ we're on the right track

Are educational opportunities readily available in Windsor-Essex including access to libraries, tutoring, literacy programs, workforce development programs, etc.

of respondents believe we're doing okay/ we're on the right track

In 2016, in Windsor (CMA), 8% of the population, ages 25-34, had not completed high school. This is down 5 percentage points

In 2016, in Windsor (CMA), 7% of individuals, 15 years and older, had an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. This is down 1 percentage point from 2006 (8%). This number is higher than the provincial average (6%), and lower than the national average (10%).

80% of Vital Signs® survey respondents reported having a college or university certificate/diploma/degree, while 13% completed high school.

Reference: Statistics Canada. 2016 Census profiles

Top Priorities

Affordability of postsecondary éducation

Improving skill development for the workforce

Better access to educational opportunities

14%

32%

Did You Know?

Workforce WindsorEssex developed an experiential learning hub to facilitate connections between employers, educators and students as well as a career counselling program for youth ages 12-30. For more information, visit www.workforcewindsoressex.com

The Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) established a Centennial Scholarship Fund at the WECF to support members of their Youth Exchange Program.

This is one of eight scholarships that the WECF facilitates yearly.

The EPICentre at the University of Windsor provides programs and services to help students and recent graduates start and grow their businesses. For more information, visit www.epicentre.com



Getting Around

Getting Around Windsor **Essex County Seniors Youth**



What You Said:

When asked how they rate public transit in Windsor-Essex,

of respondents said that improvement is needed/we should look into this

Are bike paths and pedestrian walkways easy to access in Windsor-Essex?

of respondents believe we are doing okay/ we're on the right track

Respondents were asked if it is easy for people to travel to and from Windsor and Essex County.

said that improvement is needed/we should look into this



Food Security

Food Security Windsor Essex County B Seniors Youth B

Top Priorities

Improving access to locally grown food

34%

Improving access to fresh and nutritious food

25%

Increasing support for community food programs **24**%

What You Said:

When asked if Windsor-Essex offers access to nutritious food at affordable prices,

said improvement is needed, while

of respondents said we're doing okay/ we're on the right track

Does Windsor-Essex have access to locally grown food?

said we're doing okay/ we're on the right track, while

of respondents said we're doing great





There are 27 food banks in Windsor Essex County. For a complete list: www.ourwindsor.ca/communitystatic/4314731-windsor-area-food-banks/



Did You Know?

The Ontario Student Nutrition Program provides nutritious meals to school children by partnering with local producers to bring fresh, nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snacks to school children with the goal of supporting learning and healthy development. The WECF supported the OSNP with a grant in 2017. www.osnp.ca

In partnership the Windsor-Essex County Food Policy Council and community partners, the WECF is funding conversations about the local food system in individual communities within Windsor and Essex County. This needs assessment will generate ideas for improvement and identify policy priorities for the council. Look for news on how to get involved with your local community conversation in October / November 2018.

The Amherstburg Food and Fellowship Mission received a grant on behalf of a fund holder at the WECF to support the organizations mission of providing free meals to residents who are economically disadvantaged. www.aburgmission.ca



In 2016, the average commuting time in Windsor-Essex was 23.3 minutes, 5.5 minutes shorter than the provincial average.

92% of people rode in a vehicle to work (14 percentage points higher than the provincial average) while only 3% took public transit and 4% walked or biked.

References: Statistics Canada 2011 NHS, Census 2016



Top Priorities

Creating a regional transportation system connecting Windsor and Essex County

Improving public transportation

Improving and/or increasing the number of bike pathways and/ or pedestrian walkways

42%

19%

Did You Know?

Transit Windsor received over \$10 million of federal funds to purchase 24 new buses and build 120 bus shelters. This funding is part of a 10-year plan for federal and provincial governments to invest over \$100 million towards infrastructure in Windsor. (Source: Windsor Star)

The County Wide Active Transportation System announced that \$3.6 million worth of paved shoulder pathways on County Rd. 20 in Learnington and County Rd. 50 in Kingsville and Essex will begin. As of 2017, approximately 300 kms of over 800 kms of active transportation facilities which includes paved shoulders, cycle paths, and multi-use paths have been built in the County of Essex region. For more information, visit www.cwats.ca

The South Essex Community Council (SECC) is part of a collaborative of agencies providing transportation services across Windsor-Essex County. The program provides affordable door-to-door transportation including service to Windsor and across Essex County. In 2017, the SECC received a grant on behalf of a fund holder at the WECF to support the purchase of a new vehicle for their transportation fleet. www.secc.on.ca



Acknowledgments

Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our community and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs® is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada with special thanks to the Toronto Community Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs® concept. The Vital Signs® trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.

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The WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF), originally founded in 1983 as Heritage Windsor, is a perpetual community trust for philanthropic purposes. It exists to manage donors' legacy funds, make grants to support local projects, and establish partnerships that last a lifetime. The WECF also coordinates a variety of philanthropic programs and funds including the Young Philanthropists, Random Act of Kindness Day, Inspiration 100, and the Vitality Legacy Program. The WECF is inspiring philanthropy to benefit our community today and forever. Learn more at www.wecf.ca







