

Vital Pulse



Community Conversations

Registered Charity and Non-Profit Sector Preliminary Snapshot

**Based on the the 2021 Vital Pulse
Society, Economy and Environment
surveys discussing the
UN's Sustainable Development Goals**

These are just some of the ideas and thoughts shared by community members, and focusses only on ideas that are likely within the ability of the sector to address.



A project of the

Golden & District Community Foundation

goldencommunityfoundation.ca/vital-pulse

What is Vital Pulse?

Vital Pulse is replacing our previous Vital Signs project in setting our community priorities for community grants.

Our previous granting matrix focussed on 13 key areas: housing, health, work, economy, recreation and leisure, safety, environment, getting started and staying, learning, gap between rich and poor, getting around, arts, culture and heritage, and belonging and leadership.

One of the challenges we faced with this process was that it was difficult to actually gauge community members' views on each area. How serious was the need? How high a priority? Is a high ranking an indication that we are doing well or care a lot about a specific issue, or did it mean that we need to do a lot more work?

The decision was made to move to a model that focussed on specific goals. For **Vital Pulse** we are using the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which lay out a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity in a global partnership. These are great big ideas that will take years to achieve, but they also provide clear guidance and clear choices.

In 2021, we received funding from Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiative Fund to revamp our consultation process and develop a new matrix for community granting based on the SDGs.

This is a preliminary report to the registered charity and non-profit sector bringing forward some ideas garnered from community input that could result in concrete actions to achieve a particular SDG.

We imagine that many of these ideas are already percolating in the sector. This report is intended to spark interest in pursuing these ideas, to indicate some level of community interest, and ignite further discussions around taking action on a specific SDG.

In 2021, our Community Grant Program decisions will be guided, where possible, by the input received in our 3 issue-specific surveys, and by the Community Issue Ranking Survey that is underway (closes on September 20, 2021).

We are looking forward to receiving a range of applications from the community* for our Community Grant Program (deadline is noon on October 21, 2021).

**GDCF gratefully acknowledges
the very generous support of the**

Columbia Basin **trust**

**Community Grants are available only to registered charities, or to non-profit groups that partner with a registered charity. The official applicant for funding will be the registered charity.*



Healthy Community

When provided with a list of ideas to make our community healthier, here's what our respondents said:

- 54% felt that more emphasis on mental health would make our community healthier. This theme was mentioned over and over throughout our survey process.
- 39% of respondents support improved options for active transportation (biking, walking, rolling). This also came up repeatedly in other places throughout our surveys.
- 36% of respondents feel that sufficient, safe and nutritious food is very important.

Here are some other ideas that were mentioned...*
(bold indicates the concept was listed most often)

- Access to healthy, affordable food
- **Access to mental health supports**
- Affordable indoor activities when air quality is poor
- Increase walking/hiking trails close to town
- More support programs for men
- **Bike/walk transportation options**
- Increase indoor recreation activities for kids in the winter
- Increase respect for active transportation — increase driver awareness for bike/pedestrian safety
- Increase access to substance abuse counsellors for teens
- **Improve information channels to help newcomers who have not established a word-of-mouth network/improve information distribution related to community programs/events/etc**
- Increase seasonal activities for seniors

**We understand that the non-profit sector is already doing excellent work on many of these issues. This might be the license you need to ask for funding to start a new project, enhance a current project, or develop a better communication channel to promote your project.*



Quality Education

We believe that education isn't just about going to school. It's about having access to a range of broadening activities.

When respondents were asked what would you like to do or learn more about, this is some of what they answered.

(bold indicates items that were listed most often)

- **growing food**, foraging, composting, **gardening**
- native plant species, wildlife, camping
- **environment, climate change**
- **cooking, preserving food**
- alternative health, dyeing with use of organic dyes, how to build good relationships
- **woodworking**, basket weaving, ceramics, **sewing, pottery, art, painting**, jewelry making
- river kayaking, adult drop-in dance, singing/choir, making music
- planning, **community planning**, developing community
- **Indigenous cultures/history**
- home maintenance, how to fix things, mechanics
- kids theatre
- **local history**, world history
- sustainable/net-zero building, solar power, sustainable living
- languages
- **computer skills**

Idea raised: support for parents to cover costs of kid's activities — making access for all kids more equitable.



Making life more affordable

We asked what is the one thing you would do to make life more affordable? What is the biggest change that needs to be made?

Most of the answers related to federal, provincial and local government policy — we're focussing in this report on ideas that could be spearheaded from the non-profit sector.

- encourage gardening
- car sharing
- community gardens
- community co-ops and share programs

Access to affordable, healthy food

You have to eat to live, and community members seem to have lots of interest in access to affordable, healthy food by growing their own, or by supporting local farmers/gardeners.

Here's some of what was said when we asked specifically about locally-grown food, and improving capacity to grow.

(bold indicates items that were listed most often)

- **respondents suggested a visiting mentor to monitor/observe gardens and provide advice**
- geothermal heat for greenhouses
- **access to land to garden/community gardens**
- **community food storage/access to food storage**, knowledge about preservation/storage
- co-op that supports farmers
- community compost, seed sharing,
- **affordable access to building materials to build garden boxes**
- **aging gardeners need young muscle power to continue gardening**



Equality

We asked specifically about respondents’ awareness of our social protection policies and the need to achieve greater equality.

We received a lot of responses, but some of them contained ideas that we think relate specifically to our ability to provide grants to the non-profit/charitable sector.

- community events to support equality (Pride, Earth Day, car-free day)
- more resources for men/homeless men — this came up many times
- more funding/support for existing service providers — the general consensus was that our non-profit sector does a great job!
- anti-racism work

Other issues on which we plan to release snapshots (TBC)



Gender equality



Clean energy and resource use efficiency



Responsible consumption/reducing food waste



Clean water and sanitation



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What comes next?

On September 20, 2021, our final 2021 Vital Pulse survey will close. This survey, which asks respondents to rank the 16 SDGs will be used to help guide decision-making during our 2021 Community Grant Program cycle.

You can find the survey at goldencommunityfoundation.ca/vital-pulse.

Local non-profits and registered charities will be provided with the ranking matrix, and can use this information to help guide the grant applications which must be received by Thursday, October 21, 2021.

Applicants can also use this preliminary snapshot as a jumping off point for projects.

We understand that in most cases, applicants have been preparing their plans for a grant application for months, and this new information may not fit within that plan. That's okay.

Ultimately, our grant selection committee members are looking for well-prepared proposals that are properly costed, address an identified need, and are proposed by organizations with the ability to complete them. The shift to the Vital Pulse process will take time, and we understand that.

As always, we are here to help. If you have any questions about whether or not your organization should apply, or if your project would qualify, just get in touch.

Email admin@goldencommunityfoundation.ca or call 250 344 8610.

Notes and Doodles



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