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Community Foundation report says it's time for Nova Scotians to take action

Nova Scotians need to sit up and take notice of what's happening to us and our communities, according to a "Vital Signs" report released today by the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia.

The 31-page report, the first in Canada to be done on a province-wide basis, contains both "good news and challenging news" says Allison Kouzovnikov, the Executive Director of the Foundation.

She said the report includes the following notable findings:

- Nova Scotians score higher than average on attachment to our communities
- Our crime severity index is declining, and in some cases is lower than the national average
- Our kitchen composting rates are more than double the national rates
- Our scores show math literacy decreases as students advance in our public school system
- We tend to fare worse than the Canadian average on most common health measures
- Our consumer and business bankruptcy rates consistently exceed the national rates

"This Vital Signs report is meant to help us develop a good understanding of where we are – an essential first step in getting to where we want to be", said Kouzovnikov during the launch event at Pier 21 this morning. "The next step will be to mobilize existing community resources so we can all work collaboratively at the local level to effect positive social change."

Kouzovnikov pointed to the province's renowned Recycling and Composting accomplishments as an excellent role model for moving forward on positive community initiatives.

"We have pluses and minuses, just like any other place," she says. "We are world leaders in dealing with our waste, why can't we do that with these other issues?"

The Community Foundation is part of a national movement that has been connecting local community wealth with local community needs for over 90 years. "We act as a hub for philanthropy in Nova Scotia," says Kouzovnikov. While only four years old, the Foundation has already released two other Vital Signs reports, and attracted more than

two dozen endowment funds that will grow over time to support a variety of charitable causes throughout Nova Scotia.

For more information:

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“The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is a public foundation created by and for the people of Nova Scotia. We work with private donors, communities and charitable organizations to stimulate charitable giving, establish permanent endowment funds, and support initiatives to make an ongoing difference in communities across Nova Scotia.”