

WATERLOO REGION'S

# VitalSigns®

Are You Making Ends Meet?



By identifying income shortfalls that exist in our community, we can help those who need it most.

The third Waterloo Region's Vital Signs report, a snapshot on the quality of life in our community, told us that most of our poverty rates are slowly declining, yet there are still many citizens in our Region living without.

One of the indicators looked at in this year's report was the income gap between our richest and poorest. In Waterloo Region our wealthiest 10% are making over six times more than the poorest 10% of our population.

However, we are not alone with our expanding earnings gap. In Canada, this gap also continues to broaden yet salaries remain usually unchanged over the past 25 years for middle income earners and the poorest are even poorer. It is only at the top end where we have experienced growth with more Canadians becoming high income earners.

In taking a look at poverty rates, in 2007 our Region's overall incidence of poverty (12%) was declining – however, this decrease was not as significant as what was seen across the province and country. Given the past year's economic situation, these numbers may very well be higher.

**Did you know?** There are roughly 172 people sleeping in homeless shelters every night in our community.

Delving deeper, in Waterloo Region we still have close to 13% of our children and 8% of our senior citizens (a number that increased between 2006 and 2007) experiencing hardships and the effects of poverty.

We know that people left on the fringes economically also tend to be on the fringes socially. The many devastating effects of poverty on adult health and well-being and child development are well documented.

**Get involved!** There are many programs that support the eradication of poverty. Consider supporting one that makes a difference at the root of the cause by raising people out of the ashes of scarcity and deprivation. By working together, we can make poverty history.

*The 2009 Waterloo Region's Vital Signs report was released on October 6th. Check out [www.wrvitalsigns.ca](http://www.wrvitalsigns.ca) for a pdf of the report or call us at 519.725.1806 to receive a copy.*

**Waterloo Region's Vital Signs is an annual checkup through which The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation and the Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation measure the vitality of our Region, identify significant trends, and invite community supporters to assign grades in 11 key areas critical to Waterloo Region's quality of life.**

Community foundations provide a simple, powerful, and highly personal approach to giving and help others to make a lasting difference in their community.



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