

Lunenburg County Community Fund



LUNENBURG COUNTY'S

VitalSigns®

Update to the Community: November 25, 2010

On November 9, 2010, we hosted a follow-up meeting to the launch of **Lunenburg County's Vital Signs Report**. We were very pleased to have about 75 people turn out to begin the work on the next steps. Our objective for the meeting was to continue the discussion on the report's findings, match people with key priority areas identified within the report (see bulleted list below) and establish working groups for the key issues. We were able to accomplish these objectives!

Each time we have hosted a meeting, whether in the development of the report, the launch, or the follow up, we have faced a different mix of people. In each case, we have explained the findings of the project and what the work of the Lunenburg County Community Fund Board is all about.

Such was the case on November 9. It became very clear that residents of the County are starting to hear about the project and want to become involved. These are very positive and encouraging steps. There are many issues and many challenges. The Board agreed early on that we must establish priorities. To be successful we must stay focused on issues that will make a significant difference for the sustainability of Lunenburg County.

We know there were people at the November meeting who were disappointed the issues they felt should be priorities were not highlighted. However, the priorities did reflect input we received from two other meetings in the spring and summer. We encourage those folks to get involved in a group that might be able to address the issue from a larger community perspective. The priority areas as highlighted in the report are:

- exodus of those 34 years and under
- growth of those 55 years and older
- high unemployment rates and a changing job market
- literacy and high school completion rates
- smoking, obesity and physical inactivity rates

During the meeting, we held small group discussions with people who were interested in the priority issues. Our goal was to establish working groups around the issues and people did sign up to be involved in the follow-up work. The Lunenburg County Community Fund Board is committed to help nurture the working groups and to provide resources to support their initial work, but for this to be successful we must identify key champions for each issue who can lead the work in each issue area into the future. We are in the process of finding champions who can work on the issue from a county-wide perspective.

We continue to welcome your input and comments. For more information, please contact a member of the Lunenburg County Community Fund (see below), or Allison at the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia at 1-877-999-5907 or www.cfns.ca.