

Summer 2018

Newsletter

Hello Vibrant Community champions,

We hope that you are having a fantastic summer.

You are receiving this email because you have either been participating in our roundtable or we hope you join us in this very important project.

We want to provide you an update on the Vibrant Community Roundtable and what we have achieved since our last meeting in late May. The next step in our process is to establish a common agenda. Our collective vision is what will bring us together to address complex societal issues and help us build a more vibrant community for all of our residents.

In order to find that vision we have created a short, simple survey that we have been sharing across the community. Our goal is to reach people from Akwesasne, Cornwall, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry from all walks of life and background and ask them what issues are a priority for them in building a vibrant community.

We are thrilled to report that as of today we have received more than **550 survey responses**. This is beyond anything we hoped for. We won't go in-depth with an analysis yet as the survey is still open, but what we can share is that the number one priority across our region is **Mental Health, with Poverty and Financial Stability** coming in 2nd.

Two of our survey questions help us identify where our respondents live and what their background is. We ask them:

What option below best represents your situation?

- *I am a business owner or work in the for-profit industry.*
- *I work or volunteer in the non-profit sector.*
- *I work in the health care sector*
- *I am a government representative.*

- *I am an individual member of this community with lived experience. (I have faced challenges such as poverty, injustice, or abuse etc.)*

Currently, the majority of responses are coming from individuals with lived experience. This is ideal in helping us build our common agenda as we are hearing from folks living with the complex issues we hope to address. We owe our success in this department to a partnership with the Social and Housing Services for the City of Cornwall. As you might know, this summer the Social and Housing Services department completed a Homelessness Enumeration for all of Cornwall and SDG. The Housing staff completed surveys at food banks, drop-in centers, libraries, health services, public parks and many other locations. They generously offered to include our survey with theirs throughout this process.

We really want our survey responses to reflect our community as a whole. Although we have had great success with participation we are hoping to gain a few more responses from Glengarry and Stormont overall and a few more from business owners and health care professionals throughout SDG. We are hoping that this is where you can help us. If you have any contacts within those counties or sectors, please share the survey with them. Attached to this email you will find a letter in both French and English that you can copy into an email to send to your contacts. We of course welcome responses from all regions.

We will keep the survey open for another week and a half then begin to really breakdown the results. We hope to provide a more in-depth report to the group before our next meeting. This will give you the opportunity to reflect on the results and start thinking of ways we can come together and find solutions.

Expect to hear from us in the next month or so with more details and a date for our fall meeting.

Thank you

Carilyne Hébert and Karen Roundpoint