TOWARD COMMON GROUND
Developing a common language & understanding

Wellbeing in Guelph and Wellington.

One of TCG's first steps was to agree on a common language to understand social and health context and has grown to include 14 domains and 25 concepts.

Just over 2 years ago, representatives from 12 health and social service organizations from across Guelph and Wellington, including municipalities and the University of Guelph, received Ontario Trillium Foundation funding to develop a Sustainable Collective Planning Model to strengthen the way we collaborate; plan; gather; use and share local data and information; understand and talk about our community’s needs; seize opportunities to take strategic collective action and understand collective impact.

Since its inception, Toward Common Ground has evolved in response to community need and context and has grown to include 14 partners.

One of TCG’s first steps was to agree on a common language to understand social and health wellbeing in Guelph and Wellington.

Methods

The following steps were taken to develop a common language framework:

- TCG partners reviewed and used criteria to rate 19 wellbeing frameworks or lenses.
- 7 frameworks were identified for inclusion in a content analysis of domains and concepts.
- TCG Partners used a list of five considerations to identify wellbeing domains and concepts that reflected TCG's goals, scope and intended audience.
- Community Engaged Scholarship Institute interns completed review of academic and grey literature related to each domain and possible concepts to further inform refinement.
- For each domain and concept, a definition was created and revised with content expert feedback.
- For each concept criteria were used to identify indicators and measures of wellbeing.

The Focus of TCG

- Through research and consultation, TCG partners have developed a framework that has 8 domains and 26 concepts.
- Toward Common Ground’s first phase of work is focused on gathering information and supporting and taking action related to the following 5 domains: health; economic & household resources; education; belonging & participation; and safety.

Common Language Framework

Wellbeing is the presence of the highest possible quality of life in its full breadth of expression focused on but not necessarily exclusive to: access to economic and household resources, robust health, a sustainable environment, an educated populace, a sense of belonging and participation, a safe home and community, high levels of civic participation and access to and participation in leisure and culture.


Partners

- City of Guelph
- Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington
- County of Wellington
- Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington
- Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph-Wellingon
- Guelph Community Foundation
- Guelph Community Health Centre
- Immigrant Service Guelph-Wellington
- United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin
- University of Guelph Community Engaged Scholarship Institute
- Volunteer Centre of Guelph Wellington
- Waterloo Wellington Canadian Mental Health Association
- Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health
- YMCA-WIC of Guelph

RESEARCH FINDINGS

- The content analysis revealed that 5 domains of wellbeing were common across the 7 frameworks that were reviewed: education and lifelong learning; physical and mental health; basic needs/living standards; and connections (including sense of belonging and relationships).
- Environment, leisure and culture, democratic and civic engagement and intangible assets were identified in at least 3 of the 7 frameworks.
- The literature review conducted by CESI Interns revealed that there were both similarities and differences in the labels, definitions, concepts and indicators being used in the academic and grey literature, as well as by communities to understand and conceptualize wellbeing. *Source: Jeffrey, N., Kolfashan, S., & Marrothe, J. (2016). Understanding eight domains of Well-being: Identifying a framework for the Social & Health Service Sector in Guelph & Wellington. Guelph, ON: Community Engaged Scholarship Institute. https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/xmlui/handle/10214/5602

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Toward Common Ground
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