

# Best Practices from Rural Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans

Monday January 19 | 10:15-11:30

Civic Ballroom North



**Community Safety  
and Well-Being  
Plans**

*A Municipal Perspective*

**SAFE  
AND  
WELL  
OXFORD**





## Safe and Well Oxford

- **Unique situation**
- **Oxford is “exempt” from the legislation**
- **8 area municipalities and 1 plan**
- **Oxford County is leading the plan on behalf of the area municipalities**





## Review and Refresh

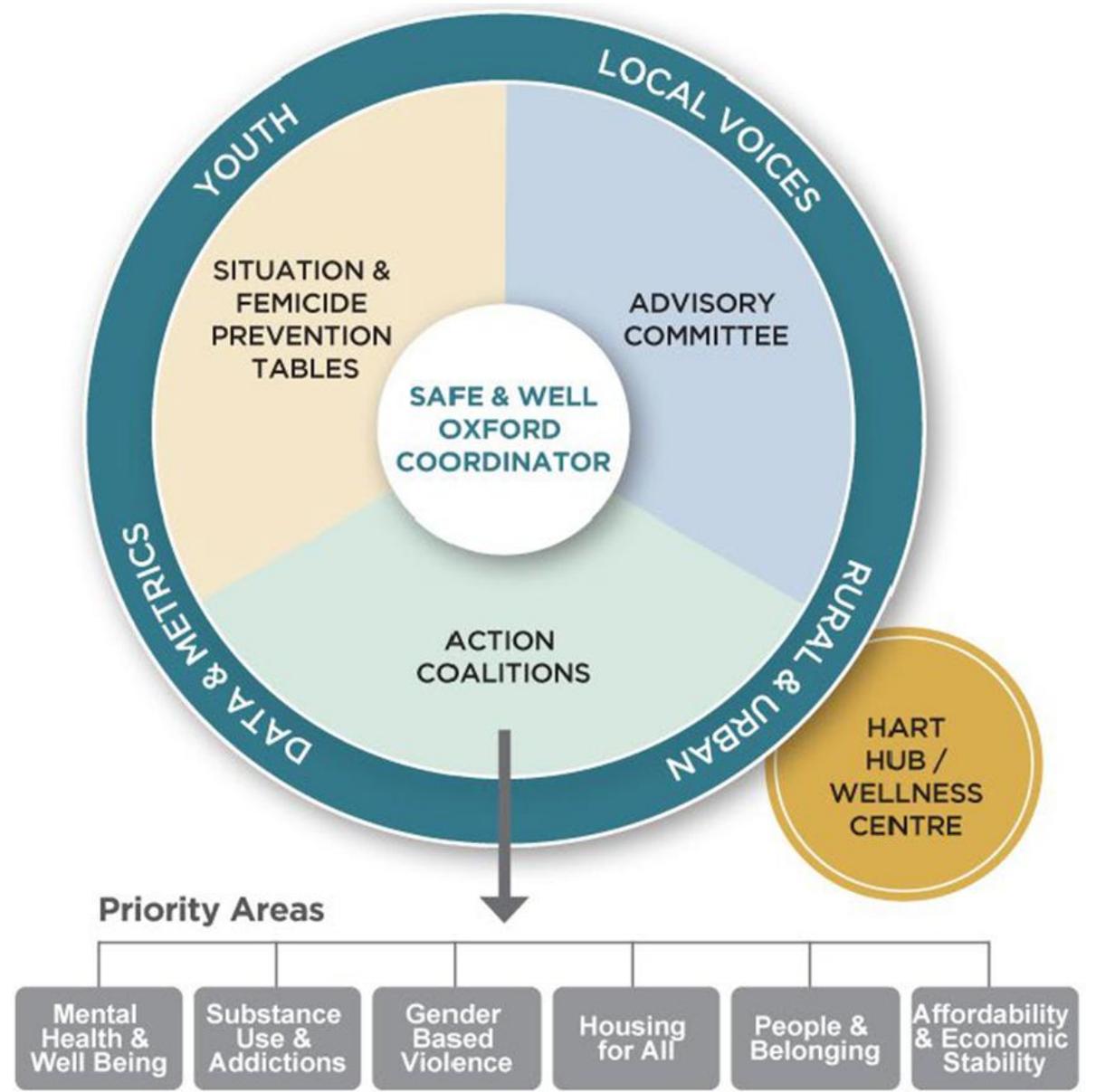
- **Procured a consultant to begin the process in May 2025**
- **Data and engagement included:**
  - **Canadian Index of Well-Being survey**
  - **Separate surveys for CAO's, elected officials, community partners/stakeholders, local principals**
  - **Focus groups and individual interviews**
  - **Library engagement**
  - **Existing reports and data from partners**





## Outcomes

- **Dedicated staff resource (1 FTE)**
- **6 Priority Areas**
  - **Mental Health and Well-Being**
  - **Housing for All**
  - **People and Belonging**
  - **Substance Use and Addictions**
  - **Gender Based Violence**
  - **Affordability and Economic Stability**
- **New foundational values: Youth, Local Voices, Urban and Rural Lens, Data and Metrics**
- **New governance model**





## What We Learned

- **Purpose of CSWB plans**
- **Role of municipalities and buy-in**
- **Importance of engagement**





## Advocacy

- **Prioritized advocacy for permanent, ongoing funding for administrative aspects of CSWB plans**
- **Delegation at AMO 2024 with SOLGEN, continued advocacy since then**
- **Partnering with approximately 9 municipalities**

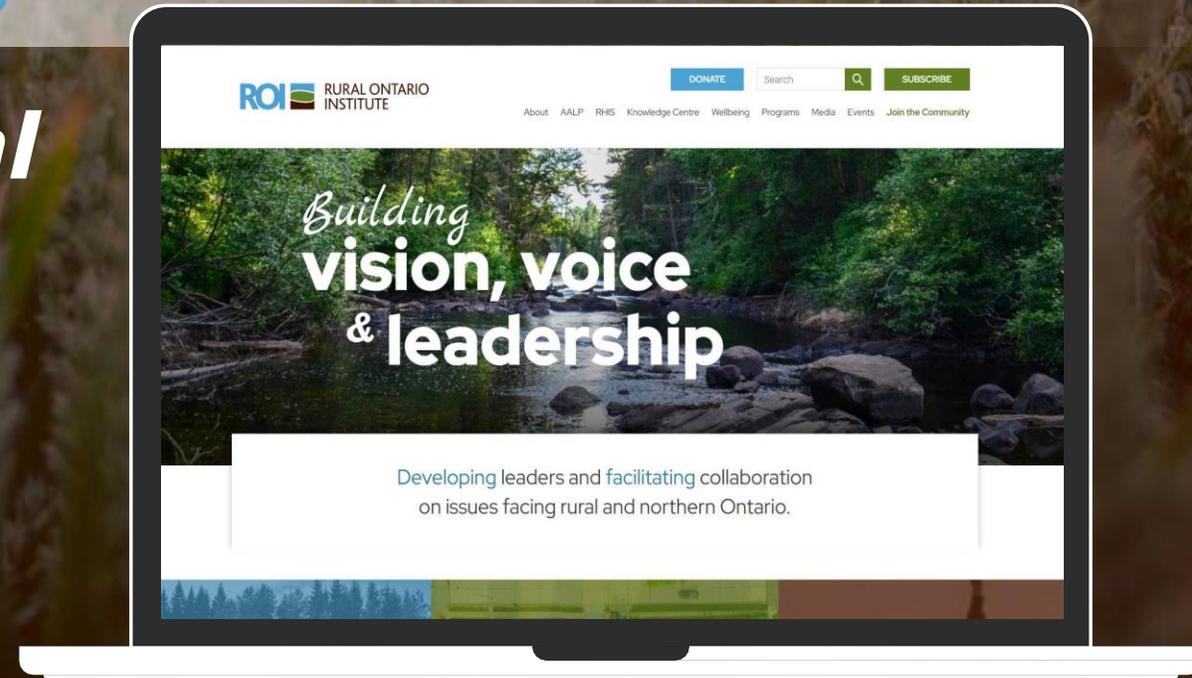


RURAL ONTARIO  
INSTITUTE

Vision, Voice and Leadership

# *Best Practices from Rural Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans*

*A concurrent session*



**Presented by: Rheann Quenneville, Data Analyst**



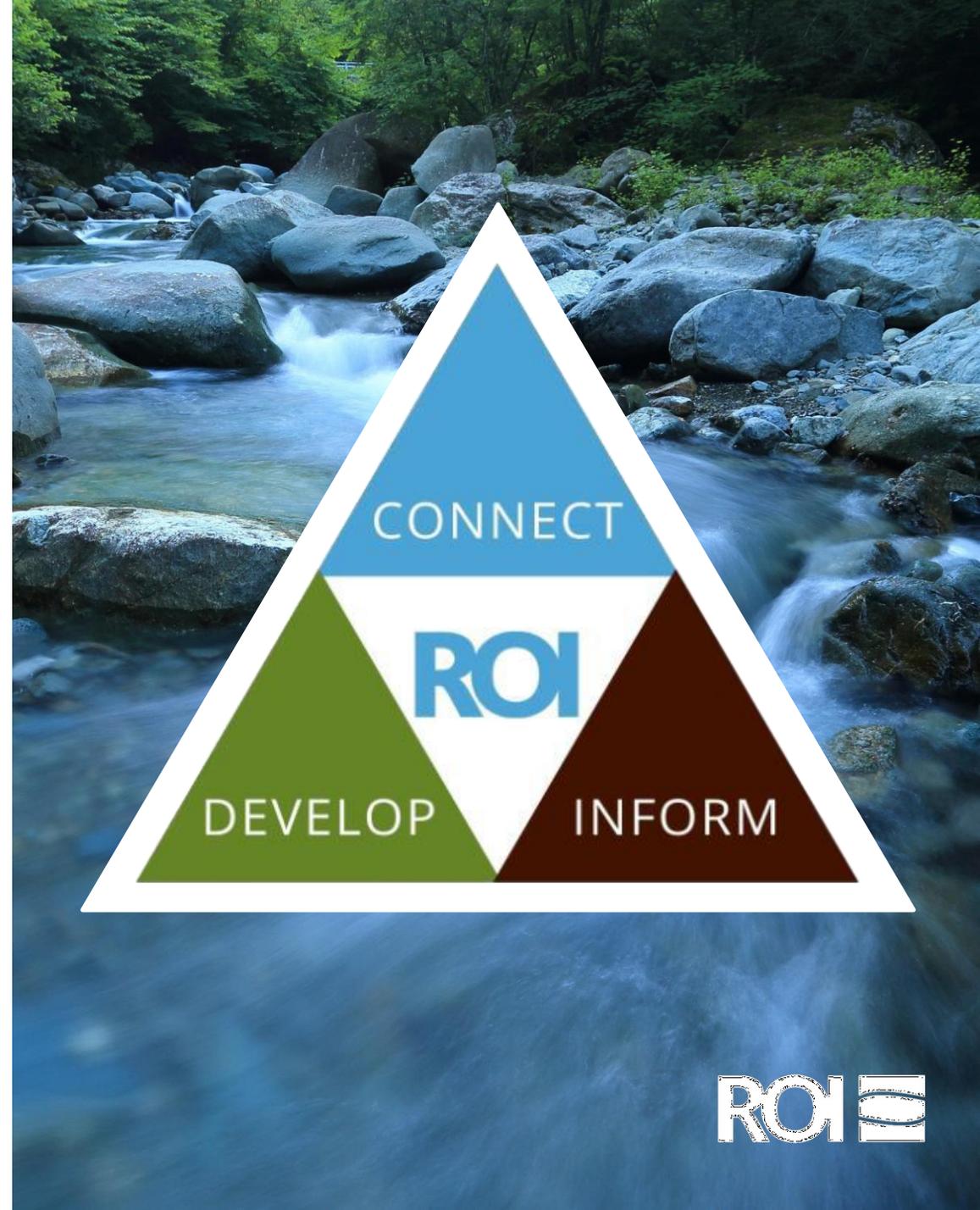
Association of  
Municipalities  
of Ontario

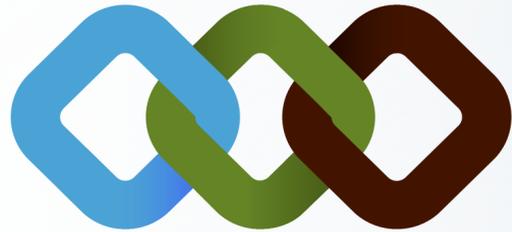


# About ROI

- The **Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)** is a charitable not-for-profit.
- **Our mission** is “Building Vision, Voice and Leadership.”
- We do this by offering leadership programs, providing leaders with data and analysis to make informed decisions, and by connecting leaders so they can share innovative practices around opportunities and challenges.

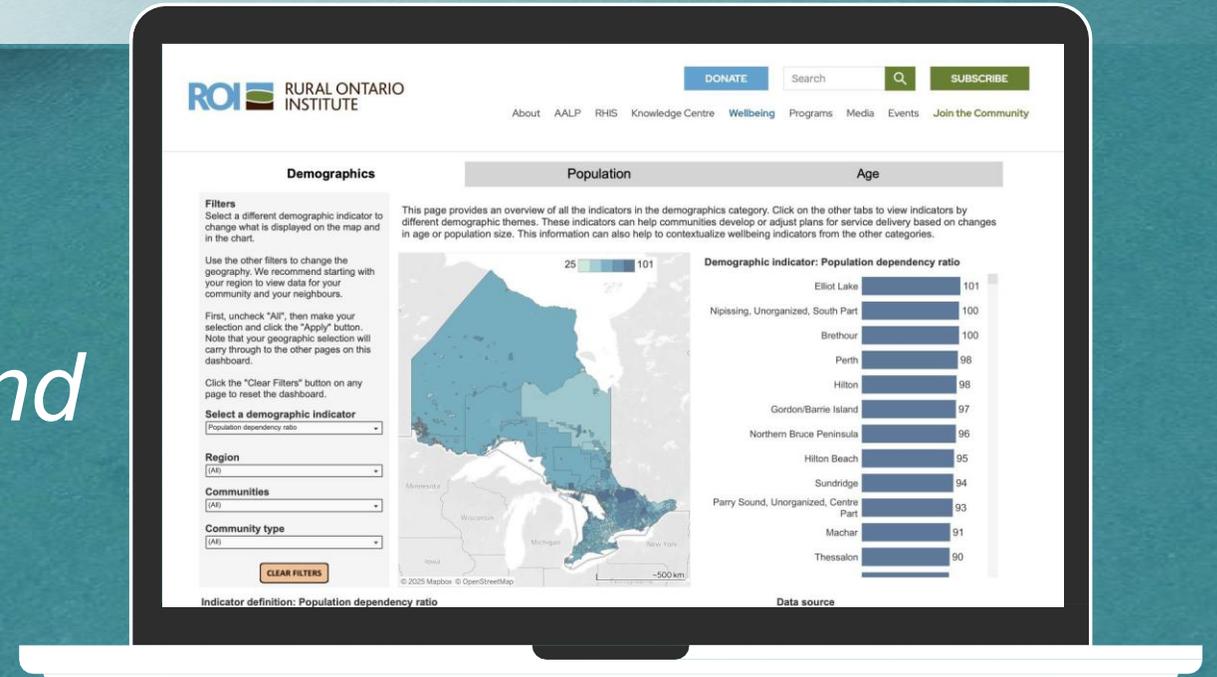
*ROI envisions thriving vibrant communities.*

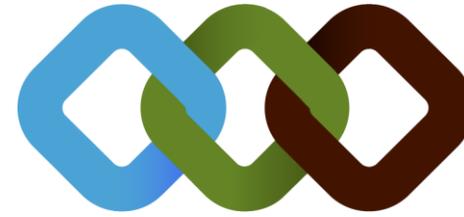




RURAL  
COMMUNITY  
WELLBEING

*ROI's Community Wellbeing Dashboard improves access to data and evidence for local decision making.*





RURAL  
COMMUNITY  
WELLBEING

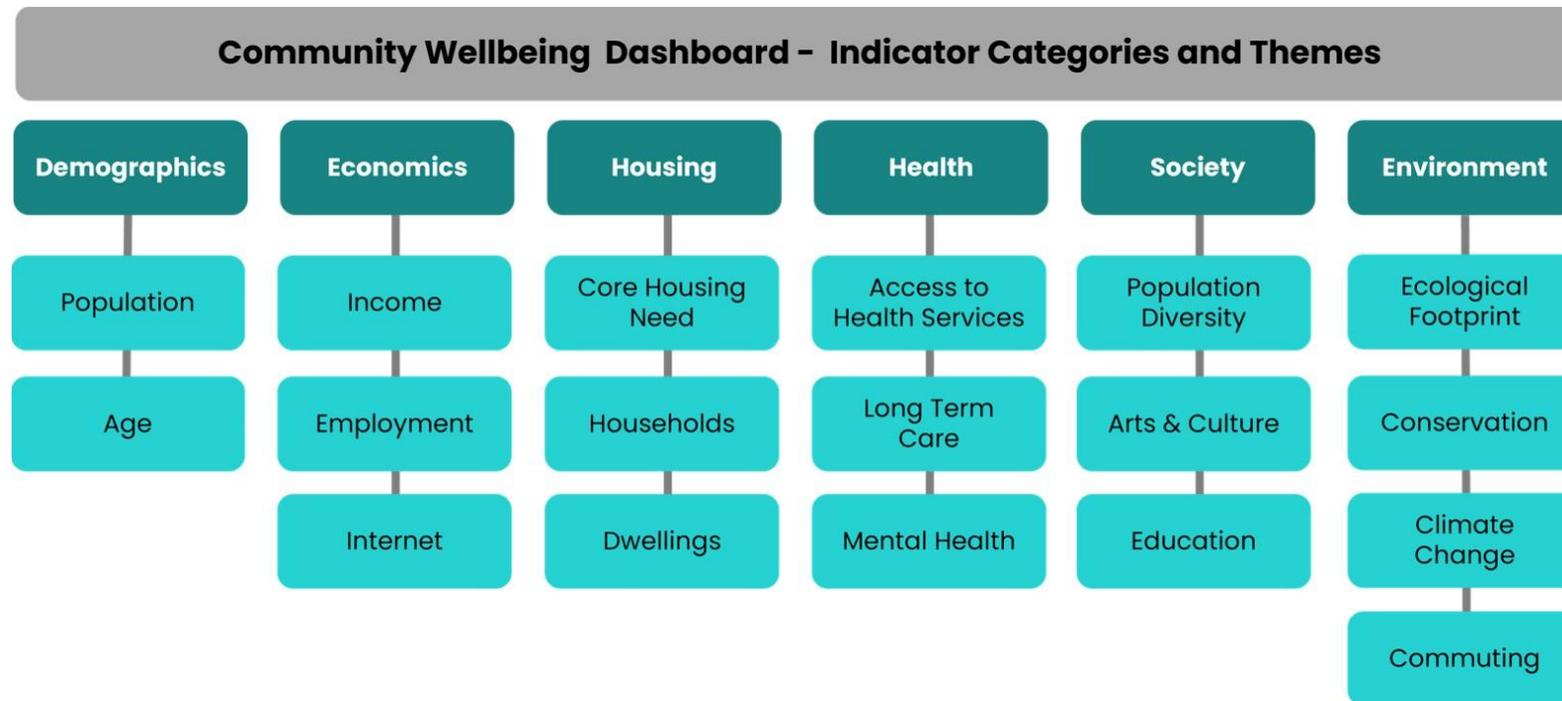
**The Well-Being Dashboard provides over 60 indicators** across key categories, including demographics, economics, housing, health, society, and environment.



*Designed to empower communities the dashboard helps establish baselines, identify priority areas, track changes over time, and uncover critical data gaps*

# Canadian Standards Association Indicators

Indicators in this dashboard are organized by categories and themes, as shown in the image below.



To learn more, please visit [www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/wellbeing](http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/wellbeing)

# Dashboard Purpose

## Accomplish These Steps

- Translate data into insights and establish baselines
- Identify priorities for change
- Find communities with similar challenges and turn insights into action
- Develop data-driven policies and programs
- Monitor progress and celebrate successes

## Potential Uses

- Review or revise plans (e.g., Community Safety & Wellbeing, service delivery, climate action)
- Build business cases for funding
- Gather initial data for reports or briefings
- Focus investment for further research or data collection



# Sponsors & Partners



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# Why These Tools Matter

**ROI RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE**

Navigation: About AALP RHIS Knowledge Centre **Wellbeing** Programs Media Events Join the Community

**Employment**

Financial security is an important determinant of wellbeing. In addition to providing income, people may derive personal satisfaction from working and form social connections which improve mental health. Employment opportunities are related to many factors including a community's location, population, workforce, and economic development strategies. These indicators can help communities with economic development and workforce planning.

**Filters**  
Use the filters below to select a level of geography.  
We recommend starting with your region to view data for your community and your neighbours. You can also select individual communities.  
First, uncheck "All", then make your selection and click the "Apply" button. Note that your geographic selection will carry through to the other pages on this dashboard.  
Click the "Clear Filters" button on any page to reset the dashboard.

Viewing data for: Region **All** Communities **All** Community types **All**

**Local employment**  
59%  
Source: 2021 Statistics Canada Census Profile

**Average industry wage (2024)**  
\$58,240  
Source: Analyst

**Change in jobs 2023-24**  
1.1%  
Source: Analyst

**Number of jobs by industry between 2018 and 2024**  
Use this filter to select specific industries: [All]

**Top 5 industries in 2024 by number of jobs & their average wages**

Health care and social assistance	957,992 jobs	\$51,606
Retail trade	802,649 jobs	\$32,097
Professional, scientific and technical services	741,409 jobs	\$76,403
Manufacturing	722,271 jobs	\$64,167
Educational services	588,140 jobs	\$62,853

**Totals for comparison**  
Compare your community or region to overall totals for different community types. These values remain constant to enable comparisons.

**Demographics**

This page provides an overview of all the indicators in the demographics category. Click on the other tabs to view indicators by different demographic themes. These indicators can help communities develop or adjust plans for service delivery based on changes in age or population size. This information can also help to contextualize wellbeing indicators from the other categories.

**Filters**  
Select a different demographic indicator to change what is displayed on the map and in the chart.  
Use the other filters to change the geography. We recommend starting with your region to view data for your community and your neighbours.  
First, uncheck "All", then make your selection and click the "Apply" button. Note that your geographic selection will carry through to the other pages on this dashboard.  
Click the "Clear Filters" button on any page to reset the dashboard.

**Select a demographic indicator**  
Population dependency ratio

**Region**  
[All]

**Communities**  
[All]

**Community type**  
Rural

**Demographic indicator: Population dependency ratio**

Elliot Lake	101
Nipissing, Unorganized, South Part	100
Brethour	100
Perth	98
Hilton	98
Gordon/Barrie Island	97
Northern Bruce Peninsula	96
Hilton Beach	95
Sundridge	94
Parry Sound, Unorganized, Centre Part	93
Machar	91
Thessalon	90

**Indicator definition: Population dependency ratio**  
A ratio of the number of economically-dependent people (i.e., children and seniors) per 100 working age people in 2021. This indicator provides insight into the workforce. A higher number indicates there are more dependent people in the community, which could signal workforce issues or the need for increased social supports for people who are not working.

**Data source**  
2021 Statistics Canada Census Profile  
Next scheduled update: 2026

To learn more, please visit [www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/wellbeing/](http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/wellbeing/)



**Environment** **Ecological Footprint** Conservation Climate change Commuting

**Filters**  
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Click the "Clear Filters" button on any page to reset the dashboard.

Region: (All)

Communities: (All)

Community types: (All)

**CLEAR FILTERS**

Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity are sustainability metrics that measure the human impact on Earth's ecosystems. Ecological Footprint measures the demand for resources based on levels of consumption. Biocapacity measures the capacity of ecosystems to regenerate the resources that we use. Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity can be broken down into components that reflect different land use types. Consumption can be attributed to 3 broad categories: household, fixed capital (i.e., infrastructure), and government. These indicators can help to inform plans for sustainable development and climate action. In cases of overconsumption, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is usually the most effective action to improve sustainability.

Viewing data for: Region **All** Communities **All** Community types **All**

**Biocapacity**  
6.0 Gha/capita  
Source: Dworatzek et al. (2024)

**Ecological Footprint**  
6.3 Gha/capita  
Source: Dworatzek et al. (2024)

**Biocapacity balance**  
-0.3 Gha/capita  
Source: Dworatzek et al. (2024)

**Components of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity**

Component	Ecological Footprint	Biocapacity
Wetlands	15%	15%
Built up land	12%	17%
Grazing land	10%	10%
Fishing grounds	7%	7%
Cropland	15%	17%
Forests	65%	48%
Carbon	15%	17%

**Categories of consumption**

Category	Percentage
Household	74%
Fixed capital	15%
Government	12%

**Household subcategories of consumption**

Subcategory	Percentage
Personal transport	29%
Services	22%
Food	21%
Housing	14%
Goods	13%

Definitions Resources Download data

**Society** **Population Diversity** **Arts & Culture** Education

**Filters**  
Use the filters below to select a level of geography.  
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Region: (All)

Communities: (All)

Community types: (All)

**CLEAR FILTERS**

Arts enable us to express ourselves, make connections, and raise awareness of social injustices. The arts and culture sector is an important economic driver that provides jobs and supports tourism and local businesses. Participating in arts activities is also known to improve mental health and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness. These indicators provide insight into local opportunities to participate in arts and culture activities. This information can be used to help communities develop strategies to support the arts and culture sector and enrich the lives of their residents.

Viewing data for: Region **All** Communities **All** Community types **All**

**Number of arts & cultural facilities (2020)**  
2,158  
Source: Open Database of Arts and Culture Facilities

**Revenue of charitable arts organizations (2021)**  
\$1,476,341,579  
Source: Mass Culture Arts Data Platform

**Number of charitable arts organizations (2021)**  
1,088  
Source: Mass Culture Arts Data Platform

**Types of arts & cultural facilities**

Facility Type	Count
Library or archives	728
Museum	516
Gallery	369
Theatre and concert hall	189
Heritage or historic site	150
Miscellaneous	122
Art or cultural centre	38
Festival site	27
Artist	19

**Revenue of charitable arts organizations**

Year	Revenue (\$K)
2018	~\$1,000,000
2019	~\$1,200,000
2020	~\$1,400,000
2021	~\$1,476,341.579

**Types of charitable arts organizations**

Organization Type	Count
Music & sound	436
Performing arts	273
Multidisciplinary	79
Visual arts	73
Dance	67
Cultural & museum	64
Film, literary, & media arts	59
Arts education or council	25
Other	12

Definitions Resources Download data

**Health** **Access to health services** **Long term care** Mental health

**Filters**  
Use the filters below to select a level of geography.  
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Region: Prescott and Russell United Counties

Communities: (All)

Community type: (All)

**CLEAR FILTERS**

Long term care facilities are residential homes for people who require 24/7 specialized care because of advanced age, disability or declining health. Long term care homes are licensed and regulated by the Ministry of Long-Term Care. As our aging population continues to grow, we expect an increase in the need for long term care spaces. Access to home care services and supports for ageing in place will become increasingly important to the overall health and wellbeing of seniors. These indicators provide insight into the supply and demand for long term care, which can help with the development of age-friendly plans.

Viewing data for: Region **Prescott and Russell United Counties** Communities **All** Community type **All**

**Number of LTC spaces in 2024**  
552  
Source: Ontario Long Term Care Association (2024)

**Long term care space ratio**  
27  
Source: Ontario Long Term Care Association (2024)

**Wait time for long term care in 2022-23**  
115  
Source: Ontario Long Term Care Association (2024)

**Average wait time for long term care by fiscal year**

Fiscal Year	Average Wait Time (days)
2018/19	106
2019/20	113
2020/21	117
2021/22	90
2022/23	115

Definitions Resources Download data

**Housing** **Core housing need** **Households** **Dwellings**

**Filters**  
Use the filters below to select a level of geography.  
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First, uncheck "All", then make your selection and click the "Apply" button. Note that your geographic selection will carry through to the other pages on this dashboard.  
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Region: (All)

Communities: (All)

Community types: (All)

**CLEAR FILTERS**

Housing is considered acceptable if it is affordable, suitable, and adequate. Affordable housing costs less than 30% of household income. Suitable housing does not require major repairs. Adequate housing has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household. A household is in core housing need if it falls below at least one of the indicator thresholds for affordability, suitability, or adequacy. These indicators provide insight into local housing issues and can inform decisions about housing development or service delivery for vulnerable populations.

Viewing data for: Region **All** Communities **All** Community types **All**

**Unaffordable housing**  
24%  
Source: 2021 Statistics Canada Census Profile

**Unsuitable housing**  
7%  
Source: 2021 Statistics Canada Census Profile

**Inadequate housing**  
6%  
Source: 2021 Statistics Canada Census Profile

**Household income distribution**

Income Bracket	Percentage
<\$20k	5%
\$20-39k	14%
\$40-59k	16%
\$60-79k	15%
\$80-99k	13%
>\$100k	37%

**Proportion of households in core need**

Category	Percentage
Renter households	25%
Owner households	6%

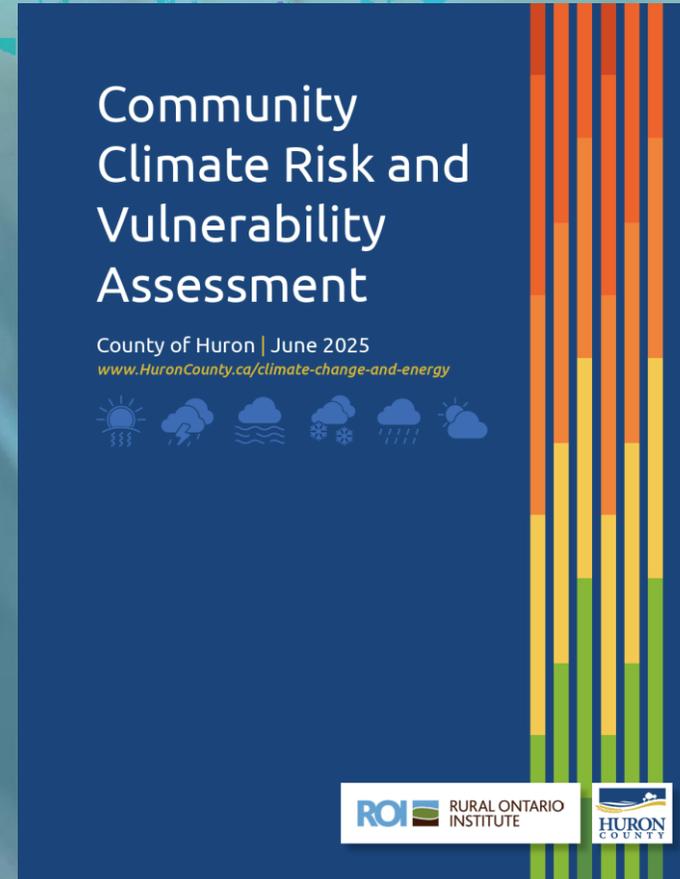
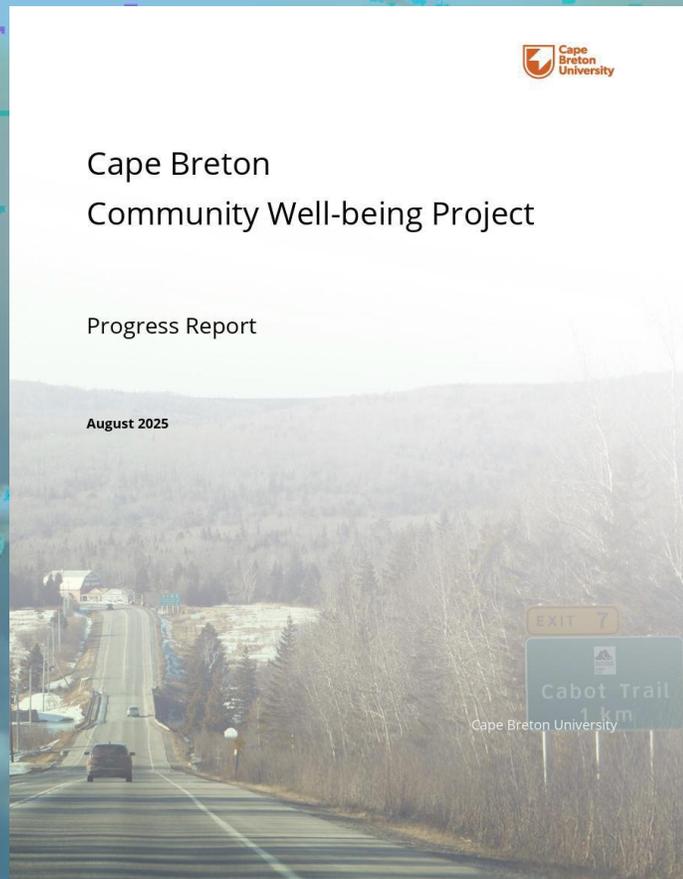
**Household tenure**

Tenure Type	Percentage
Owner	68.4%
Renter	31.4%
Government, First Nation or Band	0.2%

Definitions Resources Download data



# Case Studies

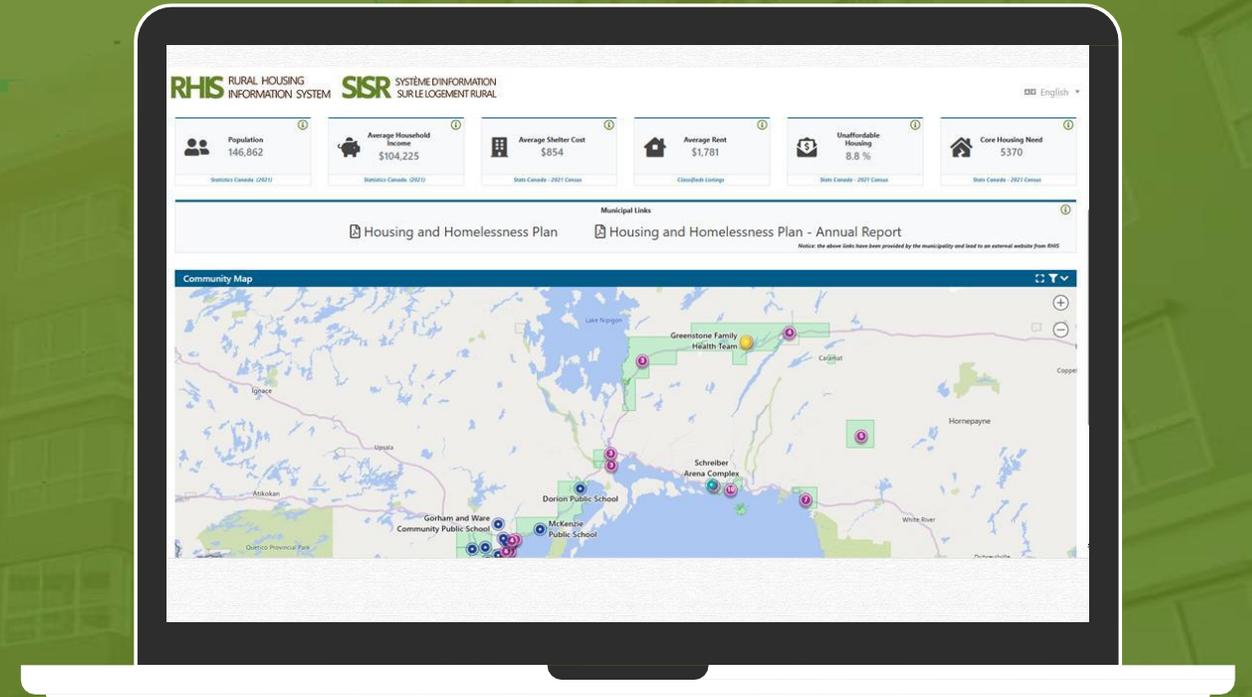


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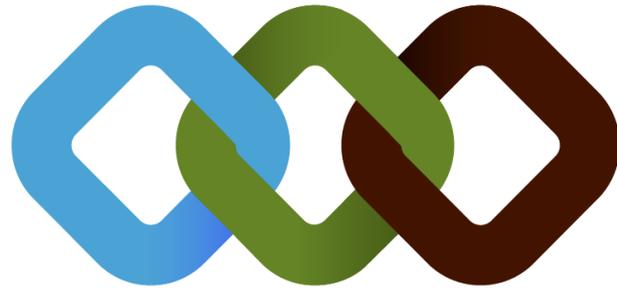


# DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

**We work with communities to build capacity:**

- Helping them understand how to interpret the data
- Integrate it into their work
- Use it strategically

# JOIN US!



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COMMUNITY  
WELLBEING

**RHIS** RURAL HOUSING  
INFORMATION SYSTEM

# QUESTIONS?

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**Kezia Cowtan,**

Data Programs Manager

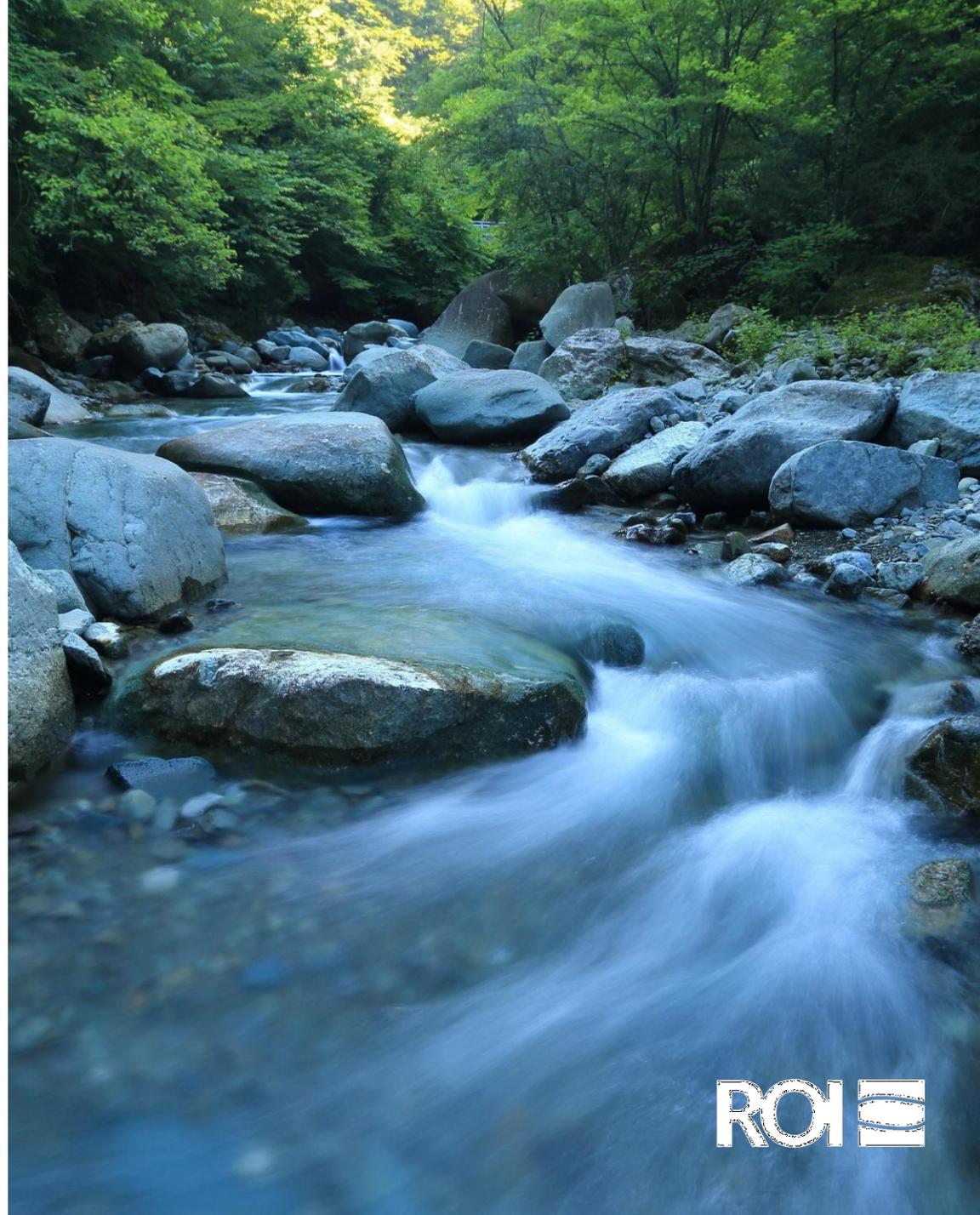
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Canadian Centre for  
**Safer Communities**



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# What We Can Learn From Rural Community Safety and Wellbeing Across Canada

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ROMA 2026

Melanie Bania, PhD

Executive Director, [CCFSC-CCCS](#)

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# Outline



- 01 Who am I and what is CCFSC?
- 02 Context of Rural CSWB Across Canada
- 03 Lessons Learned & Best Practices
- 04 Further Supports Needed

# What is CCFSC?

- A Community of Practice of over 150 municipalities and communities across Canada
- Created in 2003 to inspire local action and foster evidence-informed crime prevention and community safety and well-being
- Provides national leadership, collaboration, capacity strengthening, and knowledge exchange
  - Topic summaries, practitioner guides, research
  - Public events, webinars, speaker series, and other knowledge exchange opportunities
  - Members-only Community of Practice sessions and online portal
  - Fee-for-service consultation for strategy development, planning, evaluation & monitoring





# Context of Rural CSWB Across Canada

- Types of challenges – some are the same as always, others are new
  - Types of crimes and victimization
  - Types of social determinants
  - Social polarization
  - Fear and insecurity
  - Policing, non-reporting
  - Increased local responsibility, strain on local resources
- Opportunities
  - Community safety is not only an end in itself, but a key condition for economic and social growth



# Lessons Learned & Best Practices





# Further Supports Needed

- Improved access to local data
- Better balance of short- and long-term focus using evidence base on effective strategies
- Sustained funding!
- Cross-sectoral and collaborative efforts with an eye on shared desired results, not differences of opinion
- Capacity building in monitoring, evaluation, and ongoing learning and improvement



CCFSC (2020). Topic Summary: Rural Crime Prevention.

# Supporting Practitioners with Monitoring & Evaluation – CCFSC Toolkit Coming March 25!

Understanding M&E	Understanding key concepts and practices in monitoring and evaluation.
Engaging Partners	Engaging with partners to promote the importance of M&E and to strengthen capacity to contribute to local monitoring and evaluation efforts.
Identifying Key Indicators	Identifying what to monitor by selecting key indicators that relate to local strategies and actions, and emerging issues.
Collecting Mixed Data	Collecting a diverse and comprehensive set of data using mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative methods) and community-based participatory approaches.
Storing & Analyzing Data	Storing data, analyzing key themes, and engaging in collaborative sense-making with partners.
Reporting Results	Reporting back on and communicating results with key audiences.
Learning & Adapting	Learning from the results and adapting current strategies to enhance impacts in the community.

Canadian Centre for  
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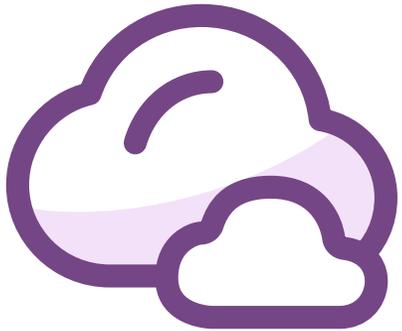
**Thank You**  
**Merci**  
**miigwech**



# What are the main priorities for your CSWB Plan?



**What challenges are you facing  
implementing your CSWB Plan?**



**What resources would you like to support your CSWB Plan?**