



STRATEGIC
FOCUS
AREAS



NOVEMBER 2016



Build

community capacity to use Niagara-focused evidence (data, information, knowledge) to inform planning and decision-making

Goals

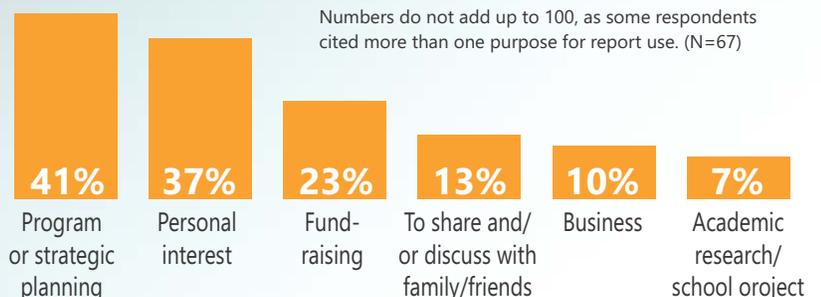
- • • • Describe how Niagara-specific data is currently being gathered, shared, used, and valued
- • • • Build the capacity of people in Niagara to understand how to move knowledge into practice

The Living in Niagara report is a triennial measure of quality of life across 12 Living in Niagara Sectors. The report and its Sectors are described, built, owned and strengthened by diverse players in the Niagara-wide community.

livinginniagarareport.com

Niagara Community Foundation Funded Agencies Survey 2016

How the Living In Niagara report was used



"We use the Living in Niagara report to corroborate findings within our day to day business, and connect our work to the larger picture."

-Respondent, 2016 Niagara Community Foundation Funded Agencies Survey

LIVING IN
NIAGARA
2017



Facilitate

coordinated community action to create the conditions for a more vibrant Niagara

Goals

Convene collaborative projects that cross more than one Living in Niagara Sector • • • •

Make Niagara-specific data accessible to support coordinated action in the community • • • •

Collective Impact** gathering, sharing evidence
focused planning transformative change
emerging issues translating evidence to practice
safe, trusted social space Backbone Support**
important conversations diverse players
socio-economic development driving community action



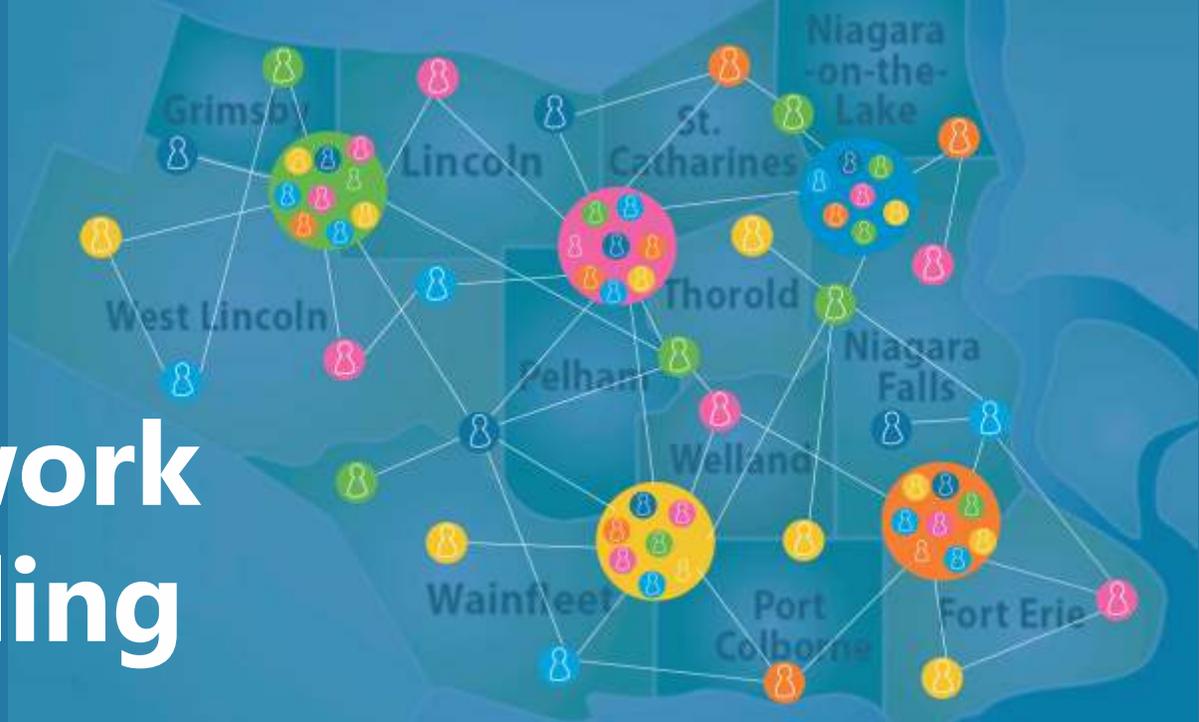
niagaraknowledgeexchange.com

Niagara Knowledge Exchange (NKE) is a tool to support evidence-informed planning, collective action and Niagara-wide innovations. It is a populated by people working with Niagara Connects Knowledge Brokers.

Each month on average, **800 people view 3,000 pages** and **50 resources are uploaded** to the NKE. Over **1200 people** from **700** organizations and businesses receive weekly E-blasts, with links to new resources on the NKE.

Niagara Connects Knowledge Brokers connect people to people and to relevant, reliable evidence, to support planning for impact. They host regular webinars to highlight Niagara-focused innovations, with an average of **100 participants** and 50 views of webinar archives.

Network Building



Visualizing Connections is a network mapping and analysis tool for illustrating connectivity among people and organizations involved in a focused initiative. Niagara Connects has engaged over **200 people** in building maps for **6 initiatives**, in the areas of **Data and Knowledge; Food Systems; Mental Health and Addictions; Poverty Reduction; Active Transportation** and **Inter-Agency Collaboration**. The maps have identified a total of **1400 connections** between people affiliated with **700 organizations**, in Niagara and beyond.

"Using the Niagara Connects social network mapping tool helped us reach our goal of engaging a large number of people and organizations in a conversation about Active Transportation in Niagara. By constructing the maps, our core group of 18 people was able to efficiently identify 288 people affiliated with 149 organizations, in Niagara and beyond, we could connect with, to increase the impact of our work."

- Lisa Gallant, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention,
Niagara Region Public Health

#Rethink Niagara

Strengthening Social Capital by
taking a Systems Approach to
Investing in the People of Niagara



Strengthen

Niagara Connects as a value-add and sustainable enterprise in the Niagara-wide community

Goals

Be recognized by the Niagara-wide community as providing value to individuals, businesses, and organizations • • • •

Increase and diversify revenue sources to build a sustainable investment base • • • •

Niagara Connects Subscribers

A growing number of organizations invest in Niagara Connects services and annual Subscription. They receive customized Knowledge Broker support for opportunities to engage, share, contribute to, and benefit from Niagara Connects network activity.

Bridges Community Health Centre

Brock University

Canadian Mental Health Association - Niagara

Centre de sante communautaire Hamilton/Niagara

Contact Niagara

Distress Centre Niagara

District School Board of Niagara

FACS Niagara

Heart Niagara

Niagara Age-Friendly Community Network

Niagara Catholic District School Board

Niagara College

Niagara Community Foundation

Niagara Falls Community Health Centre

Niagara Health System

Niagara Region

Niagara Suicide Prevention Coalition

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Pathstone Mental Health

Quest Community Health Centre

United Way of St. Catharines & District

12

Living in Niagara Sectors

Niagara Connects supports enhanced quality of life in Niagara, by facilitating access to relevant, reliable data, information and knowledge; and convening connections between people and organizations working in and across the 12 Living in Niagara Sectors.

The 12 Sectors align with the Social Determinants of Health*.



"Niagara Connects plays a skillful role in gathering diverse players for important conversations and action planning. One example is the construction and implementation of the Niagara Mental Health and Addictions Charter. CMHA Niagara includes the 9 Charter Principles in our annual Board Orientation. Our Board of Directors takes a system-wide view, and is committed to building a strengthened, integrated, individual and family-centered mental health system in Niagara."

- George Kurzawa, Executive Director,
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Niagara

"When we launched the niagaraopendata.ca portal in 2016, it made sense to align the dataset groups with the 12 Living in Niagara Sectors. We work with Niagara Connects to advance our common goal of engaging Niagara's people, organizations and businesses in seeing the usefulness of openly sharing data."

- Connie McCutcheon, IT Open Data Project Lead, Niagara Region and
Vice-President, Ontario Municipal Information Systems Association (MISA)



Niagara Connects is a

Niagara-wide network

of **people** for collaboration, planning, learning, innovation and community action toward a stronger future for Niagara. We are built by the community of Niagara for the community of Niagara.

Mission:

Generate knowledge that drives community action

Guiding Principles:

- Community strengths, research, and evidence are linked in order to plan for a stronger Niagara
- Different interests are engaged to work together mobilizing for change
- Research and activities are guided by communities

niagaraconnects.ca

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*Mikkonen, J., & Raphael, D. (2010). Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts. Toronto: York University School of Health Policy and Management.

** Collective Impact, Kania & Kramer, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter, 2011

