

Vital Signs Perceptions Survey 09/072011

Belonging & Leadership

Recognition / Communications

- A Better recognition of those who devote their lives to volunteering.
- A Better communication
- A Ask more vocally for volunteers
- A Vernon needs to proactively market the value better
- A Nothing we rock
- A Vernon is an excellent community in this area.
- A Volunteerism is waning, need more support on the volunteer bureau, advertising to cross generation, the value of volunteerism etc.
- A Education on the value of contribution.
- A More recognition for volunteers
- A Encourage better voter participation
- A Open forum on what the volunteering options are
- A Better voter information for awareness
- A Perhaps a committee of volunteers - all ages/cultures who act as a voice for the general public & who speak at council meetings
- A There is too much apathy - the message is 'let those who always volunteer, volunteer again.'
- A Take the lead in getting the public to vote and take an interest in their government
- A Greater recognition of volunteers and their contribution to the area
- A People need to have more pride in our area
- A Volunteer events to raise awareness of opportunities
- A We need to be careful of burnout with the dedicated volunteers
- A Allow for flexible volunteerism for snowbirds
- A Promote public input other than letter to editor
- A More knowledge dissemination about community orgs and volunteer opportunities
- A Better organization marketing/community awareness
- A Continue to cultivate, support and honour community champions
- A Look for others than those selected in the past
- A More volunteers to make less work per person
- A Volunteering should be a prerequisite of signing up for any organization.
- A We have a good volunteer base, keep recruiting-families, etc
- A More official recognition of volunteer ideas
- A Advise people letters to editor are 'cherry picked'

Government

- B At a municipal level? Can we have more fruit trees, for the general public in parks etc?
- B Decision making and voter turnout: more effort made by City and various government agencies to keep people informed and engaged
- B Less infighting amongst the political community
- B Actively promote opportunities to participate in developing policy and programs at the local and regional levels.
- B City council meetings should be held in the evening so that working people can attend if they wish.
- B Tax credit for volunteering
- B Leadership is not progressive in its thinking and seems locked in the past.
- B Council should start listening to residents on issues like the roundabout on the East Hill.
- B Volunteerism is good. People in poverty here & there are too many have a very hard time and need to have hope in affordable housing
- B Need more diverse representation on City Council
- B More women in leadership positions
- B Public input processes longer, more people involved
- B Cooperation at the GVSC to enable projects to succeed
- B More accountability from elected officials.
- B Better housing
- B Local government support for volunteer week activities
- B Lots of opportunity for input and voicing opinions
- B More public input
- B Politicians need to lobby for better and more affordable childcare services - poverty keeps people out of civic life.
- B Mixed housing, more housing variety downtown, common theme to Vernon identity, jobs/work opportunities that enhance theme
- B Tourism, business and Economic Development need to have a plan not hampered by policy
- B More respectful responses from council to citizen concerns.
Leaders in the City are too indecisive in stepping forth and going ahead with needed projects other than bicycle paths it seems. Get on with needed things as you were elected to do and clear the shelves and stop the waste of money on study after study.
- B Make the mayor and council more responsible to the public that elects them and force them to listen and act upon what we tell them
OCP process was great, but where is it? What was the ultimate outcome? Why are amendments already occurring because this sort of thing is what makes a person wonder "why bother?"
- B More opportunity for community input into decisions, real input, not just lip service
- B Be encouraged to get out and vote
- B A Directory for public use.
- B Seeing as the local government allowed the Woman centre to close I think speaks volumes

Youth

- C Inclusion of younger members in established groups
- I think we need to help parents and schools instill responsibility (not just rights) in their children...perhaps through community 'clean up' days...maybe 3 x year offer designate areas and have families and people come out (have them challenge their neighbors, etc.) to join in,

People At Risk

- D Increase the support for the homeless and the people on the streets with drug problems
- D Actively build relationships with the at risk / minorities
We definitely need to see more First Nations people working in downtown businesses - when shopping there are few or no visible First Nations people serving as clerks, tellers, waiters, etc. Why are we not attracting First Nations people to these and administrative positions? We need to look at stereotyping and labeling and get past that.
- D More affordable housing for the poor
We have a large population of poor/homeless as there needs to be more affordable housing for families like the few they have just finished building on 25th, the Landing road, near The People Place.
- D More integration for people with special needs - mostly the intellectually challenged
- D Mental illness services away from downtown
- D Poverty is an obstacle
MMMore environmentally minded...or "challenge" the corporate, government to live on a low income family budget (social assistance or min. wage job.) So others may know they understand the barriers. It would also, be neat to have a couple of low income families do a swap, so they can share with the community the difficult decisions that the government has to make.
- D More facilities for the homeless
- D The gap between rich and poor is widening alarmingly with the minimum wage being set at unrealistically low and contributing to this
- D People living in poverty
- D Better access to affordable housing for people/families living in poverty.
- D More opportunity for under privileged
- D Marginalized populations don't feel engaged.

Diversity

- E Provide public activities that highlight diverse cultures - ie fairs
- E More visible groups for new immigrants
- E Stop making all minorities the majorities and remember the regular working folk
- E Some funding to disadvantaged groups, eg urban women and first nations has been recently cut back and should be re-instated
- E Opportunities for inclusion for immigrants
- E More multicultural events/collaboration, that are different than the one provided at the Schubert Centre
- E Celebrate diversity throughout the community.

Inclusion

- F There is a lot of volunteerism, but Vernon is an extremely clicky place. It is not easy to integrate yourself into the community without an extreme amount of networking and effort.
- F Reduce sprawl of the city, more public spaces in downtown, encourage community cohesion
- F Not sure, but perhaps an inventory of skills of local arts community
- F Encouragement for everyone to belong - even those new to the community
- F More input from citizens
- F More people with disabilities and aboriginal people need to be included
- F Better assistance for those with disabilities
- F Anything to enhance the meaning of family
- F Inclusion especially in the area of disabilities is sadly lacking
- F Help public understand the benefits of the above, especially inclusion of immigrants
- F I think there has to be more reaching out to these groups who don't have extra income to participate.
- F Have specific outreach to specific groups to get them more involved (ie. persons with disability, homeless, seniors, new comers, etc.)
- F Integrate schools/churches/families socially

Working Together

- G Organizations that provide similar services work together
- G Many people volunteer in every area of our community
- G More funding for engagement
- G Mentorship from the old boys club to develop the missing demographics
- G On the other hand, individuals need to take responsibility for being engaged civically, economically, and socially, so not sure how much the City can actually do to improve in this area.
- G Create successful examples community projects.