



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROI announces the launch of the Community Well-being Dashboard

GUELPH, ON, September 25, 2024 – The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI), in partnership with the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, is pleased to announce the launch of the [Rural Community Well-being Dashboard](#) to rural Ontario communities.

“The Community Well-being Dashboard is a unique tool that will help rural stakeholders identify trends and conditions impacting their communities,” said Danielle Letang, ROI Manager of Data Strategy. “It provides access to standardized data at the local level to assess quality of life and wellbeing.”

Over the past two years, ROI has engaged with rural communities to create a dashboard and select indicators for understanding community well-being in the rural context. The tool allows communities to easily interpret their well-being and will enable communities to:

- establish baselines
- identify priorities for change
- monitor progress over time
- share stories and celebrate successes

To learn more about this new data-driven tool, join us for a free Rural Wellbeing Webinar on October 30, 2024. [Please see our website for registration details.](#)

“Having access to salient and readily available data at the local level is critical for rural communities and decision makers,” said ROI executive director Ellen Sinclair. “There are many systems for assessing quality of life and well-being. However, many of these systems are designed for urban areas, or rely on labour-intensive data collection and analysis.”

“The Rural Community Well-being Dashboard opens the door for communities to access local data that is key to understanding overall quality of life and offers a deeper understanding of indicators that drive well-being locally,” said Liz Forsberg, Partnership Investments, Ontario Trillium Foundation.

“The Community Well-being Dashboard is an incredibly useful tool that conveniently presents a massive amount of data on a diverse range of issues, to help local leaders and rural stakeholders make better decisions to address their community needs,” said Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. “We applaud the Rural Ontario Institute on this tool. It is another example of the tremendous innovation that is driving growth, investment, and productivity across Ontario’s almost \$51 billion agri-food sector.”

“Since 2010, ROI has engaged with rural communities to create diverse perspectives, innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities and economic, social and environmental sustainability in rural and northern Ontario,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs. “The

work they do establishes priorities for change and monitors progress over time. Our government is committed to continuing our partnership and majorly impacting Rural Ontario in a positive way.”

The Rural Ontario Institute is a non-profit organization committed to developing leaders and facilitating collaboration on issues and opportunities facing rural and northern Ontario communities.

ABOUT

The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) is a non-profit organization committed to developing leaders, informing decision makers and connecting communities. ROI delivers the renowned Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) entering its 40th year of operation, and the Rural Change Maker program, a youth leadership initiative for young rural, emerging leaders to address local priorities. We provide data, research, and analysis on rural trends and issues. Information is disseminated through our new Community Wellbeing Dashboard and the Rural Housing Information System.

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