

## What We Heard:

On October 4, 2018, community members joined together to have conversations related to the following nine pillars. We based the conversations on survey results, where we asked Medicine Hat residents to identify issues in our community. We then asked Vital Conversations participants to tell us more about the issues they identify in our community, and to help brainstorm potential solutions. Below is a summary of the themes that came from these conversations.

### 1. Gap Between Rich & Poor

- Concerns:  
Resources may not always be aligned with working hours of possible clients; generational poverty; stigma attached to accessing some resources
- Solutions:  
Bring programs/supports/resources directly to community locations; legal assistance for working moms; after hours mental health drop-in

### 2. Safety

- Concerns:  
Drug consumption: location, related crime, needles; increase in domestic violence; crime waves
- Solutions:  
Cannabis information sessions; Educate public regarding location of police/911 dispatch (lack of common understanding at several tables about whether there is a local 911 dispatch); increase deployment/awareness of Text with 911 service ([www.textwith911.ca](http://www.textwith911.ca))

### 3. Learning

- Concerns:  
Low financial literacy; low attendance at some financial literacy courses; low mentorship program participation during summer; challenges around mingling youth and seniors
- Solutions:  
Daycares inside seniors' centres; high school student storytelling with seniors; further integrate mentorship into schools

*October 2018*

# Vital CONVERSATIONS

*exploring issues, opportunities and solutions*

## 4. Housing

- Concerns:  
Lack of rent control, support for landlords/tenants, waitlist for housing
- Solutions:  
Education on existing supports, nurture sense of responsibility

## 5. Getting Started/Belonging

- Concerns:  
Accessible transit hours (stops at 7pm), language and education barriers, winter isolation
- Solutions:  
Improved event communication, Google Translate, linking female family members to a community group, increase availability of Cultural programs, and women's programs.

## 6. Creative and Active Living

- Concerns:  
Availability of structured vs. unstructured activities (competitive sport vs. recreation) discussed; cost of some activities creates restrictions
- Solutions:  
Play parties, roving gyms, child play parent groups, European-style socialization, improved event communication

## 7. Business

- Concerns:  
Diverse opinions regarding whether there is a current lack of available job opportunities and whether there is a diversity in available jobs
- Solutions:  
Career navigation and education re: career planning; increase awareness of existing resources

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## 8. Community Builders

- Concerns:  
Increase diversity of representation, including women, minorities and youth
- Solutions:  
Central list/database of open positions; community open house/job fair/information sessions; mentorship

- Notes:

Board membership is usually not self-initiated, may take an invite to consider

## 9. Health

- Concerns:

Mental health treatment barriers: wait times, quality of care, lack of outreach, navigation difficulty; lack of patient understanding around purpose of patient "meet and greet" with new family doctor; insufficient access to specialty care

- Solutions:

Gender-specific health centres; public education to increase awareness; sensitivity and cultural awareness training; free indoor facility for children and family activities (during winter); increased use of telehealth/technology driven specialist appointments

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