Summary of high level themes from Public Engagement - Qualitative Results – Wellbeing Waterloo Region (from the Openly October 4, 2017 Summary Report)

The following summary indicates the most prevalent topics or issues cited by residents throughout the engagement process. These topics or "priorities" do not represent gaps or needs so much as what is most important to residents when they are asked to consider wellbeing. In some cases, a priority may be something that makes the region great and is available to all or some members of the community, or seen as required and lacking. In short, these priorities can be thought of as topics to focus on. The most prevalent priorities are listed first, **and in bold** (above average instances [m = 14.75] across the entire database). The priorities shaded in red were seen to be required or lacking. Those shaded in green were seen to be strength areas.

Community Vitality	Democratic Engagement	Education	Environment	Healthy Populations	Leisure and Culture	Living Standards	Time Use
Access and accessibility (access to, and knowledge of, the assets and social services of the community) **A community that is safe, prosperous and promising** (including lower crime rates and better general upkeep) **Belonging and engagement** (the opposite of social isolation, being "plugged into" the community, knowing your neighbours, etc.) **Engagement between older adults with young people** **Inter-generational living** (bridging the gap between generations and battling ageism) **Help for new immigrants and refugees** (more outreach, support, and inclusion for newcomers and newcomer families) **Celebration of diversity** "Diversity is our asset."	• Power • Community engagement • Neighbourhood leaders • Having voices heard • Action • Grassroots • Trust • Community organizer • Listening and responsive regional government • Community empowerment • "Joined up" structures (all of government; all of community) • More people vote and get involved at municipal level • Nothing about me without me • Regional, municipal + townships work together	**Literacy, early literacy, literacy for all** "Literacy - all of these have the benefit of Impact now as well as future Impact on health, crime, social, etc." • Education to reduce stigma and discrimination • Incubation and acceleration of innovations • Success in school, especially for immigrants/refugees • Educational places to visit • Acknowledgement of education and degrees from other countries • Lifelong learning • Cultural inclusivity • Early childhood development and education • Equitable access to education • No bullying in schools • Graduation rates seen as everyone's responsibility (not just school board) • Intergenerational knowledge transfer • Investment in children and youth • Learn from individuals with lived experience	**Parks, playgrounds** "More parks and playgrounds." **Trails** "Lots of outdoor activities like hiking, trails, fishing, etc." **Bike friendly communities** "More bike lanes to cut traffic and pollution." **Walkable communities** "Farms, environment, urban areas all connected by trails, bike paths, + effective transportation." **Connection to nature, to land and river** "People are forgetting how to connect with nature because they are so dependent on technology."	**Mental health and access to mental health services, including for youth** **Access to health care** (more affordable access to a wider range of health care services, including oral; a reduction in waiting lists) **Healthy child development** (including pregnancy) - wrap around approach to address the needs." **Food security** (access to and availability of healthy food) **Healthy food** (eating well in general) **Addictions, and addiction support services, harm reduction** (let's pool our	**Arts, symphony, and theatre scene** "Connection to the arts- there is always music and arts going on." **Neighbourhoods with community gardens, centres, ice rinks; neighbourhood events (sport)** "Culture – music, people, countryside, - all of these are part of our overall culture. And lots of sports too. + Universities. Also speaks to the diversity in our community." **Festivals and events, free events** "Lots of community events: festivals, events, neighbhourhood activities …." **Accessibility** "Belonging: I love that there are more and more family events/family entertainment offerings	**Affordable housing** (the availability and efficacy of housing support/programs, available rentals, and homes) **Housing, rising costs and pressure on market** **Transportation, availability, accessibility** **Exclusion of those living in poverty** "Systemic barriers, rules that don't allow people access to childcare. Subsidy if they work part time" **Employment in the townships / Unemployment** (includes underemployment or precarious employment) **Unemployment services** "Job hunting is a big issue that causes a	• Work/life balance • Limiting dependence on technology • Technology • Buses late, feeling like are spending all one's time waiting for a bus • Making time for face-to-face connections • Getting people out of their houses

• Inclusion • Sense of community • Volunteers • Connectedness • Compassionate communities • Saying hello • More neighborhood associations • Strong neighbourhoods • Neighbourhood hubs • A place to live, work and play • Authentic interactions • Communities for all ages • Social spaces that promote authentic human interactions • Youth and family engagement		(homelessness/poverty) • Attachment • Non-traditional perspectives and ideas • Positive parenting, parent education	**Public spaces, place-making** "Less vehicle traffic to reduce air pollution; more bike and walking trails. More pedestrian friendly areas. Less littering – more neighbourhood clean ups." • Urban planning, rural planning • Rural/urban connection • Less land dedicated to the automobile, fewer empty parking lots • Recycling • Environmental sustainability • Long-term sustainability • Technology and technological environments • Understanding natural resources are limited (e.g. ground water) • Connecting suburbs to downtown • Famers' markets • Overcoming 401 divide • Stewardship	resources and focus on those things that play on the vulnerable and shift the needle by working together) **More active lifestyles** "Access to physical health fitness resources and facilitation of such- e.g., bike lanes, active parks, greenspace." • Aging population • Prevention • Oral and pharma care for low income • Social determinants • Effects of technology on health and mental health • Rural access to service • Health equity • Social isolation • End to homelessness • Holistic (physical, emotional, mental, spiritual) health • Waitlists for health, mental health, addictions services • Patient-centred care • Seven Generation healing • Supports and care for dementia	that are free and "inclusive"…" • Community centres • Cultural diversity, embracing diversity • Family-friendly spaces and events • More inclusive programming and opportunities • Inter-generational events • Awareness and promotion of community resources/events • Addressing intolerance and fear of refugees/immigrant communities • Programming for children, youth, adults and older adults • Inaccessible events/spaces to people with disabilities • Libraries as community hubs • Keeping small town feel while developing big city amenities • Rentals of community fields (baseball/soccer) for events, easier, more reasonable cost • Repurposing historic buildings • Schools as community hubs • Vibrancy of downtowns	lot of insecurities and affects wellbeing." **Homelessness** "End homelessness" **Living wage** "A living wage for everyone would open doors and give people the choice to take better care of themselves." • Affordable Childcare • Urban/rural connections, getting the right blend • Meeting basic needs • Cost of bus pass – should be free for those on income support • Gap between rich and poor/disparity between haves and have-nots • Precarious employment • Commuter culture – are too exhausted to participate in community • Discretionary benefits • Rising cost of utilities • Inaccessible transportation for people with disabilities • Increasing number of people are struggling • Region is becoming unaffordable for older adults	