



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROI releases Fact-Finder's Guide to Local & Regional Data

Guelph, ON, April 13, 2017 – Finding information about rural communities and small towns is often challenging, since many media outlets and publications highlight only national or provincial level statistics. The Rural Ontario Institute's newly released Fact-Finder's Guide to Local and Regional Data: How to Find National Statistics makes that search for information a little easier.

The need for a solid understanding of the availability of data over different geographic scales and over various time periods is fundamental. The Fact-Finder's Guide is designed to address this need, with a focus on data made available by Statistics Canada and other federal agencies. More specifically, the Guide contains an index of 37 data sets in subjects ranging from demographics and health to business and transportation.

"We have discovered that many local stakeholder groups or planning processes get stalled when they need to compile available statistical information about a challenge in their community," says Norm Ragetlie, ROI's Director of Policy and Stakeholder Engagement. "This Guide should help these stakeholders zero in on the 'needle in the haystack' they are looking for and determine if they can get appropriate data for the geography they are concerned with."

"As a reference resource for community organizations, librarians, researchers as well as municipal staff and the public we don't expect the Guide to be regular bedtime reading, but if it occasionally saves people valuable time so they can move along to focus on the priority setting and action planning they need to do to respond to their challenges and opportunities that would be a great help," says Mark Cassidy, Project Manager with ROI's Measuring Rural Community Vitality initiative. "Our Measuring Rural Community Vitality Initiative has involved many people who are seeking to measure progress on community well-being and evaluate projects and they are drawing on both informed local perspective and on the kind of statistics described in the Guide."

The full [Guide](#) is now available online at the ROI website. For more information and to view all projects in the Measuring Rural Ontario Institute Vitality initiative please visit our [website](#).

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