

## Social Prosperity in Dufferin County

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Dufferin County wants to be the best! It's a laudable and achievable goal if local leaders and everyday citizens pull together to make it happen.

Dufferin is focusing its efforts on achieving Social Prosperity, which is defined as a community's ability to maintain its high quality of life and a good standard of living for its citizens; and, provide access to employment opportunities, community services, health care, adequate housing and education.

Located about one hour north of Toronto, and with 55,000 residents living in its eight townships, of which the largest is Orangeville, the County is a largely rural community blessed with a diverse economy and wide-ranging social services.

For many years a small group of health and social services providers met under the banner of the Headwaters Linkages Committee to share ideas and resources. This group recognized that the whole community needed to work together if the quality of life for Dufferin was to be maintained. More could be done.

In November of 2004 they invited 54 local leaders from the voluntary, business, and public sectors to meet and begin a community dialogue about health and well being in Dufferin. The meeting resulted in a compelling vision for the community and a steering team was formed to drive the vision forward.

Since then the collaboration has held community consultations and conducted research with the eight local councils and numerous community groups. Recently nearly 100 people met to affirm and operationalize four key focus areas for the Dufferin Area Social Prosperity Project.

These include:

- Enhance economic prosperity through expanded post secondary educational opportunities
- Utilize and enhance environmental and recreational resources to actively promote healthy living
- Facilitate strong relationships amongst various sectors in Dufferin county to create a synergy and to tap into a broad range of expertise
- Create a county which enables all citizens to participate fully in all aspects of the life of the community.

Tamarack continues to support this dynamic collaboration with technical and strategy coaching. The Project is now working on finalizing the community plan and rapidly moving toward action.

**Related Links:**

- [Key Themes for Community Action Planning in Dufferin](#)
- [Examples of Collaboration in Dufferin County](#)
- [Community Forum – Interim Report](#)



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