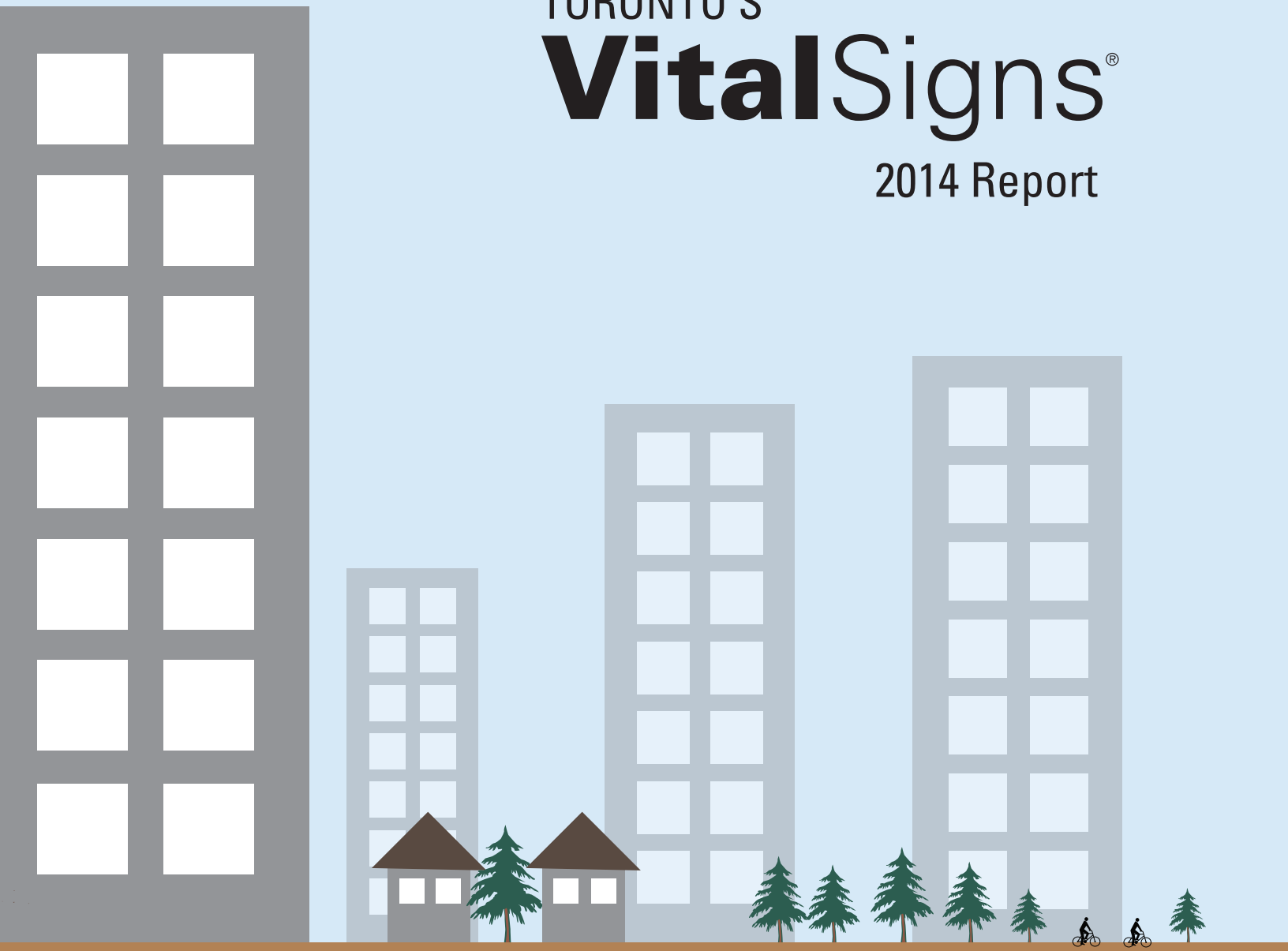


TORONTO

TORONTO'S **VitalSigns**[®]

2014 Report



**TORONTO
FOUNDATION**

The Art of Wise Giving™

ONE OF **191**
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

About This Report

About the Toronto Foundation

Established in 1981, the Toronto Foundation is one of 191 Community Foundations in Canada. We are a leading independent charitable foundation that connects philanthropy to community needs and opportunities. Our individual and family Fundholders support causes they care about in Toronto and across Canada, through grants to any registered Canadian charity. We currently have more than 500 active Funds, including endowments and assets under administration of more than \$300 million. A growing number of Torontonians support the Vital Toronto Fund, our community endowment that helps mobilize people and resources to tackle community challenges in innovative and inspiring ways. To find out more, please visit www.torontofoundation.ca

About the Report

The Foundation partners with many researchers to produce the Toronto's Vital Signs® Report. The Report is compiled from current statistics and studies, identifying progress we should be proud of and challenges that need to be addressed. It is a consolidated snapshot of the trends and issues affecting the quality of life in our city and each of the interconnected issue areas is critical to the wellbeing of Toronto and its residents. Citations at the end of the Report, and live web links throughout, will take you directly to the sources used in this year's Report.

The Report aims to inspire civic engagement and provide focus for public debate. It is used by residents, businesses, community organizations, universities and colleges, and government departments. In addition, the Report is a model now being used for strategic planning by cities around the world.

Your guide for discussion and action

As you read through this Report, consider the Vital Questions posed throughout. We have lots to be proud of, but there are also things we need to think about in order to shift some troubling trends.

Ask yourself:

- What issues do you care about?
- What data surprises you?
- Have you been inspired to act?

Please share your thoughts by filling-out a short online survey at www.torontofoundation.ca

About the Community Knowledge Centre

At www.ckc.torontofoundation.ca you will find an online showcase of more than 250 organizations working on solutions to the issues identified in this Report. Through video and prose, it presents stories of innovations taking place in our city and provides you with an opportunity to get involved.

At the end of each issue area section in this Report, you will find lists and descriptions of groups that are addressing the trends and data reported through their innovative community-based programs. Live web links connect you to their profiles on the Community Knowledge Centre.

About Community Foundations

Community Foundations are independent public foundations that strengthen their communities by partnering with donors to build permanent endowments, which support community projects, and by providing leadership on issues of broad community concern.

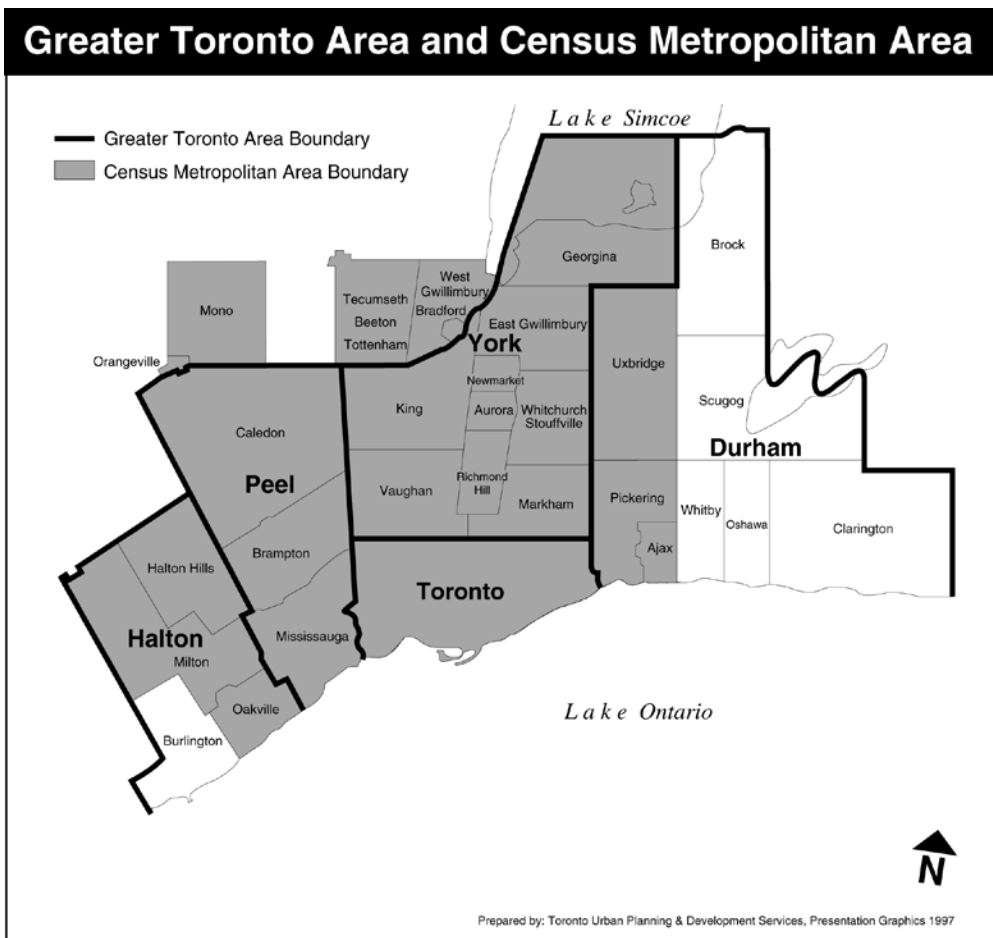
Community Foundations of Canada coordinates the nation-wide Vital Signs project, which measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Since the first Vital Signs® publication was published by the Toronto Foundation in 2001, the Report has been adopted by 49 communities across Canada and by 17 communities internationally across 6 countries and 4 continents.

Understanding this Report:

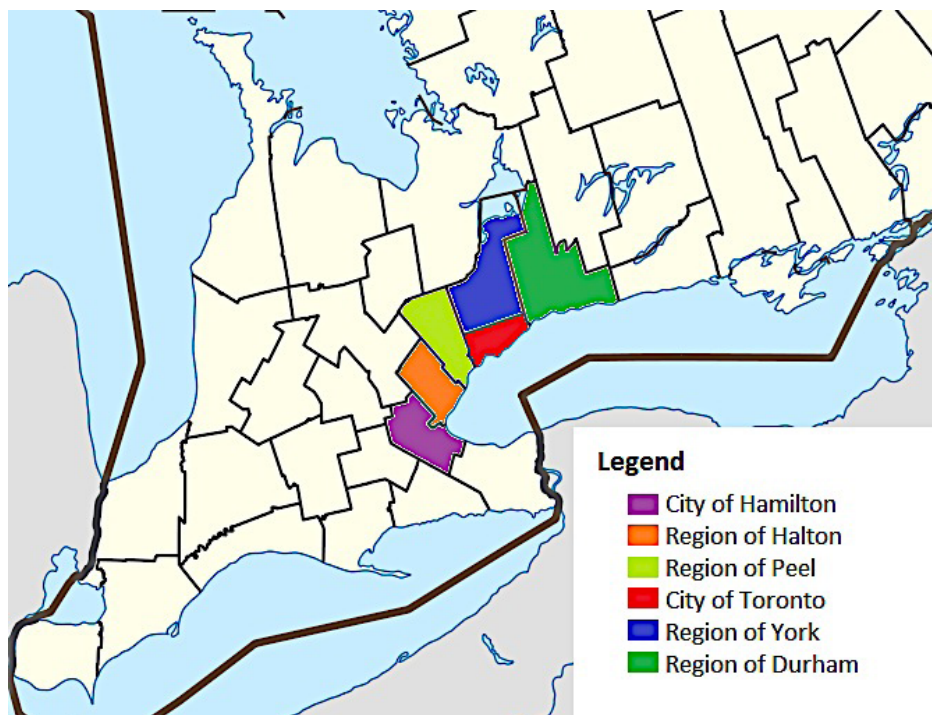
1. "Toronto" or "the city" refers to the former Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, which consisted of the former municipalities of Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and the Borough of East York. "The City of Toronto" or "City" refers to the municipal government. The "Province" refers to the Ontario provincial government.
2. The "Toronto Region" or "Region" refers to the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the largest metropolitan area in Canada, stretching from Ajax and Pickering on the east, to Milton on the west and Tecumseth and Georgina on the north. Almost half the population of the Toronto Region resides in the city of Toronto.

The Toronto Region is an area slightly smaller than the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and is comprised of the city of Toronto plus 23 other municipalities: Ajax, Aurora, Bradford-West Gwillimbury, Brampton, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Georgina Island, Halton Hills, King Township, Markham, Milton, Mississauga, Mono Township, Newmarket, Tecumseth, Oakville, Orangeville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Uxbridge, Whitchurch-Stouffville and Vaughan.

3. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) refers to the entire area covered by the Region of Halton, Region of Peel, Region of York, Region of Durham and city of Toronto. The area is slightly larger than the Toronto CMA.
4. The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) refers to the GTA region and the City of Hamilton – a combined population of more than 6.5 million people.



Source: City of Toronto, Toronto Economic Development and Culture.



The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA)

5. The Report is divided into 12 sections for ease of reference. However, each issue area is intimately connected to all the others. Readers will discover the plethora of examples, such as indicators dealing with “walkability” and diabetes in the Health and Wellness section, illustrating the connection between active transportation and health, and employment as well as demographics data in the section on Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging, pointing to linkages between leadership representation, voting patterns, and sense of belonging.
6. Throughout the Report, there are a number of Vital Questions raised. These questions are intended to stimulate your own questions, and act as a catalyst for reflection, conversation and action.
7. Links to organizations directly cited are included in relevant indicators. Citations are made at the end of each indicator (which may contain several bulleted points).
8. Ideas and Innovations that point the way forward for Toronto are identified with the following icon:



9. See Glossary at the back of this document for a list of definitions.
10. This Report occasionally uses data from the Statistics Canada 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS excludes a portion of the 2006 (and earlier) census population, and data were collected in a voluntary survey, making the results vulnerable to non-response bias. As a result, NHS data cannot be compared reliably with those from earlier Census releases. Comparisons with previous census periods should be considered with caution.
11. In this year’s Toronto’s Vital Signs Report, we have included a précis at the start of each issue area. They list some of the key indicators we look to year after year to help us understand where Toronto is making progress and where there has been decline, along with summary comments that speak to why the data is important, and what some of the key trends and new findings are. Further detail is provided in the text that follows, along with indicators from relevant recent research and occasional reports.
12. To ensure clarity and accuracy of the data being presented, we have opted to use the same terminology used in the research and studies referenced. As a result, there may be instances throughout the Report where inconsistent terminology is used to describe the same thing.

13. The Toronto's Vital Signs Report 2014 draws particular attention to data, ideas and innovations that come from outside Canada to help provide international context for interpreting Toronto's experience. Throughout the Report, global data, ideas and innovations are identified with the following icon:



14. In Toronto's Vital Signs Report 2014 we have included several "community snapshots" in each of the issue areas to give you a sense of the statistics at the level of some of Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods, using data garnered from the City of Toronto's award-winning website Wellbeing Toronto, as well as other sources, as cited in the text.

The Wellbeing Toronto website contains a wealth of data across 11 different issue areas. The site's maps also allow you to locate services and public institutions across Toronto such as libraries, shelters, settlement agencies and community gardens.

To access data for your own neighbourhood or to compare neighbourhoods across the city, just follow the link:

<http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing/>.



Toronto's Vital Signs® Report 2014 message from
John Barford and Rahul K. Bhardwaj

It's about time.

Toronto, it's about time we stopped asking ourselves whether we're a world-class city; we're near the top of the class.

The Economist has declared Toronto the fourth most livable city in the world for the sixth year in a row. We were named the 2014 Intelligent Community of the Year by the Intelligent Community Forum, recognized as the Youthful City of the Year by the YouthfulCities Index, and we continue to rank highly on many leading international indices.

What does it take to be world class?

It helps to be recognized as a good place to do business. Toronto is the most tax competitive of 51 international cities, one of the least expensive places in the world to do business, and we've been ranked third among 422 metro areas in the Americas for attractiveness in business investment.

Construction, considered a key indicator of economic vitality, is strong. This spring, 147 high- and mid-rise buildings were under construction in Toronto, more than in any other North American city.

The Toronto Region's importance in the national jobs landscape has been growing since the financial crisis of 2008. Almost one in three jobs created in Canada between 2010 and 2013 was in the Region.

Our cultural economy is booming, too. Toronto's creative workforce has grown 34 per cent since 2001, more than twice the rate of the overall labour force. Arts and culture contribute \$11.3 billion annually to the city's GDP; in 2013, film, television, and other screen-based media production spending exceeded \$1 billion for the third year in a row.

And, we're safe. For the seventh straight year, the Toronto Region had the lowest rate of police-reported crime of Canadian cities. It dropped by 7 per cent in 2013 over 2012, 42 per cent since 2003, and is the lowest rate of any of the 33 metropolitan areas.

Our commitment to education is paying dividends. Students are now graduating at a rate higher than ever before. In 2013, 83 per cent of TDSB students completed high school. That's up 3 per cent from 2012 and 20.3 per cent higher than 2000.

And let's not forget what else makes our city a great place to live.

Like our healthy environment. For the fourth straight year, eight of Toronto's 11 beaches were designated "Blue Flag." Toronto has 1,600 parks, our air is cleaner than it was 10 years ago, and this summer did not have one smog alert day, for the first time in decades. It helps that over 150,000 Torontonians cycle daily. (During rush hour, there are often as many cyclists as cars on College Street.)

Like our vibrant cultural life. Toronto is home to 66 per cent more artists than any other Canadian city and at \$22 per capita investment in the arts, our city is getting closer to its long-time target of \$25 per capita. With 99 branches, Toronto Public Library continues to be among the world's largest and busiest urban public library systems.

Like our neighbourhoods. Our city is the third-most walkable of Canada's 10 largest cities, and close to seven in 10 Torontonians, and nearly eight in 10 youth, report a strong sense of belonging to their local community.

The Toronto Region is a great place to visit, too. In 2013, new records were set for overseas visitors and hotel room nights sold. The combined

spending of these guests brought \$6.5 billion to the local economy. This was up from \$4.7 billion in 2012.

And we attract highly-skilled people from around the world. We have grown to the point where 51 per cent of Toronto's residents are foreign born. Diversity really is this city's strength.

We have so much going for us, Toronto. It's no wonder we've become recognized as a global city of the highest order. As we embrace this recognition, it's about time we also grappled with the issues that come with being a rapidly growing and increasingly dense metropolis.

Like traffic. It's about lost time. The Toronto Region ranked 15th out of 22 global metros for commuting time. Our average commute is longer than anywhere in North America except New York City. And further, traffic fatalities (63 in our city in 2013) were 43 per cent higher than in 2012, and 60 per cent of those deaths were seniors.

Like unaffordable housing. The Toronto Region ranked as "severely" unaffordable, according to an annual, international housing affordability survey of 360 markets worldwide. The Region remains the second most unaffordable housing market in Canada (behind Vancouver) – 65 per cent of pre-tax household income is required to cover the average costs of home ownership. At the end of 2013, more than 77,000 households in our city were on wait lists for affordable housing.

On the health front, 648,000 Torontonians experience high stress almost all of the time. More than one third of high school students report uncomfortable levels of stress. Last year, more than 6 per cent of residents were diagnosed with diabetes and over 46 per cent of adults reported being overweight or obese.

After a six-year decline, Toronto's child poverty rates are on the rise. In 2012, 29 per cent of children were living in poverty. In 14 Toronto neighbourhoods, the rate was over 40 per cent.

It's about time to face these challenges before they become chronic and crippling. In fact, youth unemployment tells us we're already there: it's been at 15 per cent or higher for a decade. Transit progress has been painfully slow. And exorbitant housing costs mean too many people can't afford food. For the fifth year in a row, there were over one million visits to foodbanks in the GTA (Foodbank visits in the inner suburbs have increased by 38 per cent since 2008).

It's about time more residents were able to experience Toronto as the fourth most livable city in the world.

As you pause for a moment to consider Toronto's vital signs, consider this: Toronto is a spectacular city and we have many reasons to revel in that fact and feel optimistic about what's to come.

But we cannot stop there. We need to be thinking hard about the future of this most livable city. In the global economy, talent is critical to a city's competitiveness. We're already attracting the best and brightest from Canada and around the world, and diversity comes with new ideas and innovation. But to continue to attract, as well as retain, human capital, we need to offer the best opportunities and a shared quality of life.

Where will the vision and energy needed to propel Toronto into the future come from?

From people like you. At the Toronto Foundation, we encourage you, and your friends and neighbours, to become informed about and get engaged with your city. It's the best investment you'll ever make. And, it's about time!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JABardford'.

John Bardford
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bhardwaj'.

Rahul K. Bhardwaj
President & CEO

Toronto's Vital Signs Report 2014 is available on the Toronto Foundation website: www.torontofoundation.ca

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Toronto's Shifting Demographics

Why is this important?

The size and makeup of the city's population has major implications for City planners, school boards, businesses, health care institutions, and civic organizations – in fact, for everybody.



Photo: People for Education

What are the trends?

Toronto's population continues to age (senior's will represent 17% of the city's residents in 2031). The influx of new residents into the Region has not regained the levels of the early 2000s (one third of Toronto's total population arrived in the ten years before the last census in 2011), but was higher in 2013 than in the previous two years.

What's new?

The City has a new Seniors Strategy aimed at making Toronto an 'age-friendly' city. But parts of the city – the downtown core in particular – have experienced explosive growth in a young population, as many children of baby boomers shun the suburbs. The median age in the city core is now in the mid-30s, creating a whole new set of pressures on Toronto's infrastructure and services.

Some Key Demographic Trends ¹	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Population of the city of Toronto	2,704,620	2,741,775	2,771,770
2. Share of the population who are youth (15 - 24)	12.4% (2001)	12.7% (2006)	12.8% (2011 NHS)
3. Share of the population who are seniors (65 years and over)	14.0%	14.2%	14.5%
4. Number of new permanent residents (Toronto Region)	77,759	77,397	81,800
5. Percentage of Toronto residents born outside Canada	48% (1996 census)	49.4% (2006 census)	51% (2011 NHS)



Photo: Allan Kosmajac



Toronto's population continues to grow and undergo demographic change:

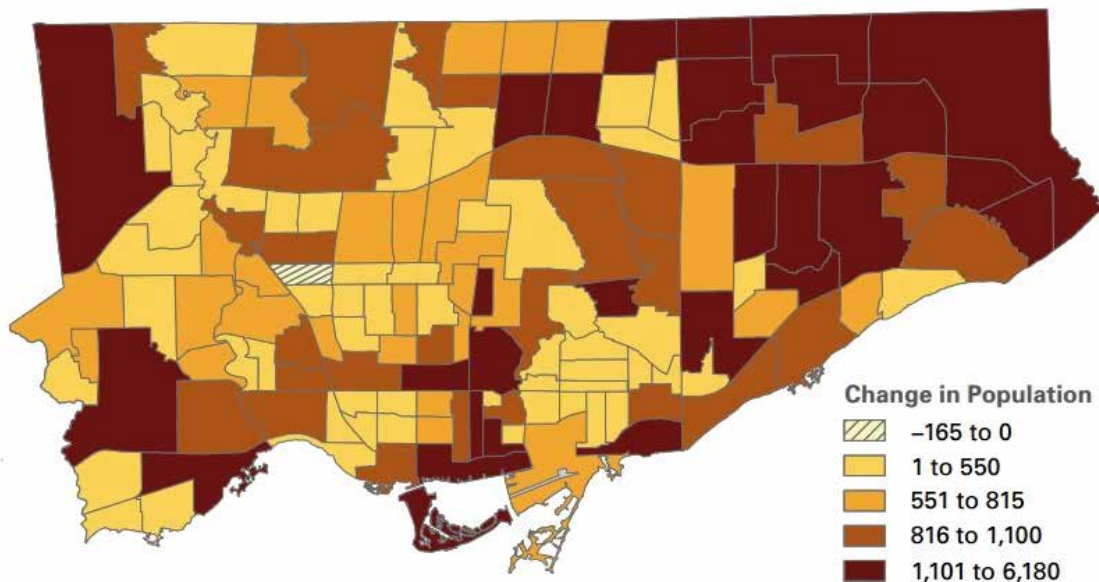
- Toronto's population grew by 3.7% between 2006 and 2011. As of July 1, 2013, Toronto's population was 2,771,770, up from the 2012 post-census estimate of 2,741,775.²
 - o The 2013 Toronto Region population estimate was 5,959,505. Almost half (46.5%) the population of the Toronto Region resided in the city of Toronto.³
 - o Almost 1 in 5 Canadians (18.1% of the total population) lived in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in 2011. The GTA (population: 6,054,185)⁴ accounted for 72% of total Ontario population growth between 2006 and 2011.⁵
 - o The share of **youth** increased slightly over a decade (to 12.8% in 2011), but the proportion of school-aged children (5-14 years) dropped from 11% in 2006 to 10% in 2011.⁶ All children under 15 made up 14.5% of the total population as of July 1, 2013.⁷
- Across the GTA, the over-65 and over-75 age groups grew by 16.5% between 2006 and 2011, and the GTA is projected to absorb more than half the provincial increase in the over-75 group between 2011 and 2016 (more than 60,000 people).
- More than 1 in 4 seniors (26.8%) were living alone in Toronto in 2011. As the number of seniors choosing to remain in their own homes rises, Ontario's long-term care homes are dealing with residents entering when they are more frail and have more complex care needs.¹¹

Latest census figures illustrate an ongoing demographic shift that will see the number of seniors grow from 1 in 7 Canadians in 2011 to about 1 in 4 by 2036⁸:

- In 2013 seniors made up 14.5% of the Toronto population (401,867 people), and their share of the population is projected to grow by one-third

to close to half a million residents (17% of the city population) by 2031.⁹ As of July 1, 2013, they constituted 14.5% of the total population according to estimates since the census.¹⁰ The fastest-growing population segments in 2011 were 60-64 year-olds and those over 85.

Etobicoke's Humber Heights-Westmount neighbourhood had the largest ratio of seniors per resident of any neighbourhood in Toronto in 2011. 2,850 of the total neighbourhood population of 10,580, or 27%, were age 65 and over.



The number of adults 55 years and older has increased in all but one of Toronto's neighbourhoods over a 10-year period.

Source: Statistics Canada Census. Map prepared by City of Toronto Social Development Finance and Administration Division.



In 2013, the City of Toronto adopted a [Seniors Strategy](#) to meet the multiple challenges of an aging population:

- Its 25 recommendations are grouped in eight themes that align with those of the World Health Organization's [Global Age-friendly Cities](#) and Communities framework, a guide for active aging that favours health, participation and security in older life.¹³
- Included among the recommendations are improvements to public transportation and walkability—important to all Torontonians, as they enable social connection and access to our vibrant city life, but are vital to the quality of life of seniors.

over housing affordability and space (and a long commute) in the suburbs. The downtown core also outpaced growth in the suburbs for the first time since the early '70s. Suburban population growth dropped from 18.6% to 13.7% over five years, as downtown growth went from 4.6% to 16.2% over the same period.



WHO's Eight Age-Friendly City Themes¹⁴

The population in Toronto's downtown core grew dramatically in the five years before the last census:

- Population growth in downtown Toronto more than tripled between 2006 and 2011 compared with the three previous census periods, as the children of baby boomers—the echo boomers—sought access to jobs, transit and downtown attractions
- o Nearly half (47%) of the [downtown population](#) is between 20 and 39 years old (compared to 25.8% across the GTA suburbs of York, Peel, Halton and Durham). The median age in the city core has dropped to the mid-30s.¹⁵



Photo: Laura Brown

Growing downtown density has implications for more than just housing:

- Although the city has responded to the desire of echo boomers to live downtown with nearly 12,000 floors of residential construction built or under consideration in the past decade, a “mini-baby boom” means fierce competition for services for new parents and their children: summer camps, parent drop-in programs, sports, daycare and elementary school spots, after-school care for older kids—even teenage babysitters.¹⁶
- Canada’s 0–4 years age group has been growing at the highest rate in 50 years, according to the [2011 Census](#). Children under 5 in Toronto numbered 143,925 in 2013.¹⁷
- Birth rates have gone up in neighbourhoods particularly attractive to thirtysomethings:
 - In Danforth East, the number of children under four increased by nearly 49% between 2008 and 2011; the increase was more than 60% in the Waterfront over that same period. Thorncliffe Park has more kids under 14 than any other Toronto census tract, and 10% of its population is under four years old.
 - Danforth East’s Earl Beatty Public School had 11 kindergarten through Grade Two classes for the 2013/4 school year, compared to a single class each in grades seven and eight.
- The waitlist last year for the City’s daycare fee subsidy program approached 19,000 children last year, just 5,000 fewer than the number who receive funding.¹⁸

In the Waterfront Communities neighbourhood, the number of children under four increased by 60% between 2008 and 2011.



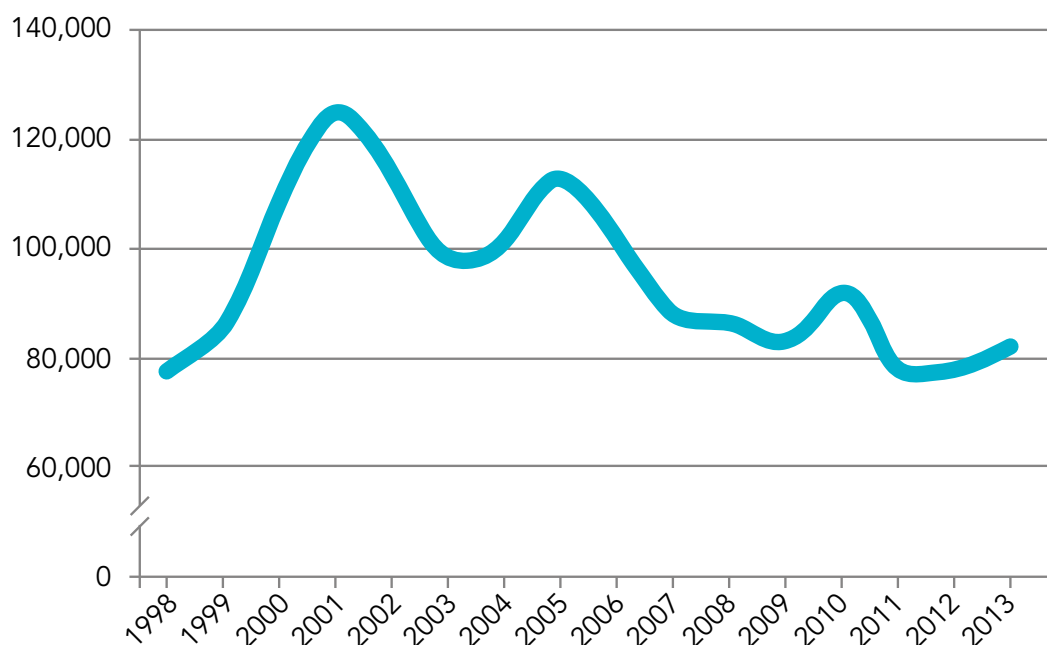
In the midst of a downtown baby boom unanticipated by planners, Vancouver designed a school that suits increasing density:

- With the number of children under five having doubled between 2006 and 2011, and all schools in the downtown peninsula full, the Vancouver School Board approved the construction of a new elementary school slipped between a condo tower and Rogers Arena. The four-story International Village Elementary will incorporate a rooftop deck for outdoor activities. The school is expected to open as soon as September 2015, and the city is looking into similar designs for another downtown elementary school and a high school.¹⁹

One of every six immigrants to Canada in the five years before the last census chose to settle in Toronto:

- As of December 1, 2013, the Region had a total of 81,800 new permanent residents.²⁰
- The city of Toronto became home to 216,520 new residents from all over the world between 2006 and 2011.

Number of New Permanent Residents, Toronto, 1998–2013:²¹



- In 2011, 51% of Toronto residents were born outside of Canada, and one in 12 had arrived in the country in the previous five years. One-third of the total population of Toronto had arrived in Canada within the previous ten years. Toronto has more than twice the proportion of recent immigrants as Canada (8.2% compared to 3.9% nationally).
 - 14% of Toronto residents don't yet hold Canadian citizenship (compared to 6% for all of Canada).²²
- Natural population growth accounted for 36,508 more Toronto Region residents in 2012–13.²³

Toronto has the largest share of Canadian-born children of immigrants among Canada's metropolitan areas:

- In 2011, 28% of Toronto Region residents—almost 3 in 10—were **second-generation** (Canadian-born children with at least one parent born outside the country). Together with those born outside Canada, they made up more than three-quarters (75.8%) of the Toronto Region's population.²⁴



Parent drop-in programs are especially important to newcomers who may not have the support of their extended families and may be socially isolated in their new communities:

- In the immigrant-rich Wallace-Emerson neighbourhood, the **Davenport Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre** catered to a growing volume of babies by introducing a specialized program for new parents. 62 women signed up within the first several months.²⁵

Almost half of Torontonians (49%) self-identified as visible minorities in 2011, compared to 19% of the Canadian population:

- The top three visible minority populations in Toronto are South Asian (12% of the total population), Chinese (11%) and Black (9%).
 - Peel Region had the highest proportion of visible minority residents in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) in 2011 (57%).²⁶

Toronto residents identified more than 230 countries of birth on the 2011 National Household Survey; just over half (51%) claimed English as a mother tongue:

- 1% of Torontonians listed French as their mother tongue and 45% listed non-official languages as their mother tongues. 3% reported multiple mother tongues.
- The number of residents with no knowledge of either English or French was unchanged from 2006, at 5% of the population. 28% spoke neither English nor French at home.
- Of the top 15 languages regularly spoken at home, Mandarin was the fastest growing in Toronto in 2011, spoken by more than 50,000 residents (2.1% of the total population – an increase of 32% since 2006).
 - o One of the fastest growing groups, residents who speak Bengali at home (17,820 in 2011), increased by 22% in five years. Farsi speakers have increased by 11% over the period, and Tagalog speakers by 10%.²⁷



The Toronto Public Library's free Dial-a-Story service allows children to listen to recorded stories in 15 languages:

- Tagalog is new this year on a list including Cantonese, Gujarati, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, and Urdu. Farsi will be added later in 2014. Stories in each language are rotated daily and offered for younger (up to age 7) and older (ages 8-12) kids. The popular service (receiving 251,917 calls in 2012) allows children to enjoy stories in their heritage language, practice listening and vocabulary in English or French as a second language, or just enjoy the sound of different languages heard in Toronto. Stories are recorded for special occasions such as Black History Month, Asian Heritage Month, and Aboriginal Month.²⁸

Access language and ethnicity profiles for all 140 Toronto neighbourhoods at http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/profiles_map_and_index.htm.

Dial-a-Story
416-395-5400

Nurture a love of stories, language and imagination.

Listen anytime. Available in 15 languages.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/dial-a-story





Art City
Photo: Gillian Foster

How does the world see Toronto?

Numerous studies appear each year, ranking global metropolitan regions on measures such as prosperity, economic strength, competitiveness and liveability. Although some researchers question the methodologies used to compare cities in such studies, the following illustrates what the world is saying about Toronto in 2013 and 2014:



"Toronto is one of the world's most liveable cities":

1	Melbourne
2	Vienna
3	Vancouver
4	Toronto
5	Calgary
6	Adelaide
7	Sydney
8	Helsinki
9	Perth
10	Auckland

- Toronto again places high on the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s 2014 [Global Liveability Ranking](#), placing fourth—a position it has held since 2009, when it moved up from its sixth place standing in 2008.
- The annual index ranks 140 global cities on 30 indicators across stability, infrastructure, education, health care, and environment categories.
- Melbourne tops the list, and Vienna places second. Two other Canadian cities round out the top 5, on either side of Toronto: Vancouver is third, and Calgary ties with Adelaide for fifth place.

- The EIU report notes that the world's most liveable cities have not changed much over time. They "tend to be mid-sized cities in wealthier countries with a relatively low population density" (8 of the top 10 cities are in either Australia or Canada, which have population densities of 2.88 and 3.40 people per square kilometres respectively).
 - o This combination, the EIU says, avoids high crime levels and overburdened infrastructure.²⁹



"Toronto offers an exceptional quality of life":

Overall ranking

1	London
2	New York
3	Singapore
4	Toronto
5	San Fransisco

- Toronto confirmed its reputation as a city renowned for its "exceptional quality of life" by remaining in the top 5 among the 30 cities in the sixth annual PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Cities of Opportunity report, although its position has dropped to 4th overall, down from 3rd in 2012 and 2nd in 2011.



- Toronto was the only Canadian city in the study.
- The city scored well in four factors that, taken together, indicate overall quality of life:
 - Health, safety and security: Toronto ranked 2nd (tied with Sydney), marginally behind Stockholm.
 - Sustainability and the natural environment: Toronto joined a number of cities that did less well this year by dropping from 3rd to 6th.
 - Transportation and infrastructure: although Toronto moved from 3rd to 2nd, the report notes a large margin between it and first-placed Singapore—greater even than the margin between Toronto and 15th-placed Mexico City.
 - And while Toronto rates first for its public transport system, the city ranks 13th for traffic congestion and 12th for ease of commute, demonstrating the challenge to the city of a fully integrated regional transportation system and lowering our liveability score.
 - Demographics and liveability: dropped four places from 6th to 9th.
- Toronto was also named one of three mature cities (along with New York and San Francisco) that rates in the top 10 for three economic indicators needed if growth is to lead to permanent economic strength: cost, economic clout and ease of doing business. Our economic influence globally, despite our small size, is “not a product of brute force but of perpetual management, development, and, especially, resourcefulness”.³⁰

- While Toronto has excellent intellectual capital and innovation (ranked fifth, just behind Stockholm), we received lower grades for technology readiness, specifically consumer broadband connection quality, and software development and multimedia design.³¹



Toronto was designated as one of four Canadian cities dominating the top five North American cities in a quality of living index companies use to help determine compensation for their employees working abroad:

Top 5 in North America:

1	Vancouver
2	Ottawa
3	Toronto
4	Montreal
5	San Fransisco

- The study released in 2014 by global business consultant Mercer looks at factors including political stability, crime statistics, public and medical services, consumer goods and recreation.
- Vancouver placed first in North America (and fifth globally)—ahead of Ottawa and Toronto only because of its milder weather.
- Globally, Toronto ranked 15th, just behind Ottawa at 14th.³²



"Toronto is a resilient city"

1 Toronto

2 Vancouver

3 Calgary

4 Chicago

5 Pittsburgh

6 Stockholm

7 Boston

8 Zurich

9 Washington, DC

- Canadian cities—with Toronto leading the way—also dominated a Grosvenor survey ranking 50 international cities according to their "resiliency".
- Cities were ranked with a long-term view, with resiliency a measure of both their "vulnerability" and "adaptive capacity".
 - Vulnerability, defined as a city's exposure to shocks in terms of both magnitude and frequency, was measured by looking at climate threats, environmental degradation, resources (particularly access to energy), infrastructure and community cohesion.
 - Adaptive capacity, or a city's ability to prevent and mitigate serious threats, is a combination of governance (democracy, freedom of speech, community participation, transparency and accountability, and long-term vision), institutions, learning capacity, disaster and emergency planning systems and funding structures.
- The three most resilient cities in the world are, says the London-based international real estate development company, all in Canada: Toronto first, Vancouver second, and Calgary third. They are closely trailed by several US cities, including Chicago in fourth place. No other Canadian cities made the list.
- The research, which analyzed 50 global cities using more than 100 independently verified data sets, noted Canadian cities' resource availability, good governance and planning.³³



"Toronto is the Intelligent Community of the Year":

- After making the list last year of the Intelligent Community Forum's "Top7" Intelligent Communities, Toronto is the 2014 "Intelligent Community of the Year".
- The global award recognizing communities who use information and communications technology as means to garner local prosperity was presented by the think tank after a year-long evaluation including data analysis, site inspections, and voting by an international jury.
- This was Toronto's third year on the "Top7" list (including 2005 and 2013). Toronto is the first Canadian city to capture the top honour since 2007, when BlackBerry hometown Waterloo was named. Calgary won in 2002.
- The forum lauded Toronto's diverse economy, multiculturalism, high-quality broadband, and well-educated residents, while acknowledging the highest cost of living and the longest average commute times in the world.³⁴



"Toronto is a Youthful City":

1 Toronto

2 Berlin

3 New York

4 Dallas

5 Paris

- Toronto is the "Youthful City of the Year 2014" on the YouthfulCities Index. [YouthfulCities](#), an organization that helps youth build better cities, analyzed data from 25 global cities, using 80 indicators in 16 categories deemed important for life, work and play by 2,000 surveyed youth.³⁵
- Toronto scored among the top five in nine of the 16 categories: Diversity, Digital Access, Youth



Image source: Boyd Cohen

Employment, Financial Access, Economic Status, Food and Nightlife, Music and Film, Fashion and Art, and Public Space Sport and Gaming. Toronto was number one for youth when it comes to diversity and second (behind Berlin) for music and film. We fared very poorly, however, in safety and mental health—18th overall—and even worse in civic participation—23rd.³⁶

- And although we ranked 8th on internal public transportation, its importance to youth presents a key challenge going forward.³⁷



"Toronto is a smart city":

1	Seattle
2	Boston and San Francisco (tie)
4	Washington, DC
5	New York
6	Toronto
7	Vancouver
8	Portland
9	Chicago
10	Montreal

- Fast Company magazine named Toronto North America's sixth smartest city.
- A smart city is defined as one working to become sustainable, connected, and innovative in light of the unprecedented rate of mass migration to cities.



- The magazine cites Toronto's smart densification, specifically its ongoing revitalization of its previously contaminated waterfront. In collaboration with IBM, Waterfront Toronto has launched newblueedge.ca, a community portal and platform that residents can use to connect with neighbours, businesses and service providers in the area. It also provides real-time web and mobile access to city-wide data such as public transit information and traffic congestion reports, local weather and news reports and, in the near future, energy- and water-consumption data.³⁸

Endnotes

1. Index: (1) CANSIM Table 109-5335, Estimates of population (2011 Census and administrative data), by age group and sex for July 1st, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (2013 boundaries) and peer groups. Geography limited to "City of Toronto Health Unit, Ontario [3595-G]". <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26>; (2) City of Toronto Backgrounder. (2012). 2011 Census: Age and Sex Counts. Last accessed on September 1, 2014 from http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/pdf/censusbackgrounder_ageandsex_2011.pdf; (3) CANSIM Table 109-5335, Estimates of population (2011 Census and administrative data), by age group and sex for July 1st, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (2013 boundaries) and peer groups. Geography limited to "City of Toronto Health Unit, Ontario [3595-G]". <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a05?lang=eng&id=1095335&pattern=1095335&searchType=ByValue=1&p2=35>; (4) Citizenship and Immigration. (2014). Preliminary Tables: Temporary and Permanent Residents, 2013. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2013-preliminary/02.asp>; Note: This Report occasionally uses data from the Statistics Canada 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS excludes a portion of the 2006 (and earlier) census population, and data were collected in a voluntary survey, making the results vulnerable to non-response bias. As a result, NHS data cannot be compared reliably with those from earlier Census releases. Comparisons with previous census periods should be considered with caution. (5) City of Toronto (2007). Backgrounder: Release of the 2006 Census on Language, Immigration, Citizenship, Mobility/Migration. Last accessed September 26, 2014 from http://www1.toronto.ca/city_of_toronto/social_development_finance_administration/files/pdf/2006_lang_imm_citizenship_mobility_backgrounder.pdf; Table XI-1-a: Population Comparisons for Vital Signs Communities According to Census Data in 1996, 2001, 2006, and National Household Survey data in 2011; City of Toronto (2013). Backgrounder: 2011 National Household Survey: Immigration, Citizenship, Place of Birth, Ethnicity, Visible Minorities, Religion and Aboriginal Peoples. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from http://www1.toronto.ca/city_of_toronto/social_development_finance_administration/files/pdf/nhs_backgrounder.pdf. Note: This Report occasionally uses data from the Statistics Canada 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS excludes a portion of the 2006 (and earlier) census population, and data were collected in a voluntary survey, making the results vulnerable to non-response bias. As a result, NHS data cannot be compared reliably with those from earlier Census releases. Comparisons with previous census periods should be considered with caution.
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Health & Wellness

Why is this important?

Good physical and mental health are vitally linked to, and affected by, almost all the issue areas in the Toronto's Vital Signs Report.

Adequate income, stable and appropriate housing, a safe and walkable neighbourhood, strong social networks, and a high level of education all enhance the health of Torontonians.

The absence of some or all of those factors contributes to the likelihood of a city resident experiencing, for example, diabetes, depression, or obesity.

What are the trends?

The percentage of Toronto residents reporting good health remains relatively stable, but it isn't improving (4 in 10 don't report good health). Diabetes rates continue to be a major concern – lower overall than the Ontario average, but much higher in some Toronto neighbourhoods. The level of youth inactivity is trending in the wrong direction (and likely even worse than the data show, because the figures are self-reported and therefore generally under-reported).

What's new?

New research detailed in this year's Report confirms many of the links between healthy social and physical environments and good health outcomes: the health benefits of helping students take active forms of transportation to and from school far outweigh the costs of travel planning; residents living in the city's more car-dependent neighbourhoods are more likely to develop diabetes or become obese; and the racial discrimination experienced by two-thirds of racialized community members in Toronto leads to higher levels of depression, stress and poor self-rated health.

Some Key Health and Wellness Trends ³⁹	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Percentage of Torontonians (12 and older) reporting good or excellent health	59%	59.5%	58.8%
2. Percentage who have been diagnosed with diabetes	4.6%	6.0%	6.2%
3. Percentage who report that they are at least moderately active during leisure time	48.7%	46.2%	52.6%
4. Percentage of youth (12 -19) who are inactive during leisure time	32.5%	31.9%	40.5%
5. Percentage (18 years old and older) who are overweight or obese	45.8%	43.8%	46.2%

A broader view of health is necessary to achieve individual and community health. The health of our city is measured by the state of our physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing, not simply the absence of illness.”

—Rachel McGarry
Director of Quality Integration and Evaluation
Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre



What are the biggest challenges health challenges we face?:

[How are Ontarians Really doing?](#) is the first Ontario-focussed report to draw on the research of the [Canadian Index of Wellbeing \(CIW\)](#) project at the University of Waterloo:

- From data spanning 1994 to 2010, the report analyzes how the quality of life for Ontarians has shifted over that 17-year period, and finds that GDP has grown just over three times more than our overall wellbeing.
- The report acknowledges individuals' responsibility for taking care of themselves (for example through exercise and healthy eating) and community responsibility (e.g., for ensuring access to nutritious foods and maintaining quality living environments), but notes that troubling symptoms, including an aging population, skyrocketing diabetes, and ongoing mental health challenges, need public policy solutions.
- The report suggests that policies must also address disparities to ensure that all have access to, and positive outcomes from, the healthcare system.
- One of the biggest challenges to our wellbeing is multiple pressures on time and how that impacts our mental health:
 - o One in five Ontarians (20.5%) between 20 and 64 are feeling high levels of "time pressure," up from 16.4% in 1994 – 20% increase in 17 years. Those feeling the greatest time pressure are adults with younger children. Over a quarter (26.9%) of couples with children and slightly more (27.1%) single parents reported high levels of time pressure.
 - o Women are even more time pressured. 5% more females than males reported feeling high levels of time pressure.
 - o Increasingly longer commute times (an average of 53.5 minutes daily in 2010 for Ontarians with

paid employment) have a negative effect on health and intensify time crunch. Torontonians have the longest commute in the province: 65.6 minutes.⁴⁰

- o Close to 648,000 people in Toronto are experiencing high levels of stress almost all the time:
- For over one quarter (27.4%) of Torontonians 15 years old and over, life has "quite a lot" of stress.⁴¹
- 7.2% of Torontonians report that their mental health is fair or poor (the figure was 5.8% in 2008 and 6.8 in 2011/2).⁴²

High school students are feeling the pressure:

- Recognizing that mental health and wellbeing is key to student success, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) launched a four-year [strategy](#) in 2013 to create a culture where mental health and wellbeing is integrated into every aspect of a student's school experience.
- The strategy is a response to the 2011-2012 [Student and Parent Census](#), which for the first time included questions about students' [social](#) and [emotional wellbeing](#):
 - o Over a third of grade 9-12 students reported that they were under a lot of stress (38%) and also reported they were nervous or anxious (34%) 'often' or 'all of the time'.
 - o 73% of students in grades 9-12 worry about their future.
 - o 69% of respondents indicated that family stress contributes to their mental health challenges.
- Included in the strategy are commitments to increase the number of secondary schools engaged in anti-stigma initiatives (piloted in 39 schools starting in 2012) by 50%; and to enhance parental engagement and on-going communication between home and school.⁴³

- TDSB is an inaugural member of [The Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health](#), which unites education, mental health, community and health sectors to advocate for the prioritization of social and emotional wellbeing in healthy child development and integrated public policy in the province.⁴⁴

There is an overlap between mental health problems and alcohol and drug use problems among youth:

- A CAMH [survey](#) of Ontario students in grades 7-12 found that about 6% report both hazardous/harmful drinking and elevated psychological distress (symptoms of anxiety and depression). This represents about 60,800 Ontario students. By Grade 12, one in 10 Ontario students report both.
- 5.9% of Toronto students reported overlapping alcohol and mental health problems, compared to 6.2% province-wide.
- Regional differences were found in past-year use of some drugs:
 - Compared with the provincial average, Toronto students are less likely to drink alcohol (41.5% compared to 49.5%) and binge drink (14.1% compared to 19.8%), but they are more likely to report nonmedical prescription drug use (19.2% vs. 15.2%).
- Toronto students are least likely among Ontario's regions (6.6%) to report that most or all of their friends use drugs.⁴⁵

The Province's expansion of "aging at home" supports for seniors means that seniors are living at home longer and entering long-term care when they are frailer, with more complex care needs:

- The majority (93%) of long-term care (LTC) home residents have two or more chronic health conditions.⁴⁶
- While cognitive impairment is decreasing, mental health issues, dementia in particular, are a growing challenge.
- Six in 10 residents (over 46,000 people) across all LTC homes, or an average 74 of 119 in each home, live with dementia. This number is growing at an estimated 2.9% annually.⁴⁷
- Dual diagnosis, such as dementia and a psychiatric diagnosis, is increasing at 11% per year.⁴⁸
- Aggressive behaviours have become a critical issue directly affecting the safety and wellbeing

of residents and staff within the LTC system. 46% of residents display some level of aggressive behaviour. Those with moderate aggressive behaviours generally do not pose a high risk to the safety of other residents and staff but require more attention, drawing staff time away from other residents and lowering the overall quality of life in the home.⁴⁹

- Both the [Ontario Long Term Care Association](#) and the [Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors](#) have called for a dedicated Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) team in every home. BSO is a model developed by Ontario's Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), after a \$40M provincial investment, in which local health service providers train health care providers to care for residents whose mental health challenges cause aggression.⁵⁰

The ratio of family physicians to residents increased by 5% in Toronto in three years:

- The rate of family physicians per 100,000 population was 124 in 2013 (up 5%, from 118 in 2010) compared to a 3% increase for Ontario as a whole (up to 95 from 92 per 100,000).
- There were also 179 specialists per 100,000 population in 2013, compared to 99 per 100,000 for Ontario as a whole.⁵¹

In Islington-City Centre West, there were 128 health providers in 2011 (health-related businesses such as doctor offices, dentist offices, pharmacies, clinics and other health employers). The average was about 36 across all neighbourhoods.

Although the majority of Torontonians report good or excellent mental and physical health, many are making some unhealthy lifestyle choices:

- Almost nine in 10 Torontonians aged 12 and over (87.6%) self-report that they are satisfied or very satisfied with life, and almost seven in 10 (67.4%) say they are in good or excellent mental health.
- Over half (52.6%) of Toronto residents 12 and over report being at least moderately active during their leisure time, and almost six in 10 (58.8%) report being in good or excellent physical health.



Nonetheless:

- o 16.2% of Torontonians 12 and over reported heavy drinking (for men, that means having 5 or more drinks, and for women 4 or more, on one occasion, at least once a month in the previous year);
- o 16.8% of Torontonians smoke (compared to 19.3% of Canadians);
- o our waistlines continue to expand, with almost half (46.2%) of Toronto adults (18 or older) self-reporting being overweight or obese (up from 45.8% in 2011 and 43.8% in 2012);⁵²
- o although children and youth registration in City recreation programs continues to grow (6.9% since 2011)⁵³, the percentage of youth (ages 12-19) who are inactive during leisure time has jumped to 40.5% (and Statistics Canada [research](#) shows that self-reported activity levels tend to be over-estimated)⁵⁴; and
- o only 39.7% of Torontonians 12 and over reported eating at least 5 servings of fruit and vegetables daily (down from 42.5% in 2012). More youth than all Torontonians 12 and over ate the required servings daily (40.8%) but the percentage has dropped (from 45.9% in 2012).⁵⁵

The TTC and FoodShare have embarked on an innovative public and not-for-profit food security partnership:



In communities around the city, many people struggle to make ends meet and good nutritious culturally appropriate food is hard to come by.

A converted decommissioned TTC Wheel-Trans truck is now driving around the city to help address this critical issue. FoodShare's Mobile Good Food Market Bus stops in five communities each week, creating a

pop-up grocery store where residents can stock up on a cornucopia of food staples for budget prices.⁵⁶

Health and education are interdependent: healthy students are better prepared to learn, and schools can encourage students to lead healthy lives:

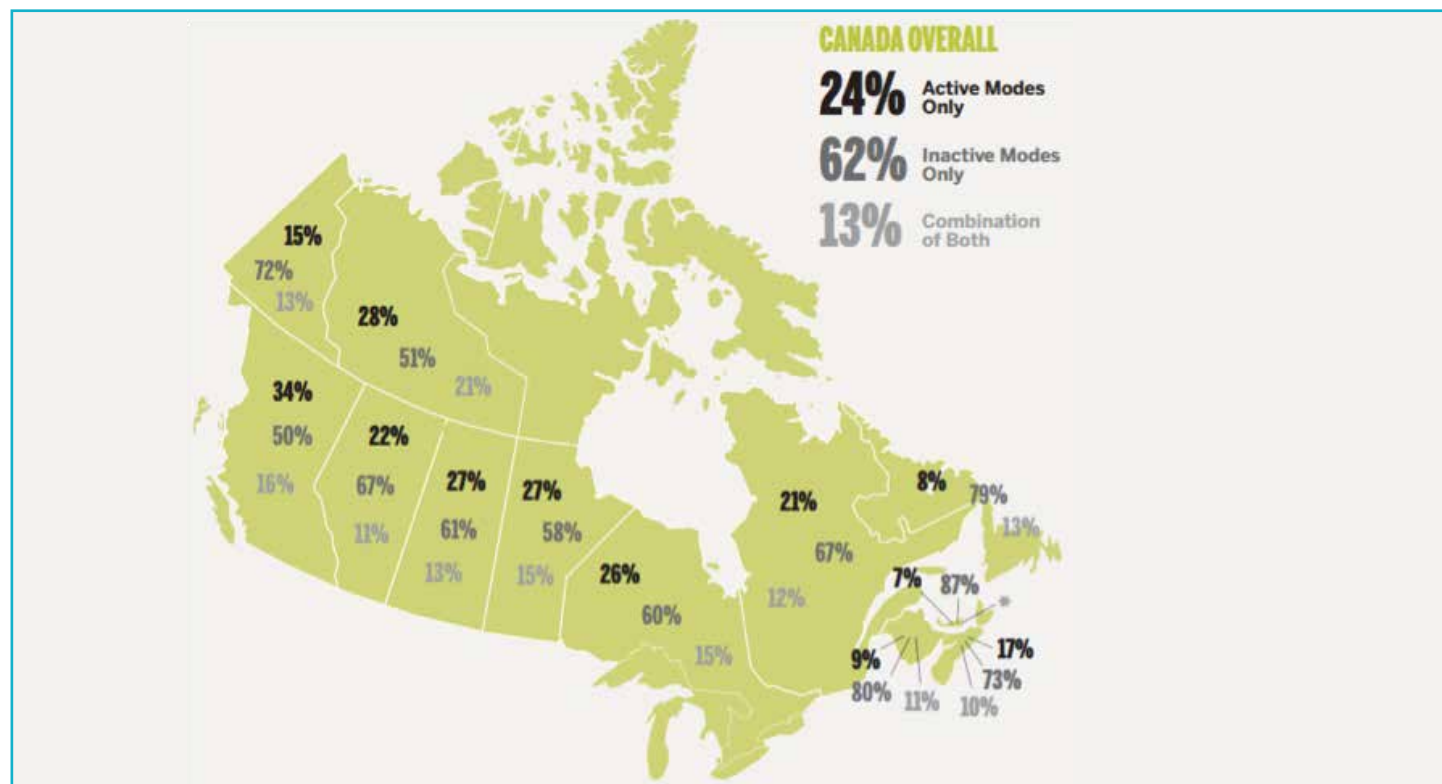
- Studies indicate that specialist Health and Physical Education (H&PE) teachers not only ensure students have more hours of physical education, but they also provide higher quality physical education. Data from People for Education show that:
 - o 86% of Toronto elementary schools have a specialist H&PE teacher, compared to 47% of schools province-wide.
 - o 57% of elementary H&PE teachers are employed full time.
- Experts agree that to be effective, health programs in schools must focus on all aspects of health, including healthy eating, risky behaviours, addiction, and mental health.
 - o Ontario's mental health policy, Open Minds, Healthy Minds, calls for improving access to high-quality mental health services. As a part of the policy, every school board now has a Mental Health Leader to help facilitate collaboration between it and community organizations to promote an integrated system of care.
- 98% of secondary and 82% of elementary schools have regular access to social workers.
- 59% of secondary schools and 31% of elementary schools have regular access to Child and Youth Workers.⁵⁷
- How children travel between school and home also affects their health.
 - o 60% of Ontario schoolchildren use only inactive modes of transportation to and from school.
 - o Ontario's Ministry of Education allocates approximately \$800M per year for school

busing. A report by Active Healthy Kids Canada recommends some of this funding be redirected to encouraging active forms of school travel such as walking and cycling, citing cost-benefit analysis that found the health and societal benefits far outweighed the costs of 19 Ontario schools' travel plans (which identified strategies to promote active school travel and addressed local barriers).⁵⁸

The number of obese Canadians has tripled since the mid-1980s, but Toronto's obesity rate is still lower than the national rate:⁵⁹

- A Memorial University study, which drew on data from three Statistics Canada surveys conducted over a 26-year period, found that 18% of Canadians were obese in 2011, up from 6% in 1985.
 - The study shows that not only are more Canadians obese, but we also are getting more obese. In 2011, 3.6% of Canadians were class 2 obese (BMI 35 to 39.9), up from 0.8% in 1985, and 1.6% were class 3 (BMI 40 or over), up from 0.3%.
- If the trend continues, more than one in five Canadians will be obese by 2019.⁵⁹
- Alarming, Canada's obesity rates are likely even higher. The Memorial researchers relied on self-reported data, and acknowledge that many people tend to under-report. A May 2014 Statistics Canada publication that adjusted individuals' self-reported data revealed that one in four adult Canadians, about 6.3 million people or 24.8%, were already obese in 2011–2012. That means that since 2003, the proportion of Canadians who were obese has increased 17.5%. According to this study:
 - Those least likely to be obese live in the three largest cities or their surrounding areas (Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver), or in southern British Columbia. Those living in Atlantic Canada, the Prairies, the Territories, or smaller cities in northern and southwestern Ontario, on the other hand, are most likely to be obese.
 - The three largest cities' rates of obesity are lower than the national prevalence of 24.8%: 17.7%, Toronto; 19.9%, Montréal; and 11.3%, Vancouver.
- Males are more likely to be obese than females, as are those aged 35 to 64—cause for concern as this cohort ages over the next few decades.

Transportation Behaviours to/from School by Province or Territory:⁵⁹



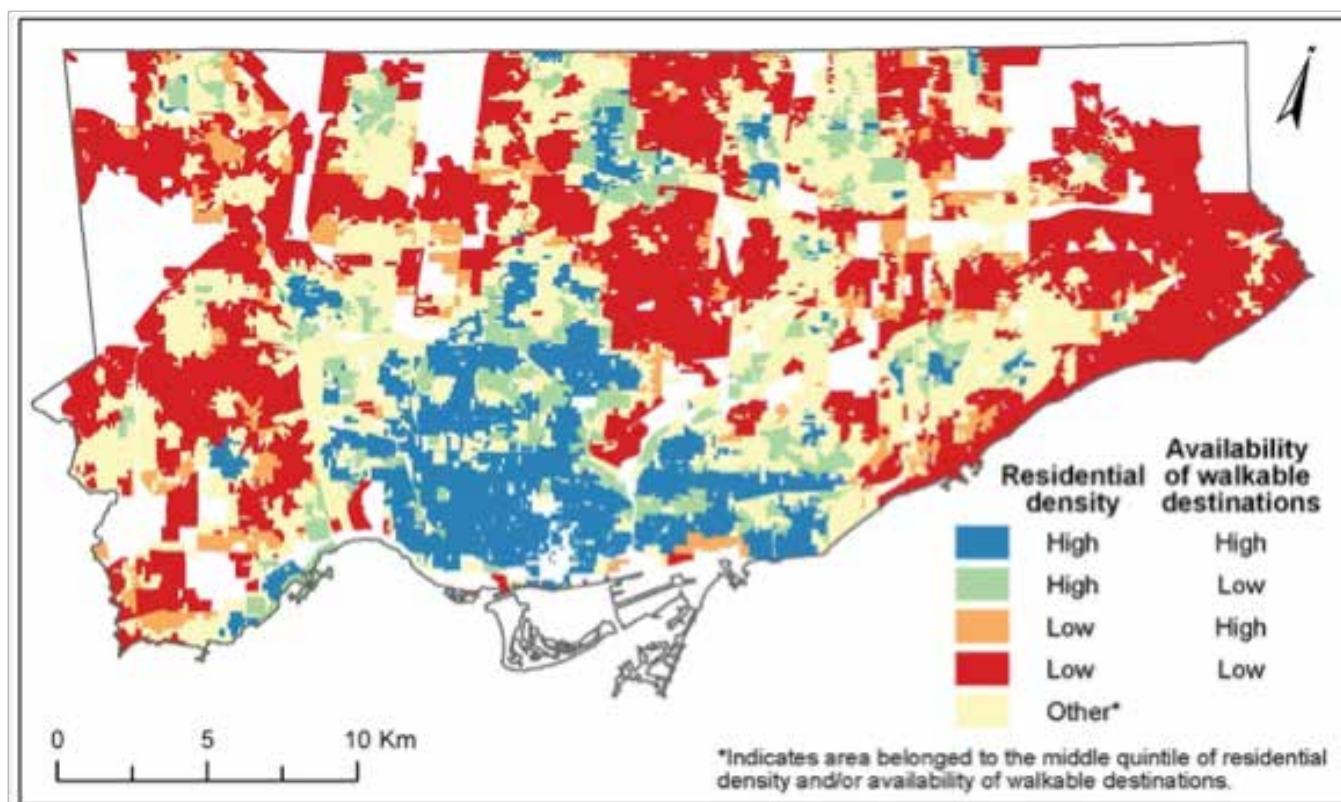
Source: 2010-11 Physical Activity Monitor, Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute

**“Toronto offers an exceptional quality of life”:
The number of obese Canadians has tripled since
the mid-1980s, but Toronto’s obesity rate is still
lower than the national rate.”⁶⁰**

- A Memorial University study, which drew on data from three Statistics Canada surveys conducted over a 26-year period, found that 18% of Canadians were obese in 2011, up from 6% in 1985.
 - The study shows that not only are more Canadians obese, but we also are getting more obese. In 2011, 3.6% of Canadians were class 2 obese (BMI 35 to 39.9), up from 0.8% in 1985, and 1.6% were class 3 (BMI 40 or over), up from 0.3%.
 - If the trend continues, more than one in five Canadians will be obese by 2019.⁶¹
 - Alarming, Canada’s obesity rates are likely even higher. The Memorial researchers relied on self-reported data, and acknowledge that many people tend to under-report. A May 2014 Statistics Canada publication that adjusted individuals’ self-reported data revealed that one in four adult Canadians, about 6.3 million people or 24.8%, were already obese in 2011–2012. That means that since 2003, the proportion of Canadians who were obese has increased 17.5%. According to this study:
 - Those least likely to be obese live in the three largest cities or their surrounding areas (Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver), or in southern British Columbia. Those living in Atlantic Canada, the Prairies, the Territories, or smaller cities in northern and southwestern Ontario, on the other hand, are most likely to be obese.
 - The three largest cities’ rates of obesity are lower than the national prevalence of 24.8%: 17.7%, Toronto; 19.9%, Montréal; and 11.3%, Vancouver.
 - Males are more likely to be obese than females, as are those aged 35 to 64—cause for concern as this cohort ages over the next few decades.⁶²
- increased almost 2.5 times from 1994 to 2010 (from 3.0% of Ontario’s population to 7.2%).⁶⁴
- Although it remains below the Canadian and Ontario rates, Toronto’s diabetes diagnosis rate is also climbing, reaching 6.2% in 2013 (a 3% increase from 2012’s rate of 6.0%).⁶⁵
- [Research](#) from the [Centre for Research on Inner City Health \(CRICH\)](#) at St. Michael’s Hospital examined the impacts of residential density and proximity of walkable destinations, two measures of walkability, on our health.⁶⁶
 - Torontonians who live in neighbourhoods that are more densely populated with more stores and services within a short walking distance of home (such as those in the downtown core and older parts of the city) are more than two times more likely to walk, bike or take public transit.
 - Those who live in less walkable areas—in areas of urban sprawl, which creates a dependency on driving and discourages walking—were up to one-third more likely to be obese or have diabetes. Some of our least-walkable neighbourhoods include those in outer Etobicoke and Scarborough.
 - The researchers point out that, fortunately, both density and destination are “modifiable” by policy makers, planners and public health officials through strategies such as mixed zoning, streets laid out in a grid-like pattern with shorter blocks, and more intersections to connect streets and neighbourhoods.⁶⁷
 - [Previously](#), the same researchers found that recent immigrants (many of whom are of South Asian, East Asian or African origin – populations that are more susceptible to developing diabetes) living in low-income, unwalkable neighbourhoods in Toronto are three times more likely to develop diabetes than those living in high-income, highly walkable neighbourhoods.⁶⁸

**When it comes to obesity and diabetes, who you
are and where you live matters:**

- 6.6% of Canadians have been diagnosed with diabetes.⁶³
 - A University of Waterloo [report](#) on Ontario wellbeing says the increase in the incidence of diabetes in the province (especially among men) is cause for concern. Reported rates of diabetes



Brazil's government has taken an unambiguous approach to promoting health:



- Brazil's newly proposed national food guide radically advises consumers to be critical of food-industry advertising—a world's first for government-issued dietary guidelines. Its focus on simple, healthy eating is boiled down to 10 principles:⁷⁰

1. Prepare meals using fresh and staple foods.
2. Use oils, fats, sugar and salt in moderation.
3. Limit consumption of ready-to-eat food and drink products.
4. Eat at regular mealtimes and pay attention to your food instead of multitasking. Find a comfortable place to eat. Avoid all-you-can-eat buffets and noisy, stressful environments.
5. Eat with others whenever possible.
6. Buy food in shops and markets that offer a variety of fresh foods. Avoid those that sell mainly ready-to-eat products.
7. Develop, practice, share and enjoy your skills in food preparation and cooking.
8. Decide as a family to share cooking responsibilities and dedicate enough time for healthy meals.
9. When you eat out, choose restaurants that serve freshly made dishes. Avoid fast-food chains.
10. Be critical of food-industry advertising.

What tools is the City developing to promote healthy neighbourhoods?

Medical officers of health in the GTHA are collaborating and speaking out in favour of normalizing planning for active transportation and public transit use by municipalities:

- Building on a Toronto Public Health [report](#) of 2011 that stressed that the way cities are designed could mitigate health risks and improve health, a report from medical officers of health in the GTHA (Hamilton, Peel, Simcoe-Muskoka and Toronto) concludes that we have a big problem:
 - Obesity and the removal of physical activity from people's lives over past decades by, for example, designing communities that need cars, is costing the GTHA \$4B a year. Diabetes-related medical costs as a result of inactivity exceed \$550M a year. And traffic-related air pollution is responsible for 712 to 997 premature deaths annually.
 - The report endorses funding and implementation of [The Big Move](#) Regional Transportation Plan, and estimate that the resulting decrease in air pollution and increase in physical activity, combined with modest increases in active transportation, would result in the prevention of over 300 premature deaths and over 1,000 cases of diabetes each year across the GTHA.
 - In the next 20 years, the population of the GTHA is projected to grow by another 2.2 million people—equivalent to adding the populations of Montréal and Vancouver into the GTHA. How we accommodate them will have serious implications for the health and wellbeing of all.
 - The report calls for leadership in city and transit planning to ensure that planning for healthy lifestyles becomes as routine as planning for water, sewers, roads and utilities, and recommends strengthening provincial policies to support greater active transportation and public

A Vision For Communities That Promote Health By Design:⁷²



Healthy complete communities support walking, cycling and transit use, providing convenient access to an appropriate mix of jobs, local services, and a full range of housing and community infrastructure.

transit use.⁷¹

It's more than the built environment of a neighbourhood that determines health and wellbeing.



- A new tool from the Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH) out of Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital offers a riveting look at the overall health and wellbeing of Toronto's 140 social planning neighbourhoods based on indicators ranging from walkability to voting rates.
- CRICH researchers spent a year adapting the Urban HEART (Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool) tool developed by the World Health Organization in 2010 for use in Toronto. Their Urban HEART @Toronto dashboard uses a "red," "yellow," "green" report card format to diagnose neighbourhoods on 15 indicators of health and wellbeing across a variety of policy domains. Green indicates strength, red risk, and yellow, somewhere in between.
- This open-data research project, pulled from 11 databases, offers much information drilled down to the neighbourhood level. Some findings:
 - o About 20% of all Toronto neighbourhoods rate poorly for having community space where residents can meet within a 10-minute walk. The same percentage do not have healthy food options nearby, and the same percentage again do not have much green space.
 - o 31% of neighbourhoods had high diabetes rates, and 30% had preventable hospitalizations.
 - o Among the highest "risk" neighbourhoods is Beechborough-Greenbrook in the former City of York, where only 41.6% of adults have post-secondary credentials, only 39.6% of eligible voters voted in the last city election and there are high rates of premature death and mental health problems.
 - o In North Riverdale, on the other hand, only 4.1% of households are on social assistance, and 80%

- of adults have post-secondary credentials.
- o The number of households on social assistance is low in 43% of the neighbourhoods.
- Data like these will allow community agencies, health providers, and policy-makers to deploy resources where they are needed most, coordinate their efforts, plan long-term, and measure progress over time.⁷³

Bridle Path-Sunnybrook-York Mills had the lowest premature mortality rate of all Toronto neighbourhoods in 2011 (see [Wellbeing Toronto](#))

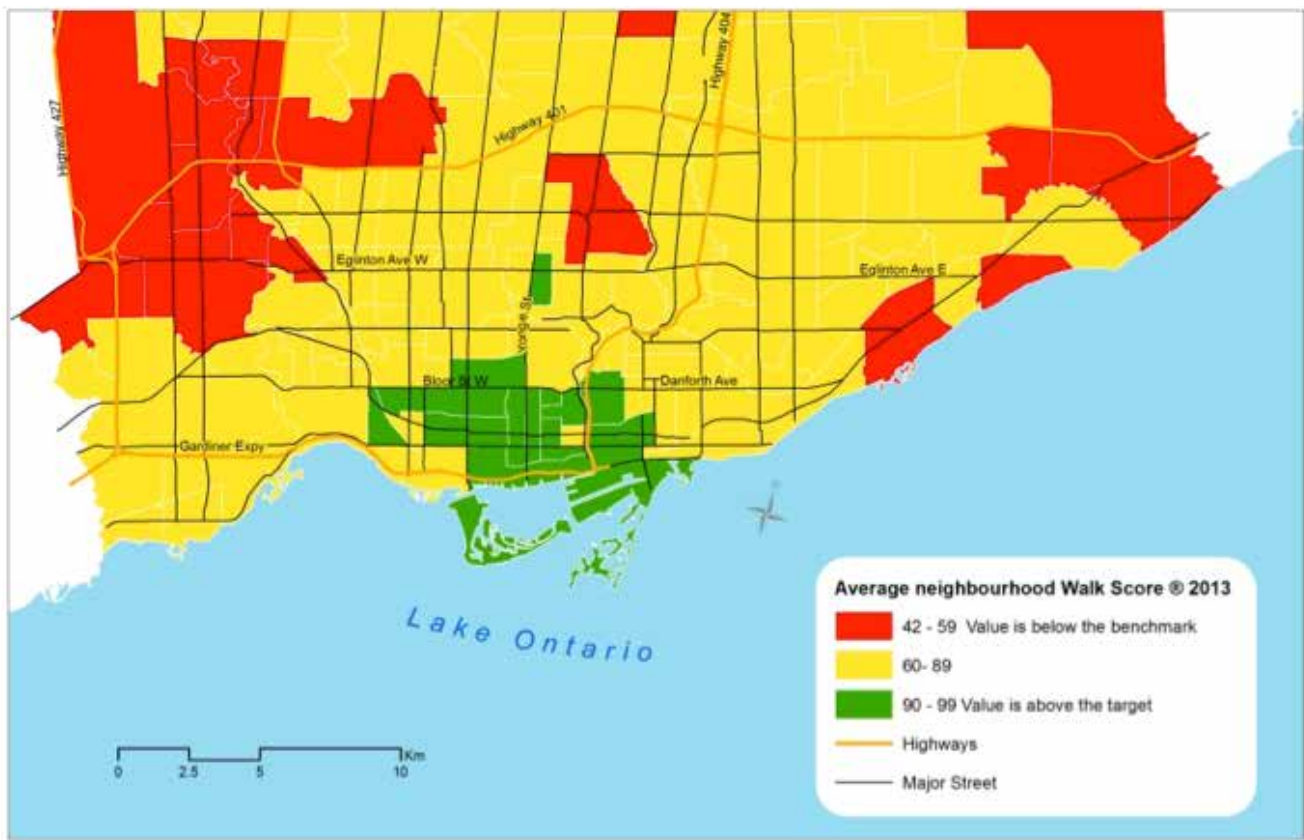
The City was among the first users of Urban HEART @Toronto, using it to determine Toronto's new Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (or NIAs, formerly known as "priority neighbourhoods"):

- Social Development, Finance and Administration staff recommended increasing the number of priority neighbourhoods from 22 (commonly reported as 13, as some adjacent communities are grouped and counted as one) to 31 (see Glossary for a full list) in March 2014. In April 2014 Council approved the recommendation.
 - o The higher number does not mean Toronto has "gotten worse"—the measurement methodologies are just different.
 - o Of the original 22 neighbourhoods, 8 no longer qualify as neighbourhoods requiring targeted investment: Westminster-Branson, Malvern, Dorset Park, L'Amoreaux, Yorkdale-Glen Park, Steeles, Englemount-Lawrence and Humber Heights-Westmount.
 - o The new Urban HEART @Toronto tool will allow City staff to measure change over time and return on investment by tracking the 15 indicators year over year.⁷⁵

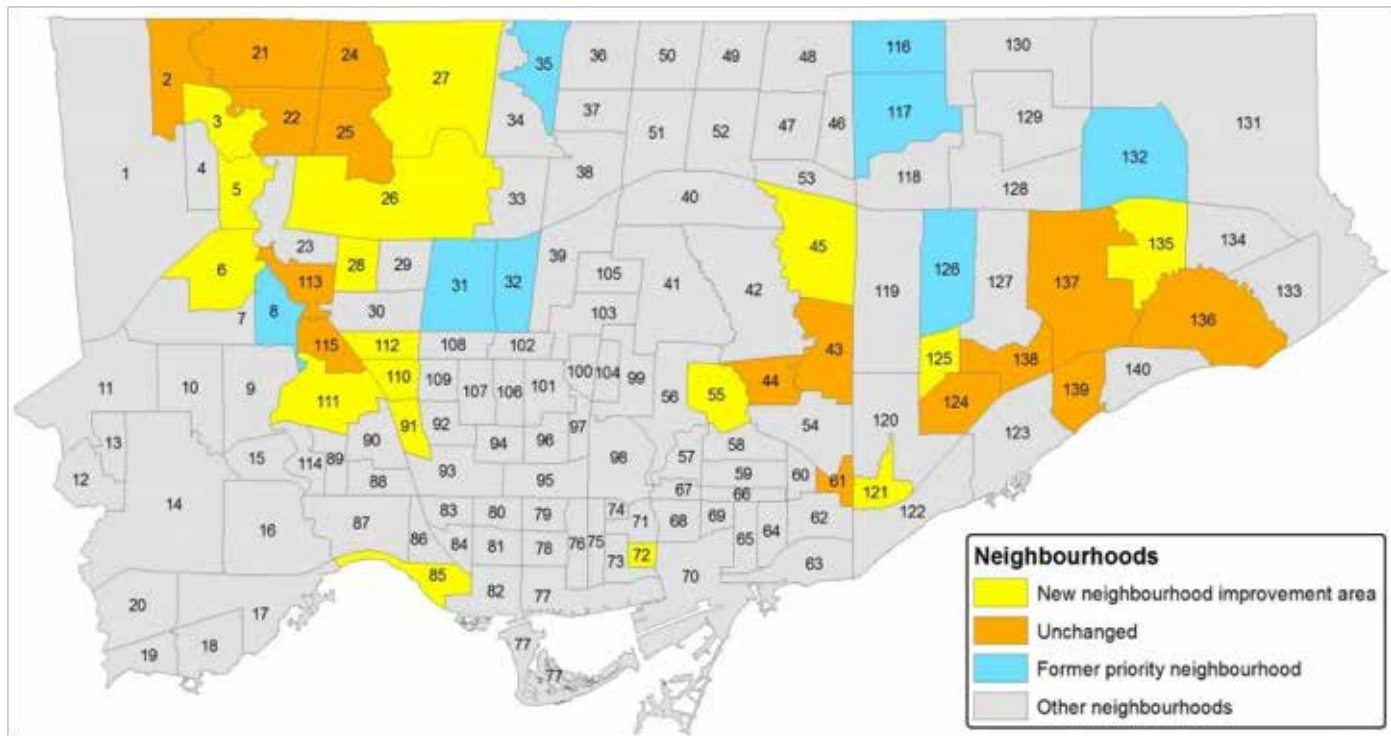


Photo: Hospice Toronto

Urban HEART @Toronto Map of Walkability of Toronto Neighbourhoods, 2013.⁷⁴



City of Toronto Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and Former Priority Neighbourhoods.⁷⁶



Source: Ryerson University professor Myer Siemiatycki and geographic analyst Sean Marshall

The City is working to upgrade Toronto's water infrastructure to ensure household drinking water is safe, but many residents are still exposed to the threat of lead:

- 13% of the 15,000 samples collected by Torontonians from their water taps and submitted to the City for analysis between 2008 and 2014 showed levels of lead above 10 parts per billion.
- While lead levels below 10 parts per billion are considered safe by Health Canada, many medical researchers say there is no safe level of lead in drinking water.
- The City pays to replace the portion of City-owned lead pipes connected to houses up to the property line; homeowners must replace (at a typical cost of about \$3,000) the portion of pipes on their own property. A 2011 City report estimated that 70% of property owners whose services were upgraded on the City's side did not upgrade their portion of lead pipes.
 - Houses built before the mid-1950s are most likely to have lead pipes.
 - Residents of apartment buildings with more than six units are unaffected because lead is too soft to handle the higher pressure required for larger, multi-unit buildings and was not used.
- Lead can affect the human brain and nervous system and is most dangerous for fetuses, infants and children under 6. Symptoms for a young child with elevated lead exposure include shortened attention span, reduced IQ, ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and behavioural problems. Adult symptoms include hypertension and kidney failure.⁷⁷



Photo: Alexandra Budurea

How does inequality in Toronto impact health and wellbeing?

Toronto Public Health has gathered data on racialization and health inequities, racial discrimination, socioeconomic disparities, access to health care, and health behaviours:

- Almost half of the city's residents identify as members of a racialized group. The analyses found health inequities for some racialized groups on some health outcomes:
 - People who identified as Black had higher rates of pain or discomfort, high blood pressure, and being overweight or obese than non-racialized group members;
 - People who identified as Latin American/ Multiple/Other reported higher rates of high blood pressure, and;
 - People who identified as South/West Asian/Arab or East/Southeast Asian were less likely to be moderately active or active.
- However, all racialized groups had comparable self-rated health, self-rated mental health, and depressive symptoms.
- All racialized groups were as likely to eat fruit and vegetables, and less likely to smoke or drink alcohol than non-racialized groups.
- Experiencing racial discrimination is associated with poorer health outcomes:
 - Two-thirds (67%) of racialized group members reported experiencing discrimination because of their race, ethnicity, or culture, and they were more likely than those who did not report it to experience poorer self-rated health, depressive symptoms, and high work and life stress;
 - Members of racialized groups were more likely to report having lower socioeconomic status, which contributed to high levels of life stress.
- The research did not find evidence of racialized differences in access to health care, although other Canadian research has.⁷⁸



Photo: RAW Media Collective

A painful measure of inequality has been identified by Toronto Public Health among students in nearly half of the city's elementary schools - poor dental health:

- Oral health is a key indicator of overall health status. Dental health screenings by Toronto Public Health of nearly 220,000 students from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 in 2013 resulted in 44% of schools being designated "high risk," where the suspected cavity rate is 14% or higher.
 - Children with poor dental health may suffer from speech problems, nutritional deficiencies, sleeping problems, behavioural and developmental problems as a result of pain and stigma, and reduced capacity for learning. The majority of high-risk schools are found in the city's poorer, peripheral regions: North York, Scarborough and Etobicoke.
 - At Grenoble Public School in Flemingdon Park, a "high-priority," multilingual area (children come from families speaking over 73 different languages), more than a quarter of children required urgent dental care.
- A St. Michael's Hospital [study](#) found that nearly 40% of the 2,505 children, 7 and under, surveyed had never seen a dentist. Children from families that reported the lowest income (0-\$59,999) were most likely to have not seen a dentist.⁷⁹

Vulnerable seniors are also suffering with poor oral health, with wait times as long as three years for Toronto Public Health's free dental program for low-income seniors:

- In 2012, about 7,000 seniors were treated in Toronto Public Health's 23 clinics at a cost of approximately \$5M. The program is funded completely by the City.
- At any given time, roughly 5,000 seniors are waiting for an appointment.
- Wait times for non-urgent care vary city-wide: in the east end the average is two-and-a-half years; in the west end, nine months.
- Many low-income seniors are newcomers with limited English skills; the wait to see a dentist who speaks their language is even longer.

- Wait times for urgent care, such as extreme pain or broken dentures, can be less than 24 hours, but an aging population is pressuring the system.⁸⁰

A new study from Toronto's Sick Kids Hospital has confirmed the cost to Toronto hospitals of providing emergency services to refugees who are no longer (as of June 2012) covered by the Federal Government Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP):

- In 2012, 57% of all incoming refugee claimants settled in Toronto.
- There were 173 visits by refugee children to Sick Kids' emergency room (ER) in the six months before the program was overhauled to exclude refugees, and 142 visits in the six months after. Prior to the change, 46% of the ER bills were paid by the IFHP, but after the cuts, only 7% were reimbursed. The total amount billed to the IFHP during the study period was \$131,615.
- The study also notes that, with over 90% of bills not reimbursed, 90% of patients would be required to pay for their ER visits. While many hospitals refuse to turn refugee patients away, smaller access points, like walk-in clinics may not have the funding to cover these costs.
- Admission rates for refugee children almost doubled to 12% in the six months after the cuts. In the six months previously, only 6.4% of refugee children visiting the ER were admitted. The study suggests that parents waited to seek care because of the new rules, meaning their children were sicker by the time treatment was sought.
- The three most common reasons for admission of refugee children during the study period were sickle cell anemia, epilepsy, and appendicitis.⁸¹
- In July 2014, the Federal Court gave the Federal government four months to reverse the 2012 changes to refugee health coverage. The government has said, however, that it will appeal the ruling.⁸²

Access health profiles for all 140 Toronto neighbourhoods at www.torontohealthprofiles.ca.

The following groups are addressing issues relating to health and wellness through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services](#) - Improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable and their communities

[Alzheimer Society of Toronto](#) - Alleviating personal and social consequences of dementia

[Art Starts](#) – Creating social change through community art projects

[Arthritis Research Foundation](#) – Beating arthritis and autoimmune diseases

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto](#) - Canada's leading mentoring charity

[Birchmount Bluffs Neighbourhood Centre](#) - Offering recreational, social and capacity building programs

[Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders](#) – Leadership skills for underserved teens through sailing

[Camp Oochigeas](#) - Providing kids with cancer a unique, enriching and magical experience

[Canadian Diabetes Association](#) - Fighting diabetes by helping people live healthy lives while finding a cure

[Canadian Music Therapy Trust Fund](#) - Improving the mental, physical and emotional health of Canadians

[CANES Community Care](#) – Assisting seniors to take part in the life of their community

[Carefirst Seniors & Community Services Association](#) - Ensuring that Chinese seniors live a quality & enriched life

[Casey House](#) - A specialty hospital with community programming for those affected by HIV or Aids

[Central Toronto Youth Services](#) - Serving youth who have a range of mental health needs

[Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation](#) – Educating young children with developmental challenges

[Centre for Spanish Speaking People](#) - Serving new immigrants from 22 Spanish-speaking countries

[Child Development Institute](#) - Leading children's mental health programming in Toronto

[Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie](#) - Professional dance organization that presents locally and globally

[Community Association for Riding for the Disabled \(CARD\)](#) – Improving lives through quality therapeutic riding programs

[Community Bicycle Network](#) - Providing access, training, and support for all cyclists

[Covenant House](#) - Serving suffering children of the street

[Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre](#) – Supporting their neighbours

[Delta Family Resource Centre](#) - Enhancing the potential of families and children

[Distress Centres](#) – Creating an emotional safety net for the vulnerable and at risk in our community

The Dorothy Ley Hospice - Fostering hope and dignity for individuals living with life-limiting illness or loss

Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club - Providing a safe, supportive place for children and youth

Earthroots Fund - Dedicated to the preservation of Ontario's wilderness, wildlife, and watersheds

Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre – Serving a low-income, ethnically and socially diverse community

Elizabeth Fry Toronto - Supporting women have been or are at risk of being in conflict with the law

Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth - Working locally and nationally to prevent, reduce, and end youth homelessness

Evergreen – Solving the most pressing urban environmental issues

Family Service Toronto - Strengthening communities through counselling, education, social action and development

FoodShare - Working towards a sustainable and accessible food system

Fred Victor - Providing accessible housing to people experiencing homelessness and poverty

FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners - Fostering the creation of sustainable communities

Geneva Centre for Autism – Empowering and supporting individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

Gilda's Club Greater Toronto - Empowering, strengthening and sustaining people impacted by cancer

Greenest City - Building healthy neighbourhoods through gardening and the celebration of food

The Gatehouse Child Abuse Investigation & Support Site – Building courage and hope in those touched by child abuse

The George Hull Centre for Children and Families – Serving children and youth by providing mental health services

The Good Neighbours' Club – A safe and welcoming drop-in centre for homeless men aged 50 and over

Hospice Toronto - Facilitating access to compassionate care

IMPACT: Indian Martial and Performance Arts Collective of Toronto - Empowering youth through South Asian martial arts

Interval House - Enabling abused women and children to have access to safe shelter and responsive services

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper - Working to restore swimmability, drinkability and fishability to Lake Ontario

Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP) - Partners with their community to address emerging needs

LOFT Community Services - Helping people with challenges including mental health and addiction issues

Make-A-Wish Foundation - Granting the wishes of children living with life-threatening medical conditions

March of Dimes Canada – Creating a society inclusive of people with physical disabilities

Mentoring Junior Kids Organization (MJKO) - Promoting healthy and active lifestyles for youth

METRAC - Focusing on education and prevention to build safety, justice and equity

The Massey Centre for Women - Striving to achieve healthy outcomes for all young mothers and families

National Ballet of Canada - Performing the masterworks of classical and contemporary

Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto – Building the collective capacity of Aboriginal women

Neighbourhood Information Post (NIP) - Empowering marginalized and socially isolated people in our community

Nellie's Women's Shelter - Operating services for women and children who have experienced and are experiencing violence, poverty and homelessness.

New Visions Toronto - Providing services for individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities

Newcomer Women's Services Toronto – Delivering educational and employment opportunities for immigrant women and their children

North York Harvest Food Bank - Creating community where all members can meet their food needs

North York Women's Centre (NYWC) – Supporting and empowering women and effect positive change

Not Far From The Tree - Putting Toronto's fruit to good use by picking and sharing the bounty

Oolagen - Empowering youth and their families to enhance their wellbeing and mental health

Ophea – Championing healthy, active living in schools and communities

Outward Bound Canada - Cultivating resilience and compassion through challenging journeys in nature

Parasport Ontario - Developing and promoting Paralympic and ParaSports in Ontario

Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario - Champions of childhood cancer care

The Peer Project - Youth Assisting Youth - Promoting the healthy growth and development of young people

Planned Parenthood Toronto - Serving youth with a focus on sexual and reproductive health

Project Canoe - Uses the outdoors and wilderness canoe trips to create an environment in which youth develop life skills

The Psychology Foundation of Canada - Translating psychological research into state-of-the-art programs

Regeneration Community Services - Promoting self-determination and a higher quality of life for people living with mental health issues

Renascent Foundation Inc. - Facilitating recovery, education and prevention relating to alcohol and drug addictions

Ronald McDonald House Toronto - Providing a 'home away from home' for ill children and their families

Roots of Empathy - Reducing bullying among school children while raising emotional competence

Scadding Court Community Centre - Providing opportunities for inclusive recreation, education, and community participation

Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities – Cultivating vital and connected communities

Second Harvest - Feeding hungry people by picking up, preparing and delivering excess fresh food to social agencies

Seed to Table - Cultivating the conditions for community change by building local capacity

Seeds of Hope Foundation – Building sustainable communities

with resource centres that encourage learning, recovery, and enterprise

[Sheena's Place](#) - Supporting individuals, families and friends affected by eating disorders

[Sherbourne Health Centre Corporation](#) – Providing healthcare and transformative support to those experiencing systemic barriers

[Sistering: A Women's Place](#) - Offering emotional and practical supports enabling women to take greater control over their lives

[SKETCH Working Arts](#) - An arts initiative for young people who are homeless or living on the margins

[SkyWorks Charitable Foundation](#) – Advocating and participating in social change through community film making

[South Riverdale Community Health Centre](#) - Improving the lives of people that face barriers to physical, mental, and social well-being

[Springboard](#) – Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[SPRINT Senior Care](#) - Caring for seniors and enabling seniors to care for themselves

[St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre](#) - Providing programs and services for seniors and older adults

[St. Stephen's Community House](#) – Multi-service programming for newcomer and low-income residents

[Street Health Community Nursing Foundation](#) - Improving the wellbeing of homeless and under housed individuals

[The Stop Community Food Centre](#) - Increasing access to healthy food by building community and challenging inequality

[Toronto Youth Development](#) - Assisting and fostering underprivileged youth in Toronto

[The 519](#) - Enhancing the vibrant downtown and LGBTQ* community

[Thornccliffe Neighbourhood Office](#) - Building a safe and healthy community

[Toronto Foundation for Student Success](#) – Initiating innovative anti-poverty programs for students

[Toronto Lords](#) – A basketball league providing recreation for young women in marginalized communities

[Toronto Public Library Foundation](#) - Providing essential resources for the enhancement of the Toronto Public Library

[Trails Youth Initiatives Inc.](#) - Challenging and equipping youth from the inner city of Toronto

[Tropicana Community Services](#) - Providing opportunities to youth, newcomers, and people of Black and Caribbean heritage in Scarborough

[Unison Health Community Services](#) - Delivering accessible and high quality health and community services

[Variety Village](#) - Promoting appreciation, interaction, empowerment and inclusion

[Vermont Square Parent-Child Mother Goose Program](#) - Fosters parent-child bonding and literacy through a rich oral language experience

[Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation](#) – Supporting individuals and families living with cancer

[White Ribbon](#) - Men and boys working to end violence against women and girls

[Words In Motion](#) - Using the arts to help children and their families achieve their full potential

[Workman Arts Project of Ontario](#) - Developing and supporting artists with mental illness and addiction issues

[YMCA of Greater Toronto](#) - Offering opportunities for community involvement and leadership

[YouthLink](#) – Providing a range mental health services to improve the life outcome for youth at risk

Endnotes

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Safety

Why is this important?

The city can prosper only if its residents feel safe in their neighbourhoods, engage with one another, and trust the representatives of their institutions. The majority of Torontonians do feel safe (almost 80% feel at least somewhat comfortable walking in their community at night).⁸³ Tracking indicators like perceptions of safety, as well as violent and non-violent crime allows us to both to test the basis of that confidence, and also to discover the places and situations where vulnerable residents don't experience safety.

What are the trends?

Most indicators of safety confirm a continuing long-term downward trend. Other indicators, like the reported number of hate/bias crimes show little change over time. And even the number of homicides in the city, which rose in 2012 and 2013 after a four-year decline, was 30% lower at the beginning of September 2014, than at the same time a year ago.⁸⁴

What's new?

Toronto continues to be among the safest metropolitan areas in the country. Only Québec, Guelph and Barrie scored lower in 2013, on the Crime Severity Index (a measure of the severity of crime). For some vulnerable populations however, the city is anything but safe. Victims of gun violence are becoming younger (seven teens 16 years old and under were killed in 2013). In response, the City has developed a youth violence strategy.

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Some Key Safety Trends	2010	2011	2012
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Total number of criminal offenses, excluding traffic offenses (rate per 100,000 population)	167,399 (5,918)	162,298 (5,685)	150,808 (5,271)
2. Rate of violent crime (per 100,000 population)	1,159	1,097	1,021
3. Number of homicides	51 (2011)	56 (2012)	57 (2013)
4. Number of reported hate/bias crimes	123	142	131
5. Crime Severity Index (Toronto Region)	54.9 (2011)	52.1 (2012)	47.1 (2013)

A holistic approach to community safety includes the understanding that safety is not simply the absence of crime or violence. Safe communities are spaces where all members can thrive and be empowered to realize their individual and collective potential. Implementing a holistic approach to the development of safe communities in Toronto includes supporting creative initiatives that encourage participation from all members.

—Jolene Stowell

Social Worker and Liaison

PROS (Providing Resources, Offering Support) program

All Saints Church-Community Centre

Continuing a long downward trend, the crime rate in Canada in 2013 dropped to its lowest level since 1969:

- The [Crime Severity Index](#) (a measure that assigns a weighting to crime based on sentencing) has also been dropping steadily in most provinces (Yukon and Newfoundland and Labrador were the exceptions in 2013) and was lowest in Ontario.⁸⁶

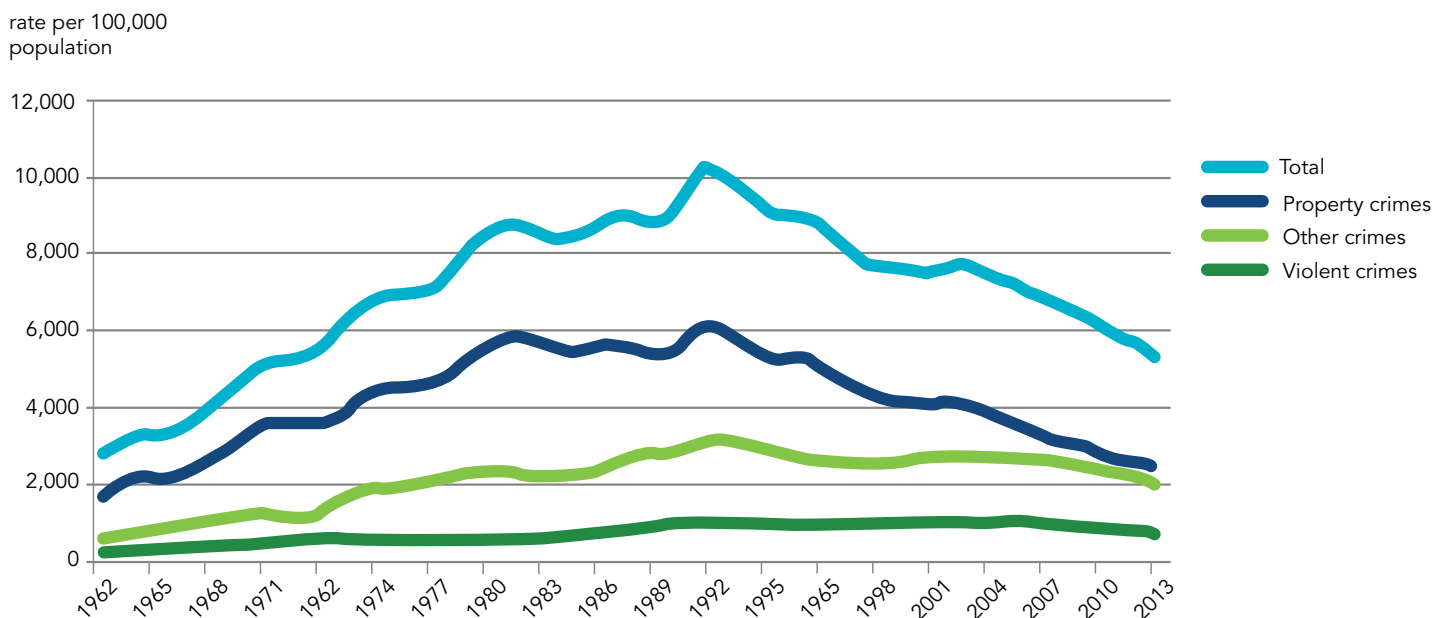
In 2013, the homicide rate in Canada fell to its lowest rate since 1966:

- Between 2012 and 2013 the national homicide rate declined 8% to 1.44 (per 100,000 population). This

is still above the 2013 rate for the Toronto Region of 1.34 homicides per 100,000 people.

- In 2013, non-violent crimes accounted for about eight in ten (79%) Criminal Code offences reported by police, and the Crime Severity Index for these types of crimes fell again for the tenth year in a row.
- Among the crimes that rose nationally between 2012 and 2013 are extortion (+32%), counterfeiting (+30%), aggravated sexual assault (level 3) (+9%), and identity fraud (+6%), and troublingly, offences against children—sexual violations against children increased by 6%, and child pornography offenses by 21%.⁸⁷

Police-reported crime rates, Canada, 1962 to 2013⁸⁸



Just how safe is Toronto?

For the seventh straight year, the Toronto Region had the lowest rate of police-reported crime among the 33 Canadian Census Metropolitan Areas:

- The crime rate in the Toronto Region (the Census Metropolitan Area) dropped by 7% in 2013 from 2012, to 2,941 per 100,000 population, the lowest rate of any of the country's 33 metropolitan areas. The Toronto Region rate declined by 42% between 2003 and 2013.
 - On the Crime Severity Index, the Toronto Region decreased by 10% between 2012 and 2013, and remains among the lowest of the large Canadian metros. Only Québec, Guelph and Barrie placed lower on the Index.⁸⁹

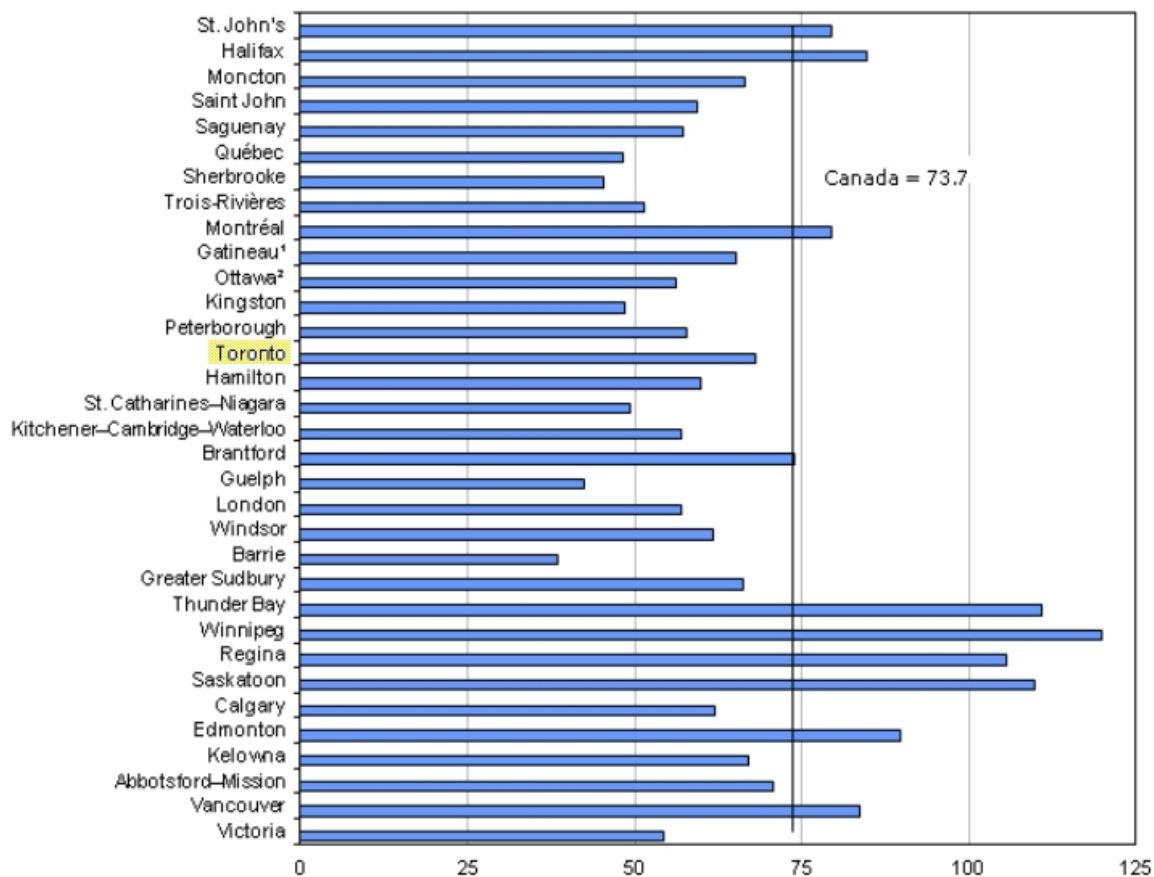
Across the Toronto Region, the rate of violent crime declined by 8% in 2013:

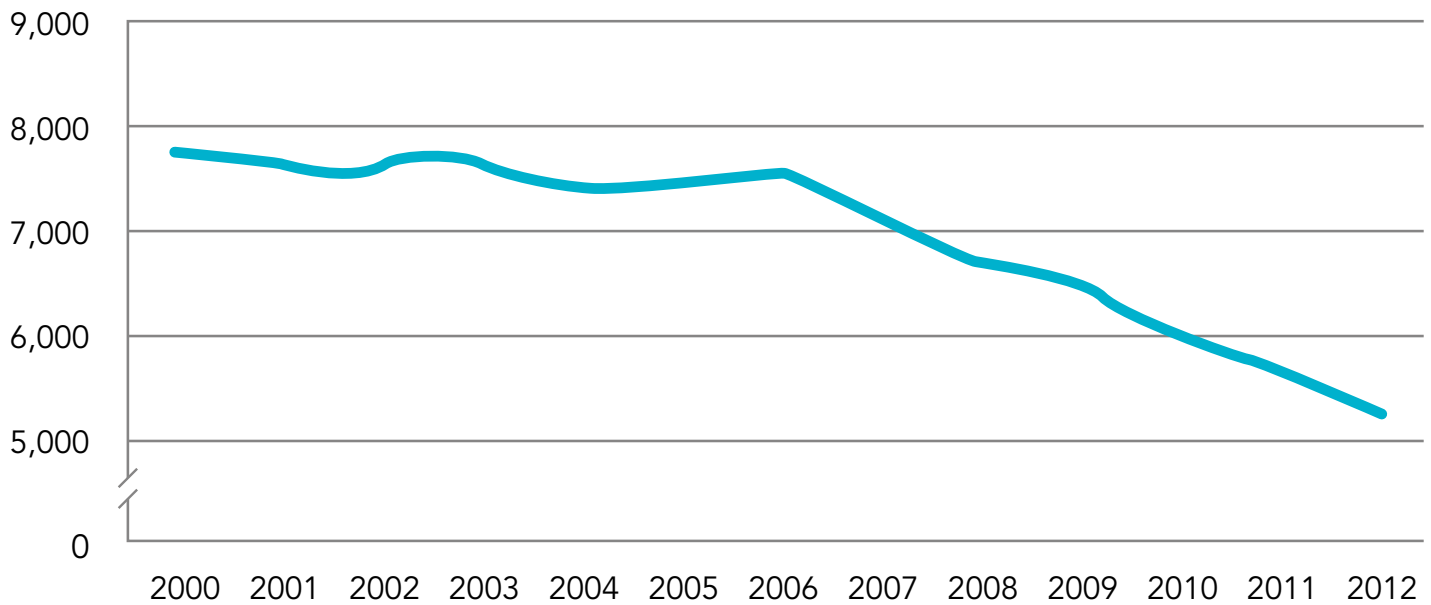
- Among the 33 metropolitan regions in Canada, there were only 6 with a [lower violent crime rate](#) in

2013 than the Toronto Region's rate of 749 violent crimes per 100,000 population (Sherbrooke, 705; Ottawa, 672; St. Catherine's-Niagara, 729; Guelph, 740; Barrie, 706; Calgary, 710). The Region's rate is lower than the national rate (1,092).

- On the Violent Crime Severity Index (measuring the seriousness of crimes by the sentences handed down by the courts), the Toronto Region is not among the lowest scoring metropolitan areas, at 68.2 in 2013 (a 14% decrease since 2012) but falls below the Canadian average of 73.7.⁹⁰
- 2012 saw 1,021 violent crimes per 100,000 population in Toronto.⁹¹
 - Reported sexual assaults decreased by 3.2% (100 offenses), from 2,996 in 2011 to 2,896 in 2012.
 - 1,813 youth between the ages of 12 and 17 were charged with violent crimes in 2012, representing 11.9% of total reported crimes.⁹²

Police-reported Violent Crime Severity Index, by Census Metropolitan Area, 2013⁹³





Overall Crime Rate (per 100,000 people), Toronto, 1998-2012⁹⁴

In the city of Toronto, crime is going down, even though the number of police officers per 100,000 residents decreased by 3.5% to 195 in 2013, down from 202 the previous year⁹⁵:

- The number of criminal offences (excluding traffic offences) in Toronto declined by 7% from 162,298 in 2011 to 150,808 in 2012 (or 5,271 per 100,000 population).⁹⁶
- Property crime was also down 6% from 2011 (decreasing from 92,089 reported offences to 86,609 in 2012).⁹⁷

The number of homicides in Toronto increased in 2013 (to 57, up from 56 in 2012), but remained 9.5% below the 63 people murdered in 2010:⁹⁸

- The number of firearm homicides decreased by 33.3% to 22 in 2013. In 2012 there were 33.⁹⁹

Safety and law enforcement go hand-in-hand, but the number of police officers does not necessarily correspond with less violence:

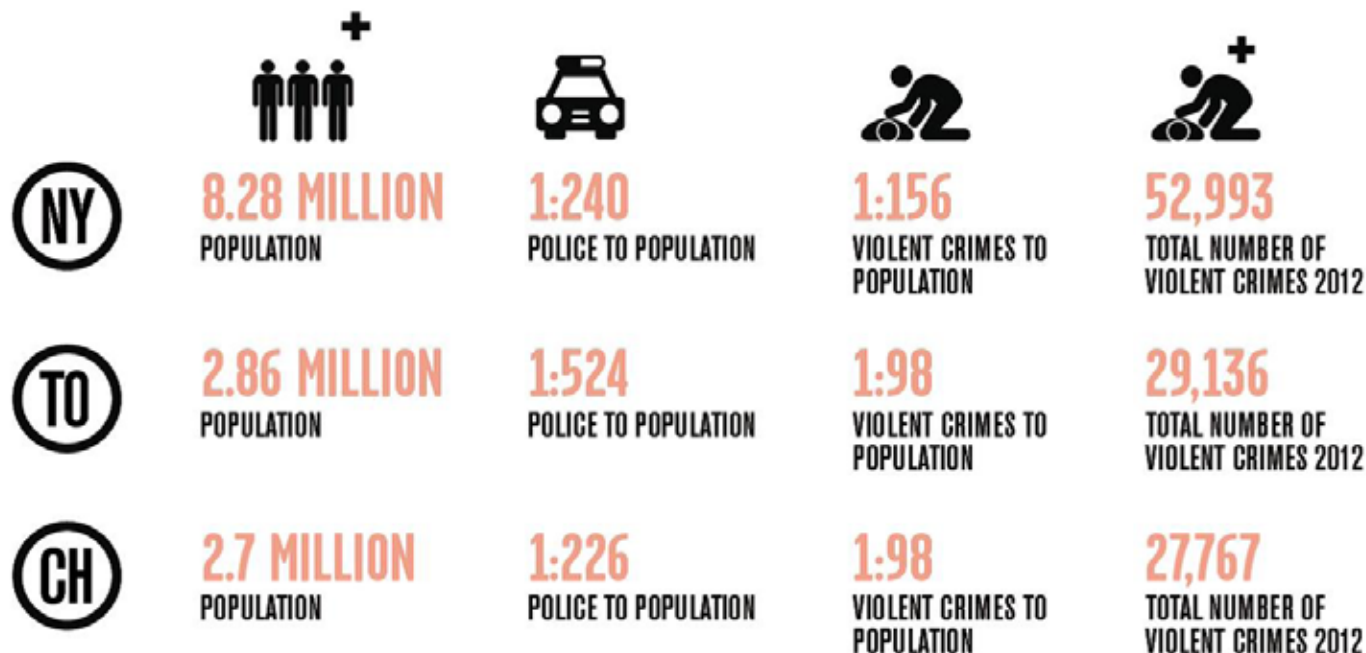
- George Brown College's Institute without Boundaries is developing a "Gateway Cities Atlas." This comprehensive regional framework evaluates quality of life indicators and data in the New York-

Chicago-Toronto gateway to better understand how the regions are faring and how they impact each other.

- Looking at rate of violent crime, number of police officers, and other factors, the study showed that while Toronto and Chicago are comparable in size in terms of population, in 2012 Chicago employed more than twice the number of police officers, but had the same violent crime to population ratio, and almost 10 times as many homicides.
- In 2012, while New York had a ratio of police officers to population more than double that of Toronto, New York experienced close double (1.8 times) the number of violent crimes compared to Toronto.¹⁰⁰

Almost half of all Torontonians say they feel "very comfortable" and almost 8 in 10 (79%) feel at least somewhat comfortable walking in their neighbourhood at night:

- A 2012 [poll](#) on the walking habits of Toronto residents showed that few (7%) felt very uncomfortable walking in their community at night. Among those who did feel uncomfortable, the major reasons given were: "limited lighting/dark" (by 19% of respondents) and "too much crime/the high crime rate" (11%) or "intimidating individuals" (11%).¹⁰¹



Police and Violent Crime in New York, Toronto and Chicago, 2012¹⁰²

The Church-Yonge Corridor and the Bay Street Corridor tied for the highest number of robberies of all Toronto neighbourhoods in 2011 at 124 each (see [Wellbeing Toronto](#) for more detail).

How is the city responding to youth violence and the increase of young victims of gun crime?

More than five years after the release of the [Roots of Youth Violence](#) report, and several years since the City's youth advocate position was eliminated, the City has developed a comprehensive youth violence strategy:



- Like the Province's Ontario Youth Strategy, Toronto is focused on breaking down the siloed nature of youth service

delivery and identifying service enhancements for young people (aged 13-29) who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence or crime.

- o The [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#) (TYES), developed with community partners, identifies [28 key issues](#) and 110 actions that City divisions, agencies, and corporations can take to build youth resiliency and create supportive systems. The recommendations (many of which involve consulting with youth to develop better policies and programs) and monitoring framework contained in the Strategy are meant to deliver coordinated, consistent, and concrete actions to adequately address the root causes of violence.
- o Beginning in the 2015-19 term, one Toronto City Councillor will be appointed "youth equity champion". This Councillor will work to pull together existing City resources and promote the Strategy in Council, at other levels of government, and with Toronto residents.
- o Both school boards will appoint a staff person as a youth champion to connect with the community, funders, youth, and other governments.

The Spectrum is a tool to help service providers understand that multiple and intersecting factors impact individual vulnerable youth and to identify how programs and systems can become supportive and build resiliency. "Sparks" (life events, both positive and negative) increase or decrease level of resiliency and, depending on systemic barriers faced, affect impact.



"Vulnerable Youth Spectrum"¹⁰³

- o Many recommendations, such as making employment services more accessible, increasing free or affordable access to city space for groups offering educational services for vulnerable youth, and maintaining transitional or alternative learning programs for suspended students, can be implemented with existing funds.
- o Others, which involve the expansion of existing programs, will require an extra \$430,000 in funding. They include expanding the **FOCUS** (Furthering Communities and Uniting Services) crime prevention program model from Rexdale to Scarborough. A partnership between the City, United Way Toronto and the Toronto Police, FOCUS intervenes in high-risk cases before an individual commits a crime or is the victim of one.
- The report features creative contributions from Toronto youth intended to help readers understand the experiences of vulnerable youth, such as the frustration and disillusionment that can lead to involvement in violence and crime.¹⁰⁴
- Seven teens aged 16 and under were killed by gun violence in 2013, the highest number of youth killed by guns in a single year in Toronto in more than two decades, some in broad daylight, some in front of dozens of witnesses.
- By year's end, the homicide squad had made arrests in 74% of the year's murders, up from 72% in 2012, but the youth cases had proved challenging, with an arrest in only one. Fear may keep witnesses from stepping forward.¹⁰⁵

What can we learn about gang prevention strategies?

- Youth gangs and gang violence have been an issue within Toronto's socially disadvantaged communities for several decades. Toronto's gang-related deaths peaked in 2003 at 35, and have since ranged between 14 and 30 a year.
- The Toronto Police Service tracks approximately 2,100 gang-involved or gang-associated people annually, of which approximately 500-600 individuals are judged to be of particular concern.
- A 2013 [report](#) from Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC), which supports community-based gang intervention projects through its Youth Gang Prevention Fund, assessed projects across Canada between 2007 and 2012 to learn what works in order to make the best use of limited resources.

Targeted anti-gang initiatives may have had an unintended consequence, as older gang members have been arrested and younger ones have stepped into their place:

- Toronto's shooting victims, all males in 2013, got younger. The average age of victims in 2013 was 22, down from 26 in 2012. It is the lowest average age since 1990 and a dramatic shift from 1998, when the average age was 34.

- o An essential element in crime prevention is reducing risk factors for gang involvement such as association with peers who negatively influence. Participants in the [Durham Youth Gang Strategy](#) project in Oshawa showed a significant reduction in associations with gangs; pre- and post-test results indicated that youth stopped associating with negative peers during the program.
- o Hamilton's 26-week [Gang Prevention Strategy](#) changed attitudes and behaviour: treatment groups of Grade 4 students showed a decline in anti-social attitudes and beliefs. There was also a significant reduction (22%) in youth committing physical assaults by the program's end. 29% of participants were gang-involved prior to the program; 58% of them were no longer gang-involved after completion.¹⁰⁶

Toronto Public Library is set to offer an innovative literacy program on an ongoing basis for incarcerated parents that focuses on families and rehabilitation that has seen successes in other places around the world¹⁰⁷:



- As part of the 2014 Budget, Toronto City Council approved regular [Youth Equity Strategy](#) funding for the Toronto Public Library to run the Storybook Parents Program in prisons and jails. Successfully piloted by the

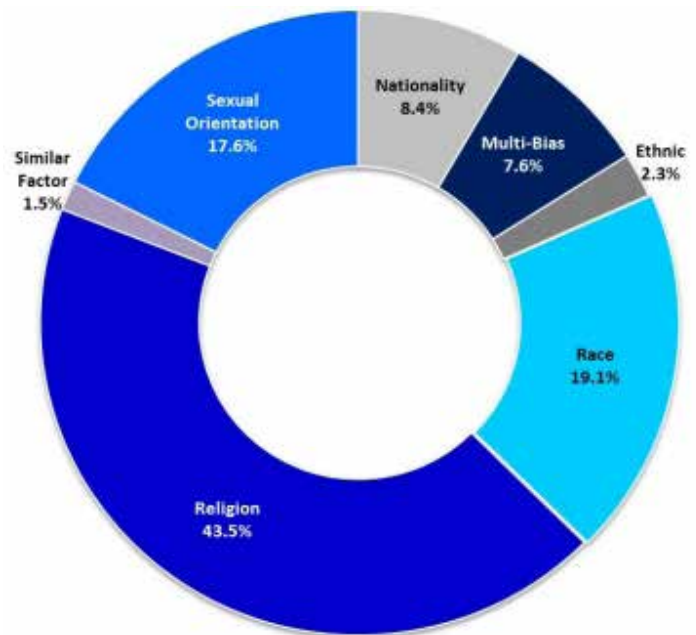
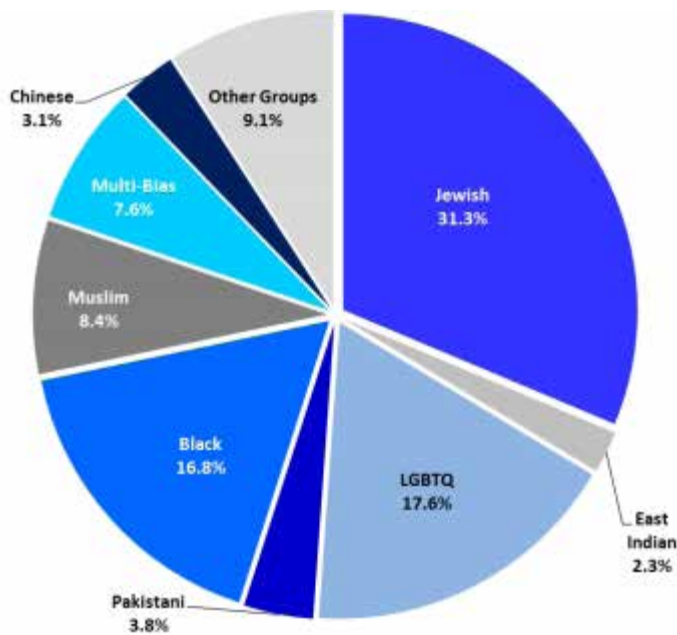
Toronto Public Library as Storybook Dads starting in 2011, the program helps to reduce the trauma children face with parental imprisonment and maintain their vital family bond by enabling parents to make bedtime story CDs, DVDs and other educational gifts for their children. The program helps imprisoned parents to maintain family contact, develop their literacy, and engage in training and volunteering opportunities to improve their chances of rehabilitation while reducing rates of recidivism.¹⁰⁸

How safe are women and members of minority populations in the Toronto Region?

Toronto is a "hub" for human trafficking.

- 551 cases (for the period between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2013) that involved Ontario as a source, transit or destination point were reported to the researchers of a [study](#) on the incidence of human trafficking in Ontario. The researchers' analysis found that the GTA is the most common destination of human trafficking in Ontario, and that the city of Toronto is a hub for larger inter-provincial and international trafficking routes.
 - o Victims trafficked to, through or from Ontario were mostly young (63% between the ages of 15 and 24; the most common age was 17), female (90%), and Canadian citizens (62.9%).
 - o Victims were trafficked predominantly for sexual exploitation (68.5%). Forced labour accounted for 24.5%, while forced marriage and petty crime accounted for 7.7% and 6.3% respectively.
 - o 96.5% of victims experienced some or multiple forms of violence.
 - o The four biggest challenges for organizations who work with victims of trafficking included organizational funding (46.9%), lack of housing (46.2%), difficulty providing financial support (42.7%) and finding counselling (37.1%).
- The report authors have called for urgent investment including a province-wide plan to combat trafficking, a long-term task force to carry it out, funding of shelters, and changes to Ontario's child welfare laws, specifically to increase the child welfare mandate to 18 years of age, and allow child welfare workers to intervene when third-party offenders are abusing children (other provinces have made both changes).¹⁰⁹

Reported hate/bias crimes in the city decreased by 7.7% from 2012 to 2013, a positive improvement over the 15% increase in 2012 over 2011:



Proportion of Reported Hate/Bias Crimes by Community & Motive, Toronto, 2013¹¹⁰

- There were 131 reported incidents of hate/bias in 2013 (down from 142 in 2012 and well under the average of 144 over the 10 years between 2004 and 2013).
 - Members of the Jewish community, the LGBTQ* (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and the entire spectrum of gender and sexuality outside of heterosexual) community and the Black community remain the three most frequently targeted. Jewish and Black Torontonians were the most victimized group for reported hate-based property crimes; LGBTQ* individuals were the most victimized for reported hate-motivated assault or criminal harassment.
 - There were 26 reported assaults motivated by hate or bias in 2013 (compared to 22 in 2012); reported criminal harassment occurrences decreased however, from 16 in 2012 to 13 in 2013 (but still not as low as the 9 in 2011).
- In 2013, there were no reported hate crimes motivated by age, language, disability or gender. Stigma may cause under-reporting, however.
- The number of hate/bias motivated arrests and charges was higher in 2013 compared to 2012.

There were 17 arrests (compared to 15 in 2012 and 2011), and a positive trend of charges resulting continued, with 42 charges laid (compared to 35 in 2012 and 17 in 2011).¹¹¹

Toronto is exploring options for an LGBTQ* youth focused shelter or transitional housing:

- A 2014 City staff report recommends that Council explore community interest in operating a standalone emergency shelter or transitional housing for homeless LGBTQ* youth, who are over-represented in the shelter system.
 - LGBTQ* youth experience higher rates of harassment and violence than other youth. A 2012 needs assessment conducted for Egale (a national charity promoting human rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity) with LGBTQ* youth in Toronto found that challenges at home and at school were the most common root causes of homelessness.
 - Data on the percentage of LGBTQ* youth among Canada's homeless is sparse, but in a 2000 study 25-40% identified as queer or trans.



Number of Reported Hate/Bias Crimes, City of Toronto 2004–2013¹¹²

- o The 2014 City report builds on the results of the 2013 street needs assessment, which found that one in five respondents in youth shelters identified as LGBTQ*. However, the number may be higher, because stigma may encourage under-reporting.
- o Change is also needed to make the shelter system more accessible and safe for LGBTQ* youth and adults. Barriers include homophobic and transphobic staff and peers, washroom and shower facilities that do not respect the dignity and gender identity of LGBTQ* users, and incapacity to support youth facing complex issues related to gender and sexuality.



o Best practices in other jurisdictions, such as New York, where separate transitional housing for LGBTQ* youth has proven successful, will be studied and incorporated into the development of new emergency shelter standards to be implemented in 2015.¹¹³

Research continues to show that schools are safer for both LGBTQ* and straight students when they have Gay-Straight Alliances:

- **LGBTQ* students** are far more likely than their non-LGBTQ* peers to experience verbal and physical harassment and abuse, sexual harassment and homophobic/transphobic comments. They are at much greater risk of suicide and mental health problems. A University of British Columbia [study](#) has shown that Gay-Straight alliances (GSAs) cut suicide risk for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight students. In schools with GSAs implemented three or more years ago; the study found that:
 - o The odds of homophobic discrimination and suicidal thoughts were reduced by more than half among lesbian, gay, and bisexual boys and girls.
 - o Odds of sexual orientation discrimination were also significantly lower for heterosexual boys and girls who are often labelled as homosexual.
 - o Heterosexual boys were half as likely to attempt suicide.¹¹⁴
- The researchers [previously found](#) that GSAs reduced alcohol abuse for all students.¹¹⁵

The following groups are addressing issues relating to safety through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic](#) - Services for women who have experienced violence

[CANES Community Care](#) – Assisting seniors to take part in the life of their community

[Carefirst Seniors & Community Services Association](#) - Ensuring that Chinese seniors live a quality & enriched life

[Cycle Toronto](#) - Advocating for a healthy, safe, cycling-friendly city for all

[The Gatehouse Child Abuse Investigation & Support Site](#) – Building courage and hope in those touched by child abuse

[Interval House](#) - Safe shelter and responsive services for women and children who have experienced abuse

[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - A gathering place focused on social justice and collaboration

[Leave Out Violence \(LOVE\)](#) - Reduces violence in the lives of Toronto youth

[The Massey Centre for Women](#) - Striving to achieve healthy outcomes for all young mothers and families

[Mentoring Junior Kids Organization \(MJKO\)](#) - Promoting healthy and active lifestyles for youth

[METRAC](#) - Focuses on education and prevention to build safety, justice and equity

[Nellie's Women's Shelter](#) - Operating services for women and children who have experienced and are experiencing violence, poverty and homelessness.

[North York Women's Centre \(NYWC\)](#) – Supporting and empowering women and effect positive change

[Ontario Justice Education Network](#) - Promoting public understanding to support a responsive and inclusive justice system

[The PACT Urban Peace Program](#) - Empowering underserved youth and youth already in conflict with the law

[Peacebuilders International](#) – Using restorative justice peacebuilding circles to help youth manage conflict

[San Romanoway Revitalization](#) – Fostering a sense of belonging in residents of all ages and backgrounds

[Seeds of Hope Foundation](#) – Building sustainable communities with resource centres that encourage learning, recovery, and enterprise

[Springboard](#) – Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[SPRINT Senior Care](#) - Caring for seniors and enabling seniors to care for themselves

[St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre](#) - Providing programs and services for seniors and older adults

[St. Stephen's Community House](#) – Multi-service programming for newcomer and low-income residents

[Street Health Community Nursing Foundation](#) - Improving the wellbeing of homeless and under housed individuals

[Teen Legal Helpline](#) - Free and confidential online legal advice for youth

[UrbanArts](#) - Engaging youth in community development through the arts

[White Ribbon](#) - Men and boys working to end violence against women and girls

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Economic Health

Why is this important?

The Report tracks a number of quite sensitive indicators of Toronto's economic strength or weakness.

Beyond large aggregated statistics like growth in GDP (which may mask underlying problems such as environmental degradation and income inequality), factors such as construction activity, tourism, and bankruptcy rates point to levels of investment, confidence, and economic stress.

What are the trends?

Toronto continues to experience modest GDP growth. The value of building permits has rebounded after dipping in 2012 and although high-rise construction is down somewhat, it still outstrips any other North American city. There is a continued decline in bankruptcies (down from almost 11,000 personal bankruptcies and more than 700 business bankruptcies in 2010).

What's new?

In 2013, the Toronto Region set new records for numbers of overseas visitors, hotel room nights sold and contribution (\$6.45B) to the local economy. But the city urgently needs more revenue to meet major capital demands for transit and other aging infrastructure (the city's 10-year capital budget now stands at \$18.6B). Toronto's property taxes are \$1,100 less than the GTA average, but with other municipalities it receives just 8 cents of each tax dollar paid in Canada (and the federal/municipal fiscal imbalance is growing).

Some Key Economic Trends ¹¹⁶	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. GDP (millions of constant 2007 dollars)	\$155,798	\$158,647	\$161,614
2. Annual real GDP growth (adjusted for inflation)	1.1%	1.8%	1.9%
3. Total annual value of building permits issued (unadjusted for inflation)	\$7.65B	\$6.51B	\$7.90B
4. High-rises under construction (on May 1)	185 (2012)	173 (2013)	147 (2014)
5. Number of personal bankruptcies (business bankruptcies) (Toronto Region)	8,050 (628)	7,203 (488)	6,714 (466)



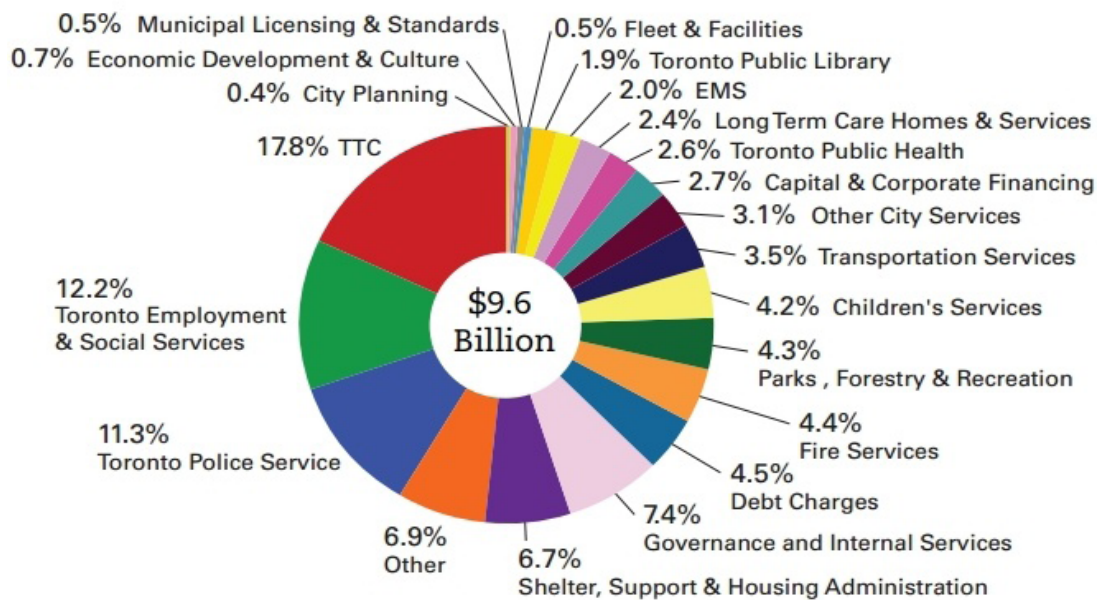
Photo: METRAC

The City of Toronto approved a balanced operating budget in 2014 requiring a 2.71% property tax increase and without using a prior year's surplus for the second year in a row, despite the loss of \$43M in provincial funding for shelter, support and housing:

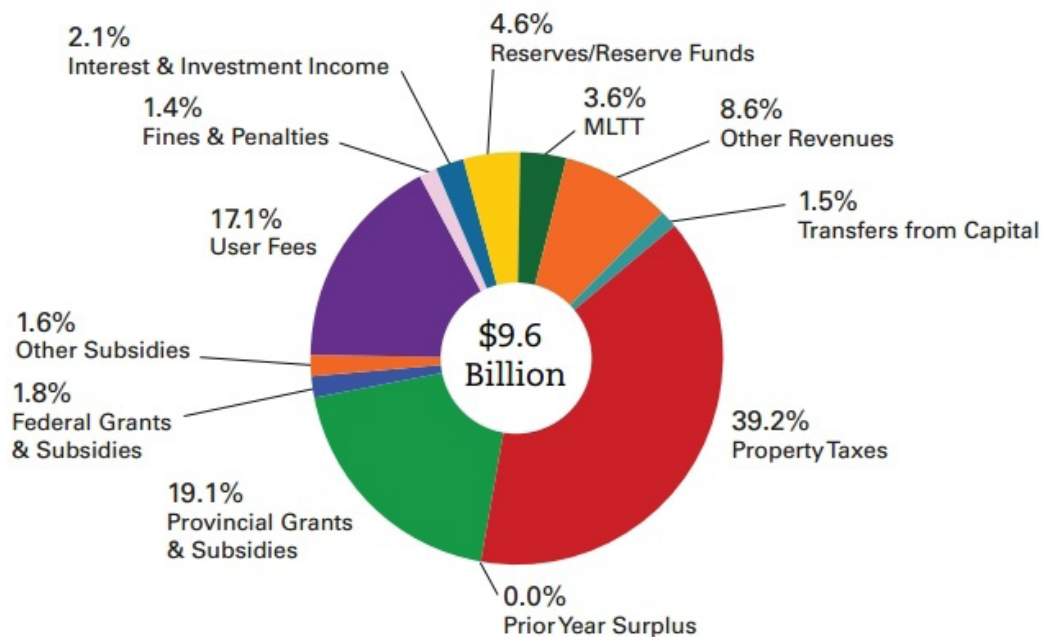
- The City's budget increased by \$238M from \$9.4B in 2013 to \$9.6B.¹¹⁷
- Staff had recommended that Council collect as much as 3.2% more in property tax revenue to rebuild emergency reserves and put more money into tree maintenance after the December 2013 ice storm.¹¹⁸ An increase of 2.71%, below the rate of inflation, was passed, amounting to approximately \$68.59 extra per year for the average homeowner. The non-residential increase is 0.30%.¹¹⁹
- The property tax increase includes \$12.2M dedicated funding for the Scarborough subway extension (0.5% of the increase). Another 0.06% of the increase will go toward restoring the city's tree canopy after the ice storm.¹²⁰
- Spending on fire services was cut (four fire trucks and 84 firefighters), although one of five trucks slated for removal was saved with a one-time investment of \$2M.
- The TTC got an operating subsidy increase of \$20M (raising its total operating budget to \$433M), to help make up for a projected \$6M budget shortfall. Nonetheless, among mass transit systems of comparable size in North America, Toronto's remains the least subsidized, with just 78 cents per fare paid by the City (Montréal and Vancouver receive \$1.16 and \$1.62 per fare respectively).¹²¹
- The budget maintained all current programs and services and provided funding for new and enhanced services including:¹²²
 - o 61 more front-line paramedics and additional fire prevention officers
 - o 200 new police recruits
 - o expansion of the Student Nutrition Program to 27 new sites
 - o 668 new childcare spaces
 - o new recreation centres, additional recreation youth spaces and priority centres
 - o 2 new library branches and expanded library hours
 - o restored permanent funding for the High Park Zoo
 - o extra resources for City Planning
 - o \$22.5M in arts and culture funding
 - o funding to implement the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy
 - o 4 new youth lounges (and 3 more in 2015 and 3 in 2016) based on the St. Stephen's Community House service delivery model.¹²³

Funding for two new library branches were approved in 2014 – one at Fort York Boulevard and Bathurst Street, which opened in 2014, and one at the Scarborough Civic Centre, which is set to open in late fall 2014.

City of Toronto 2014 Total **Operating Expenditures** of \$9.6B:¹²⁴



City of Toronto 2014 Total **Operating Revenues** of \$9.6B:¹²⁵



Note: MLTT is the Municipal Land Transfer Tax



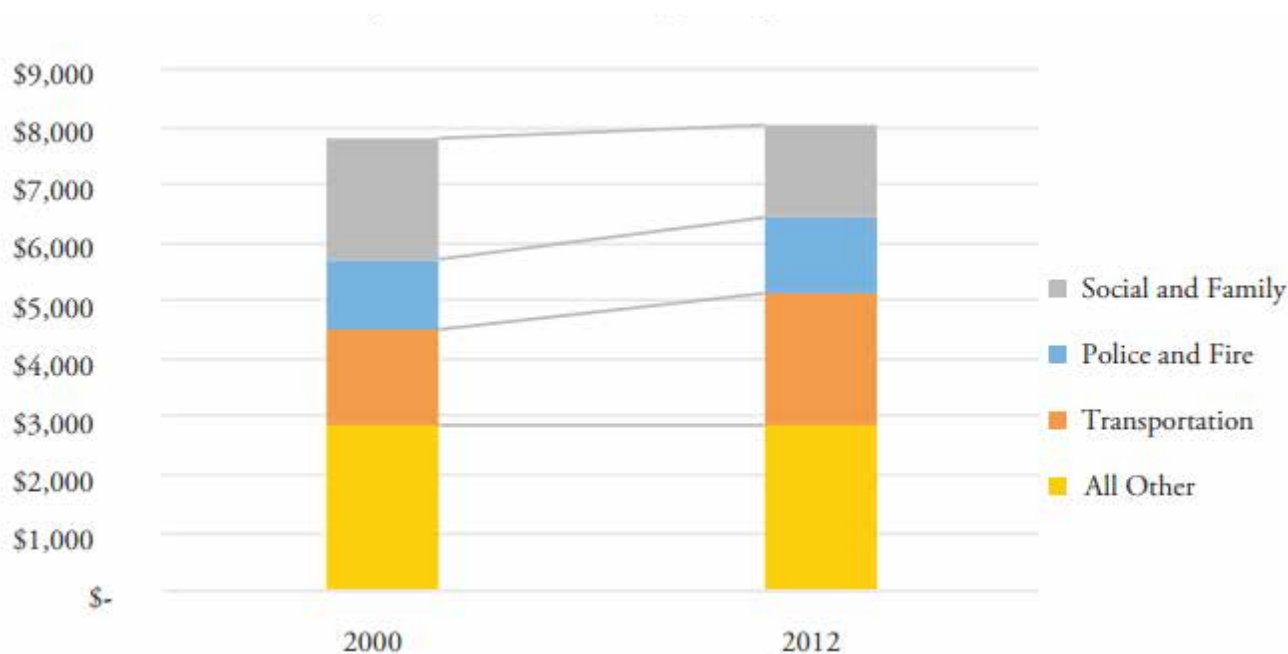
Photo: Scarborough Arts

Why does Toronto struggle to balance its budget, even when spending doesn't grow?

Toronto's operating expenditures per household are about what they were in 2000, when adjusted for inflation: normalizing planning for active transportation and public transit use by municipalities:

- An [assessment](#) by the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, of the state of the City's finances and recent fiscal trends debunks the common perception that spending has been growing rapidly in recent years. The Institute finds that Toronto does not have a "spending problem" and suggests that it instead has a revenue problem:
 - Spending has remained largely the same for a decade (considering inflation and population growth), although how the money is spent has changed, with more going to transportation and less to social and family services.
- Toronto's services and their costs remain in line with other municipalities. Further "efficiencies" will not found without reducing services.

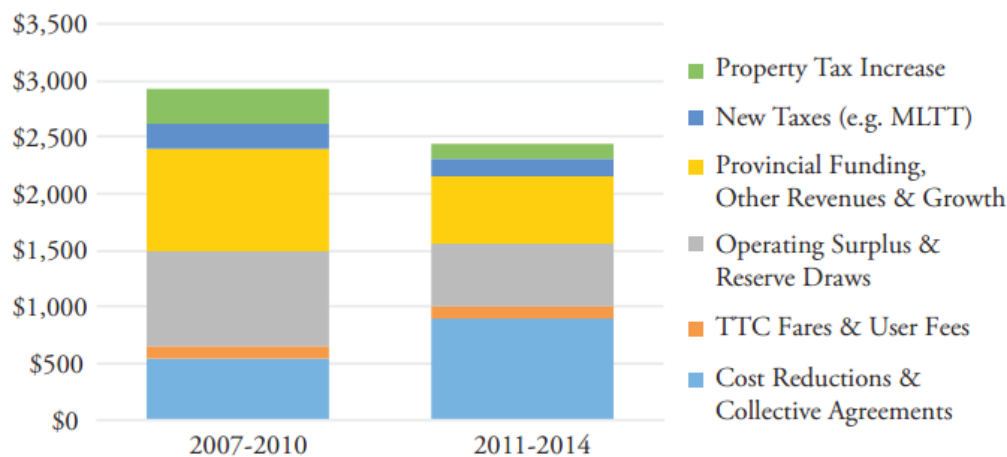
Toronto's Real Spending Per Household, 2000 vs. 2012:¹²⁶



Source: Compiled by report authors. Data from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Financial Information Returns and Statistics Canada

- o Residential property taxes are low and have grown at less than the rate of inflation. Torontonians (on average) pay lower property taxes than residents of many other Ontario municipalities.
- Toronto has instead relied on revenues from user fees and charges, the land transfer tax, transfers from the provincial and federal governments, and since 2008, uploading of social services to the Province.
 - o The City must find other sources of revenue to fund infrastructure.
- The funding gap for maintaining current infrastructure (e.g., transportation and community housing) will reach \$2.5B by 2020. And building much-needed infrastructure—transit, for example—cannot rely on uncertain transfers from other levels of government, yet one-third of planned infrastructure spending is counting on this.
 - o Toronto’s debt is manageable, and the imposed debt ceiling could limit investment in the city’s future liveability, prosperity, and financial sustainability.
- The Institute’s financial diagnosis also answers why Council struggles to balance the budget every year even if spending has not grown:
 - o Inflation, increasing debt service charges, and increased demand for services due to population growth mean the City’s costs go up every year. Its revenues, however, have not increased at the same pace, leaving an opening “funding gap” to be closed during each Budget debate. From 2007 to 2014, the gap has ranged between \$360M and \$825M, and has been closed by:
 - one-time funding strategies, e.g., using the previous year’s operating surplus, drawing on reserves, provincial grants, and investment income (although great progress has been made in eliminating reliance on one-time funding, from a high of \$447M in 2009 to \$26M in 2013);
 - reductions in program spending, efficiencies, and collective agreement savings;
 - user fee increases and new taxes (TTC fare hikes, water rates, garbage charges, the municipal Land Transfer Tax, and billboard tax); and
 - property tax increases.
 - o The City’s reliance on property tax rate increases as its “last resort” to balance the budget means there will continue to be a funding gap each year.¹²⁷

Closing the Budget “Funding Gap” (in Millions of Dollars):



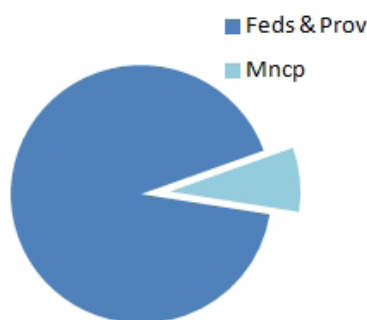
Source: City of Toronto, 2014 Operating Budget Briefing Note

Toronto doesn't have a spending problem; it has a revenue generation problem:

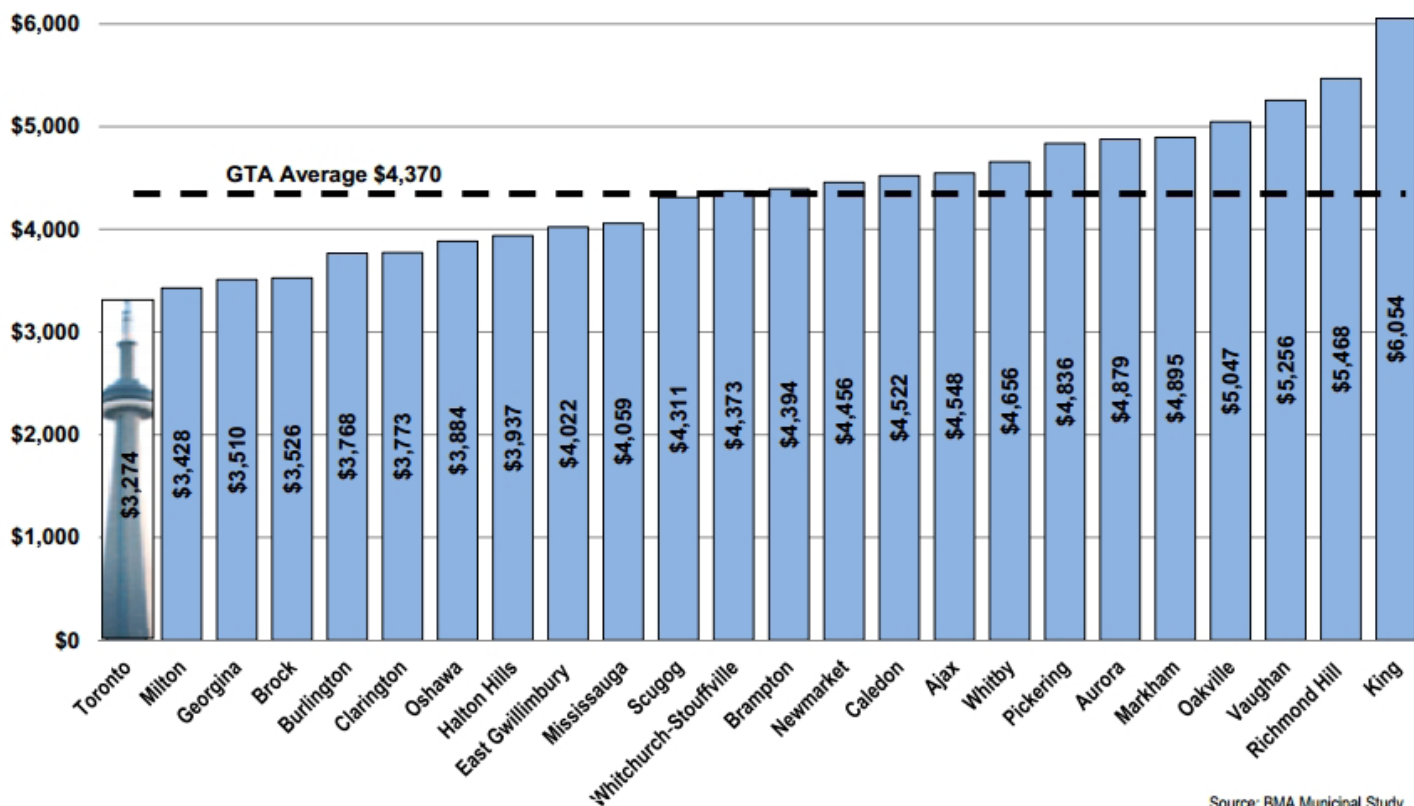
- Even with the 2014 increase, Toronto's residential property tax still remains one of the lowest among urban centres in Ontario. Toronto needs new diversified revenue streams to meet growing demands.¹²⁸
- Income from property taxes funds 39% (\$3.8B) of the \$9.6B operating budget. The remainder comes from user fees and payments from other levels of government, among other sources of revenue.¹²⁹
 - o Local governments in many other parts of the world derive a significant portion of their revenues from sales or income taxes. Cities in Finland and Sweden generate as much as 90% of revenues from income taxes; Hungary about 75% through sales tax; and Japan, Korea and the U.S. over 20% through sales taxes.¹³⁰

Municipalities collect just 8 cents of every tax dollar paid in Canada:

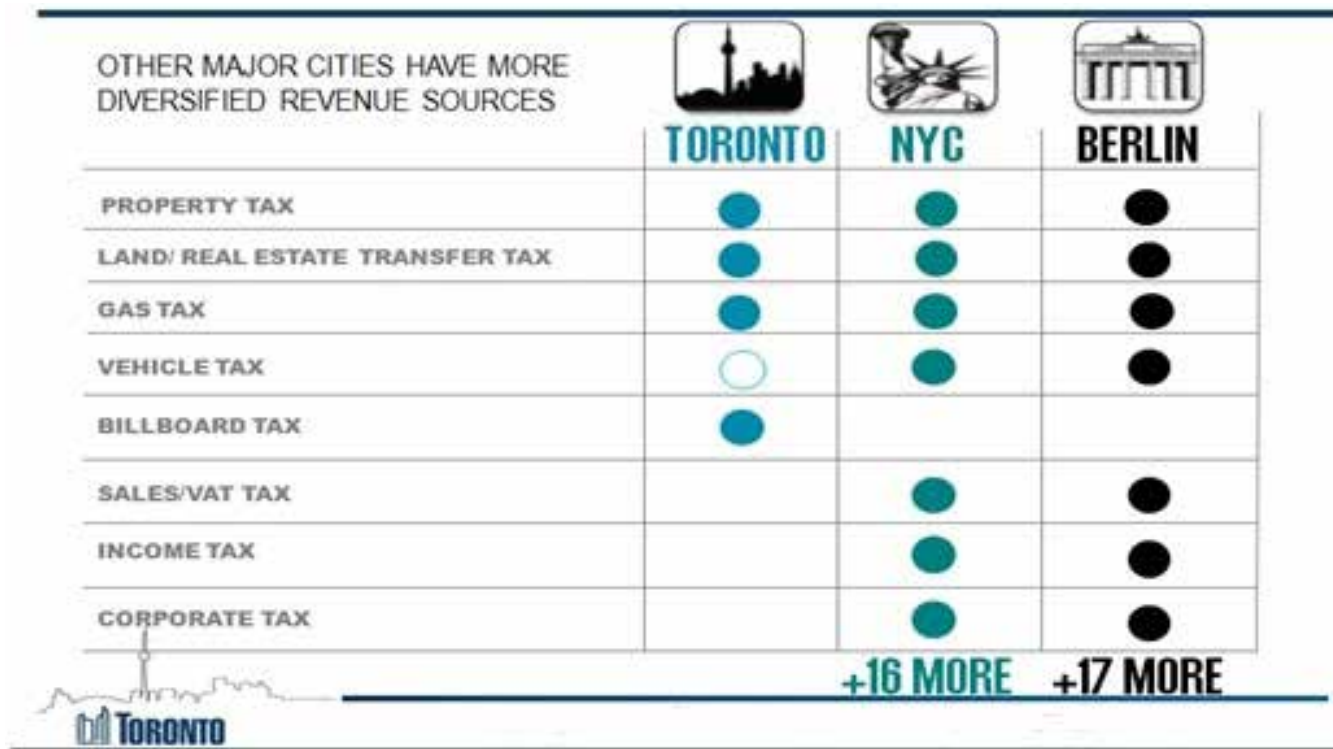
- A significant fiscal imbalance remains between federal revenues (which have been increasing as their expenditures have been declining) and municipal revenues, which have not been keeping up with expenditures.¹³²
 - o Toronto's tax revenues come from four sources: property taxes, the land transfer tax, the billboard tax, and a now permanent gas tax. Other international cities have far more revenue sources. Berlin's revenue tools include a beer tax and taxes on lotteries, and New York City's include sales, income, cigarette, and many more taxes.¹³³



Comparison of 2013 Average Property Taxes, GTA Municipalities (Toronto's is \$1,100 less than average):¹³¹

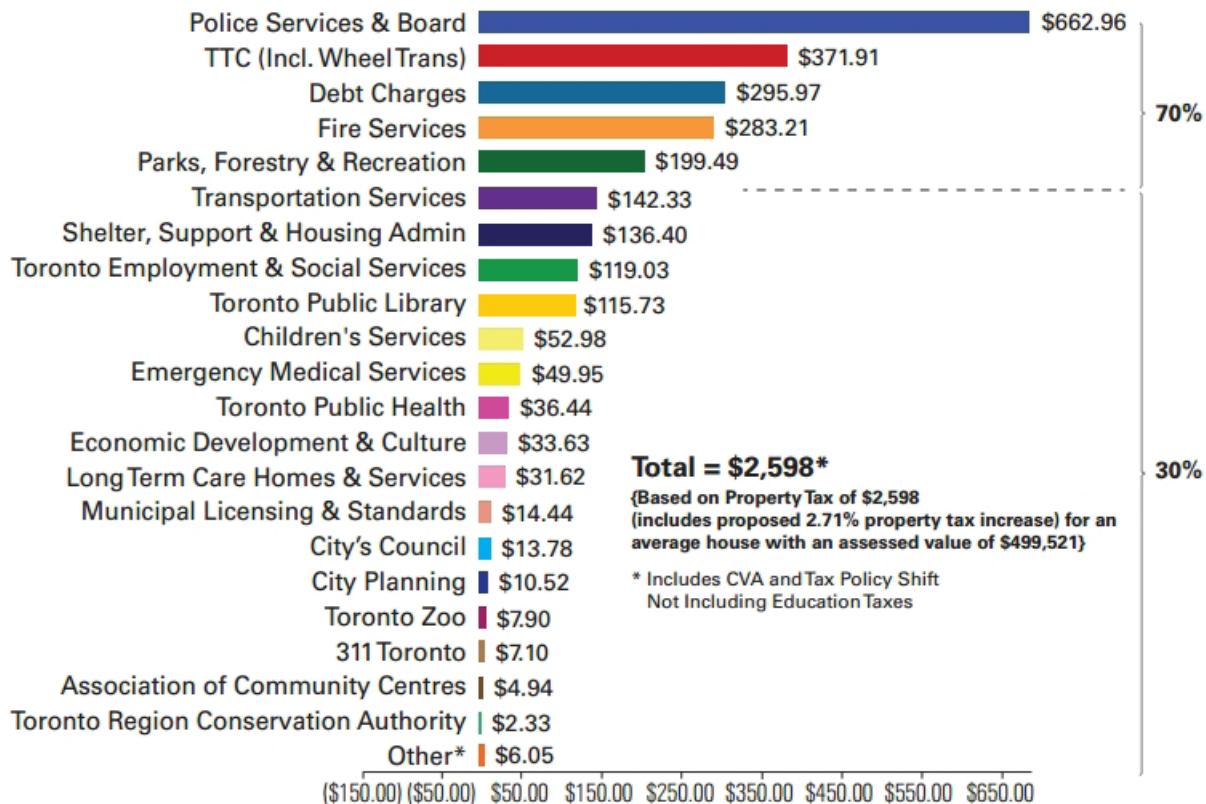


Municipal Taxes in Toronto, New York City, and Berlin:¹³⁴



- The City of Toronto spends the money it raises in property taxes in the following ways:

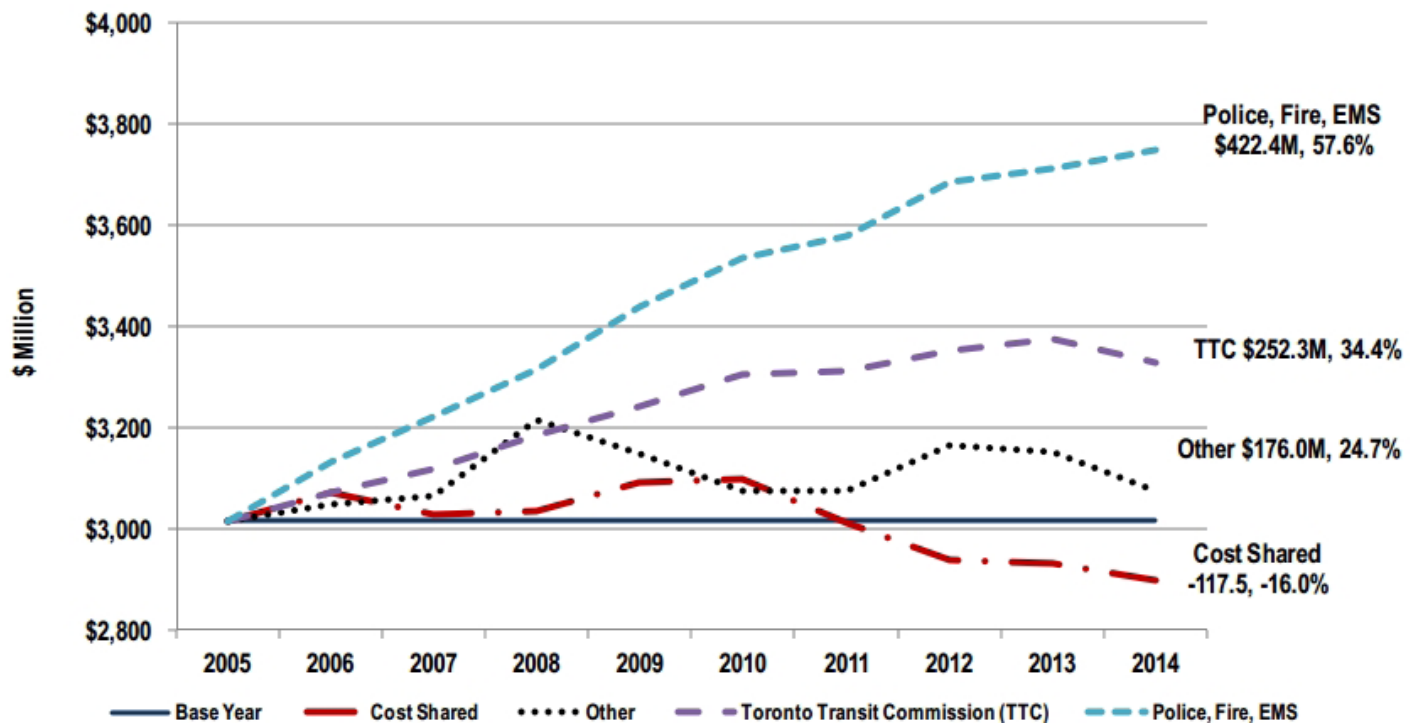
Toronto tax revenue spending, 2014 Budget:¹³⁵



91% of the growth in net expenditures since 2005 is due to Emergency Services and TTC:

- In 2014, 52.7% of the portion of the City budget that comes from property taxes goes to police, fire and emergency services and the TTC. One-quarter (25.6%) of all of all tax revenues that Toronto gets goes to police services alone.
- The cost of provincially mandated and shared services (Long Term Care, Public Health, Children's Services, Employment and Social Services, and Housing and Shelter Support), which has dropped in recent years as expenditures have been uploaded to the Province, comprises close to 30% (28.1%) of the total 2014 operating budget.¹³⁶

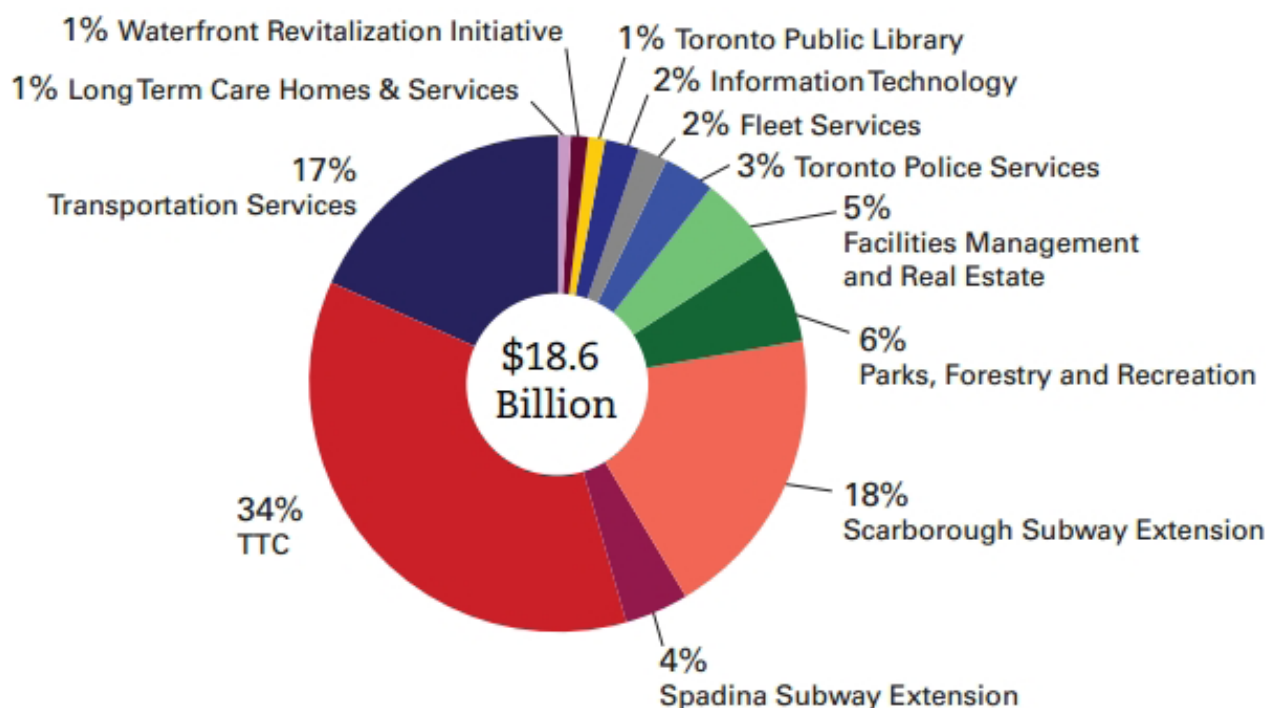
Cumulative Budgetary Growth Between 2005 and 2014, City of Toronto (91% of growth in net expenditures due to Emergency Services and TTC):¹³⁷



The ten-year Capital budget and plan grew by almost 22% over last year:

- The ten-year capital budget (2014-2023) has increased from \$15.3B to \$18.6B, due to the Scarborough subway extension (\$3.4B), an additional \$286M for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to address the state of good repair backlog (for a total of \$439M over the next 10 years) and transportation services (\$137M for road resurfacing and reconstruction and key capital projects to address traffic congestion). Other major investments over the next ten years include:
 - \$535M over the next 10 years to repair and maintain the Gardiner Expressway.
 - \$6.3B over the next 10 years for the TTC to address ridership growth, as well as repair infrastructure and replace aging subway and streetcars.¹³⁸

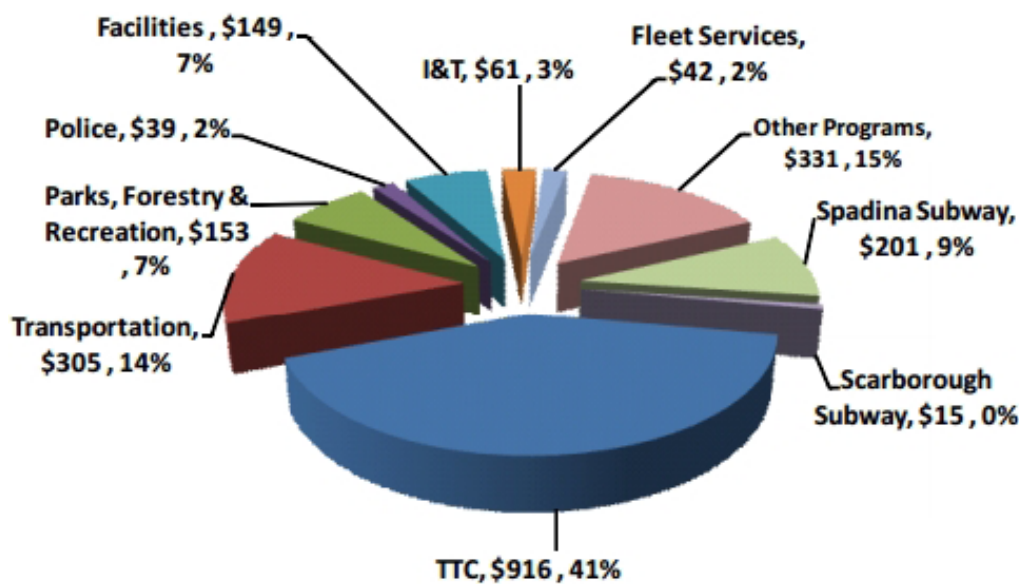
City of Toronto 2014-2023 Total **Capital Expenditures** of \$18.6B:¹³⁹



Almost two-thirds of the \$2.212B 2014 Capital Budget will be spent on transit and transportation:

- 63% of the 2014 capital budget (\$1.4B) will go to fund transit and transportation projects, including \$201M for the Spadina Subway extension.¹⁴⁰

City of Toronto 2014 Approved Capital Expenditure:¹⁴¹



How well is Toronto performing on indicators of economic vitality?

Toronto continues to be recognized on the world stage as one of the best places to do business:



- Among 36 big metropolises in North America (populations over 2 million), Toronto was one of the least expensive places to do business in 2013.
- o Only Monterrey, Mexico City and Montréal achieved a higher score than Toronto on the 2014 version of KPMG's bi-annual assessment of international business location costs. The Competitive Alternatives study evaluates 26 business costs for 19 industries in 107 global cities. The Toronto Region was at 93.6, down from 95.7 in 2012, and 101.5 in 2008, measured against a baseline (100) of the 4 largest US metropolises.¹⁴²
- In a separate special report, KPMG rated Toronto the world's most tax-competitive of 51 major international cities. Vancouver and Montréal followed closely behind.
 - o The three Canadian cities' very low Total Tax Index is due, the report says, to the impact of significant digital media incentives offered by the respective provinces. The study assessed tax competitiveness by comparing various tax rates in each location including corporate income tax, property taxes, capital taxes, sales taxes, miscellaneous local business taxes and statutory labour costs.¹⁴³
- Toronto was also named one of the best places in the Americas for attractiveness for business investment, third after New York City and fast-rising São Paulo, by fDi Intelligence (a division of the Financial Times).
 - o 422 metro areas were analyzed in five categories: economic potential, human resources, cost effectiveness, infrastructure, and business friendliness.¹⁴⁴
- Toronto ranked 10th in The Economist Intelligence Unit's Hot Spots 2025, which benchmarks the future competitiveness of cities today and in 2025.
 - o A city's competitiveness is defined as its ability to attract capital, businesses, talent and visitors. 120 global cities were scored in 32 indicators across eight categories with assigned weights: economic strength, 30%; physical capital

and financial maturity, 10% each; institutional character and human capital, 15% each; global appeal, 10%; social and cultural character, 5%; and environment and natural hazards 5%.¹⁴⁵

The Region's ability to attract visitors smashed two tourism records in 2013, with the highest-ever numbers of overseas visitors and hotel room nights sold:

- The Toronto Region welcomed 13.69 million overnight visitors. The spending of overnight and same-day visitors brought \$6.54B to the economy (up from \$4.7B the previous year) across a range of businesses and activities including accommodations, attractions, restaurants, taxis, retail and entertainment.
- Marketing Toronto as a "gateway" to several high-profile attractions—Niagara Region and Muskoka among them—helped bring an estimated 1.42 million overnight visitors from overseas markets (all countries other than Canada and the US).
 - o UK visitors remained the largest group of international visitors, with 201,000 arrivals, up from 168,200 in 2009.
 - o Chinese visitors are fast approaching the numbers of those from the UK. In 2013 China accounted for 181,000 visitors, an increase of 15% from 2012 and 58% since 2010.
- For the third year in a row, Toronto Region hotels booked more than 9 million room-nights: in 2013, a record 9.22 million, up 2.8% from 2012. 13.69 million overnight visitors chose Toronto for business and pleasure in 2013.
- Overseas visitors stayed in paid accommodations an average of 4.5 nights per trip, representing over \$1B in spending in the city.
- Canadians comprised almost three-quarters (73.7%) of all overnight visits (10.09 million), but for the third year in a row, Toronto saw an increase in overnight visitors from the US (2.18 million, a 1.7% increase over 2012 and a 9.7% increase over 2010). US visitors who fly to Toronto are more likely to stay longer and spend more, and this year that higher-value visitor accounted for 61% of total U.S. visitors, up from 51% in 2009.¹⁴⁶

In an indication of economic recovery in the Toronto Region, bankruptcies continued to decline in 2013:

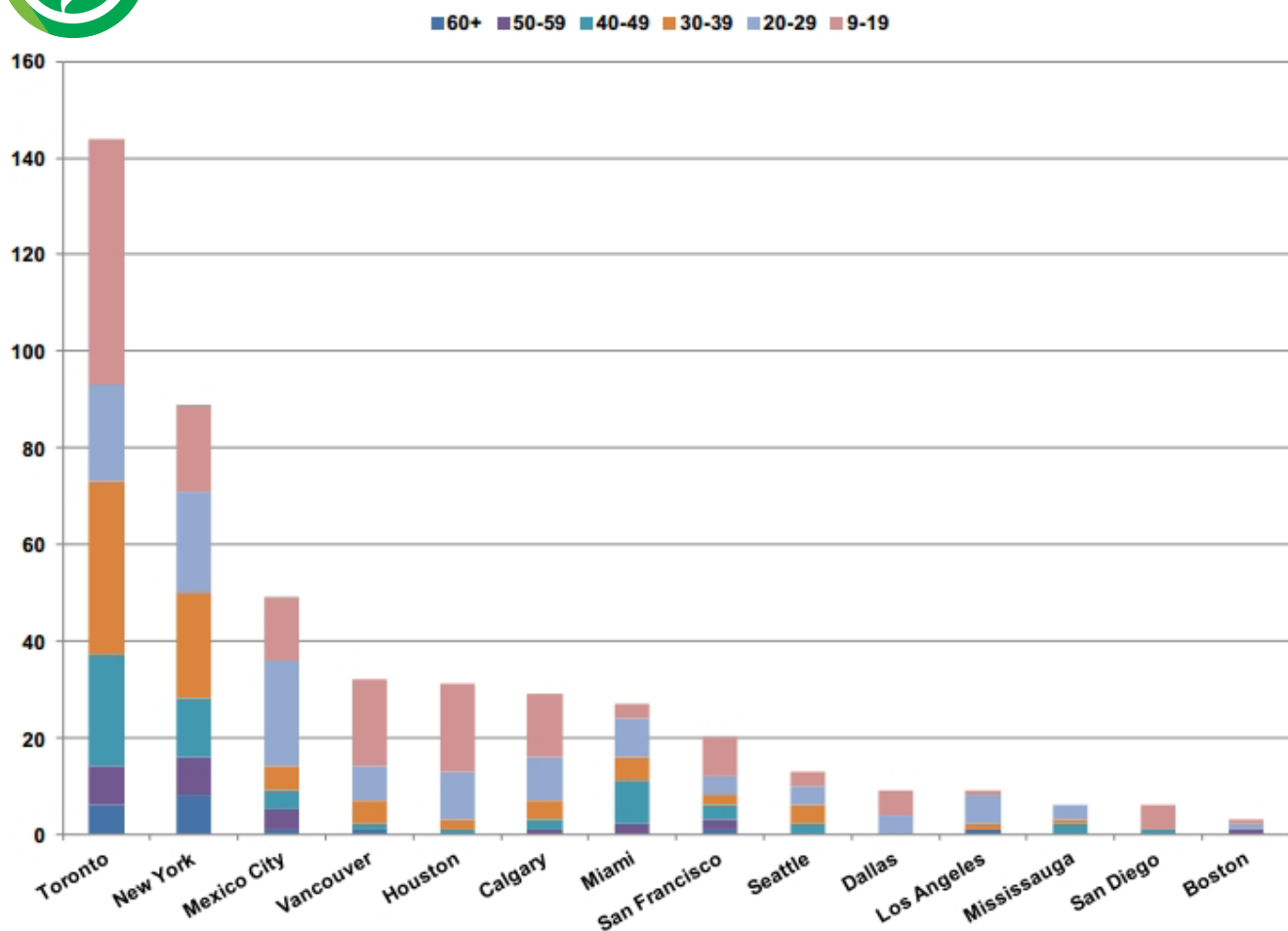
- Personal bankruptcies fell by 6.8% in 2013 (from 7,203 to 6,714), and business bankruptcies by 4.5% (from 488 to 466).
- Personal bankruptcies have declined 45% since 2008, and business bankruptcies 57.1% since 2007.¹⁴⁷

Construction activity, considered a key indicator of economic vitality, was significant in 2013:

- While housing starts in the city numbered 15,618 in 2013, down 17% from 2011 and 38% from 2012, the value of [building permits](#) issued in Toronto in

- 2013 increased by 21.3% to \$7.90B from \$6.5B in 2012 (3.3% better than the 2011 total of \$7.65B).
 - o \$4.5B in residential building permits were issued in 2013 (up from \$3.1B in 2012).
 - o However, the total value of building permits issued between January and April 2014 was lower than in the same period the year before. The value of commercial permits was down by \$110M compared to the same period in 2013, and residential permit values had dropped by \$163M.¹⁴⁸
- As of April 17, 2014, 147 [high-rise](#) and mid-rise buildings were under construction in Toronto, significantly higher than any other North American city. New York had slightly more 50+ storey buildings under construction than Toronto, but Toronto had significantly more buildings under 50 stories.¹⁴⁹

High Rises Under Construction, North American Cities (by number of floors), July 2014:¹⁵⁰





As of mid-2014, 5.1 million square feet of office space was under construction in seven Class A office towers¹⁵¹, more than any other North American city other than New York.¹⁵²

- However, the construction boom belies the fact that office [pre-leasing rates are down](#). Just a few years earlier, developers had pre-leased about 46% before construction; in mid-2013 that rate was 39%.
- Corporate downsizing, a trend that is expected to continue thanks to advancements in technology,

telecommuting, and efficient workplace design, may finally be catching up to the Toronto office market.

- The size and number of potential tenants for new towers is also shrinking, as many large corporations have already renewed leases or relocated.¹⁵³
- 1.6 million square feet will come to market in late 2014, pushing vacancy up from 4.7% in the third quarter of 2013 to 7%, good news for tenants, but a new challenge for developers and office owners.¹⁵⁴

Where is Toronto economically vulnerable?



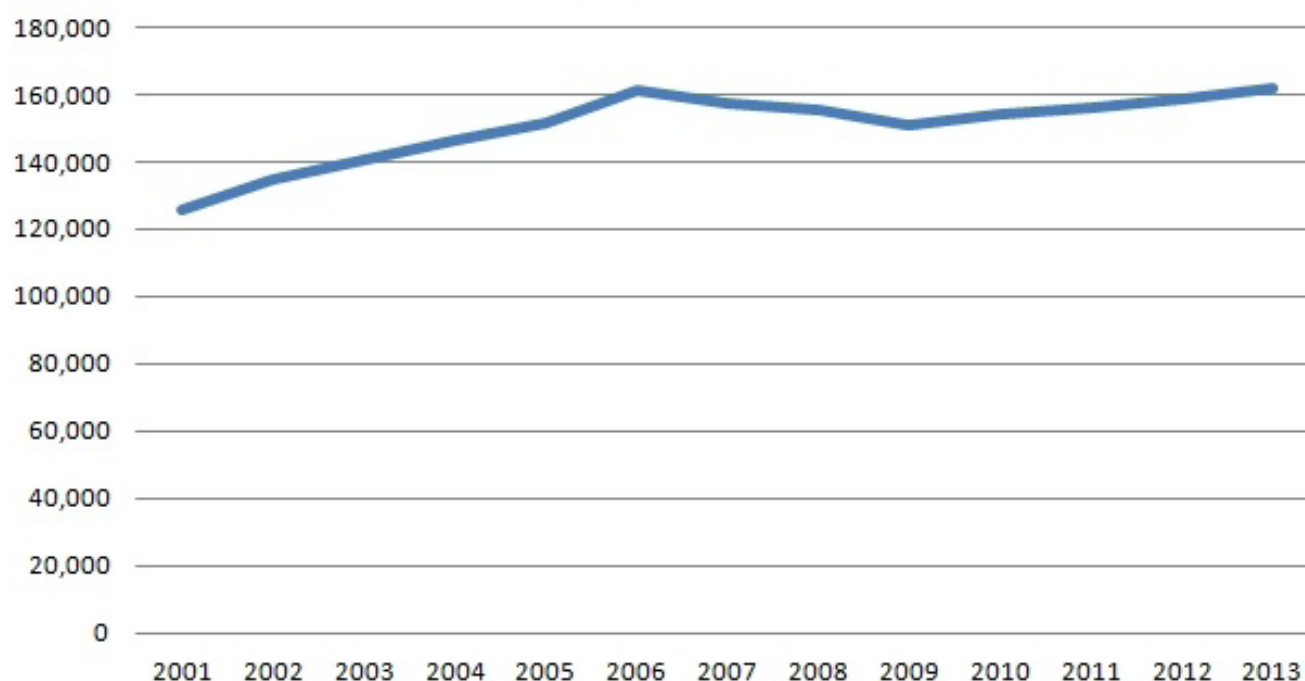
Our diversity is not reflected in our economic activity:

- Toronto, the [Mowat Centre](#) says, should be among those leading a discussion of how to leverage diaspora networks (international communities of shared identity) to tap the economic potential of the unprecedented connection we have to every corner of the world.
 - Canada has the largest proportion (over one-fifth) of immigrants of any OECD country. Yet only China and Brazil are among our top 10 export destinations, despite the fact that much of our immigration growth is from countries with emerging economies.
 - At the same time, immigrants are experiencing poorer economic outcomes than previous generations.
 - To improve outcomes for immigrants, and for the country, Mowat's report recommends that public, private and not-for-profit sectors enable diaspora networks to play a larger role in international trade; in knowledge transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship; and in the

full economic participation of newcomers by connecting them with each other and with established organizations.

- The [Pan American/Parapan American Games](#), in Toronto next year, and the [150th anniversary](#) of Confederation in 2017 offer unique rallying opportunities to roll out new policies to strengthen diaspora networks.¹⁵⁵
- Toronto's economic growth and productivity is modest but growing:
- Economic growth and productivity (GDP per employed worker, both full- and part-time) are generally regarded as fundamental measures of economic health.
- The Canadian economy as a whole grew by 2.0% and the Ontario economy by 1.2% in 2013. The Toronto Region accounted for 50.4%, and Toronto for 27.7%, of the real GDP of Ontario.¹⁵⁶
- Toronto's economy has grown steadily over the past four years after two years of shrinkage in 2008-2009, but real GDP growth was just 1.9% in 2013 and 1.7% in the Region.¹⁵⁷ In millions of constant 2007 dollars, GDP in the city of Toronto in 2013 was \$161,614.¹⁵⁸
- Toronto's productivity grew by only 0.4% in 2013, from \$113,704 to \$114,208. Toronto's 2013 GDP per worker represented 127.4% of the national level (\$89,669).¹⁵⁹

GDP (Millions of Constant 2007 Dollars), Toronto:¹⁶⁰



What will it take for Toronto to continue to prosper?



The Toronto Region's resilience puts it in third place among the dozen North American Metros included in a ranking of 24 global metropolitan areas:

- The 2014 Toronto Region Board of Trade [Scorecard on Prosperity](#) assesses the strengths of the Toronto Region through the lenses of economy and labour attractiveness (socio-economic and environmental factors).
- Calgary again beats out Toronto. Our western competitor benefits from low commute times (Calgary rates 1st in this area, while Toronto is 15th), and a young labour force (Calgary ranks 3rd for the population of 25-34 year olds, while Toronto ranks 14th).
- The report stresses that the Toronto Region's high overall score is based on resilience and economic potential rather than a result of sustained growth and momentum in absolute terms.
- The Board forecasts a much more vibrant Toronto economy if actions on four key policy fronts are implemented in a coordinated way, with Region leaders focusing on:
 - the next wave of The Big Move (with better support of non-automobile modes of travel and lowered commute times, the report says, Toronto could challenge the dominance of Paris and London for labour attractiveness);
 - investments in other types of public infrastructure;
 - higher productivity in key industry clusters; and
 - a better match between employee skills and labour market needs (especially for immigrants). Again this year the report issues a call to action for Toronto to capitalize on the skills and talents of newcomers.¹⁶¹

There are cranes. I can see lots of cranes from my office window. But to me, the real measure of the might of an economy ... has to do with, are its people producing a lot of value-added or a little value-added?"

—Roger Martin, former dean of the Rotman School of Management, academic director of the Martin Prosperity Institute, and Chair of the Institute for Competitiveness & Prosperity

Experts are increasingly calling on city leaders to think regionally:



- Compelled by upcoming elections, the Toronto Region Board of Trade and the Institute for Competitiveness & Prosperity collaborated to craft the first comprehensive **economic**

strategy for Ontario's largest city-region:

- o It's time, the report concludes, for a re-think of the Region's economy. Lack of innovation has caused a "staggering" productivity drop: 6% between 2000 and 2010. Toronto was the only one of 12 North American metros to experience negative productivity growth over the period.
- o Toronto must think regionally and innovatively if it wants to remain competitive with metropolitan regions across North America, such as Boston, Seattle, San Francisco, and Chicago, that have already come together to pursue shared regional objectives.
- o The report stresses that business should take the lead in strengthening the regional economy to ensure Toronto is not left behind in the global economic race. It focuses on four pillars of economic competitiveness that can improve Toronto's regional economic performance:
- economic vision: To avoid long-term decline, the region needs to maximize growth; the Board proposes an "ambitious but highly feasible" 10% growth in GDP per worker between 2010 and 2025 to reverse the decline of the previous decade;
- business-led initiatives to strengthen clusters: business clusters including financial services, information technology, education and research, food processing and the health, medical and pharmaceutical sector should lead growth and inspire innovation;
- foundation initiatives: New investment is needed in transportation infrastructure, energy, and smart technology; and
- organization and implementation: Regional governance can better deal with challenging issues such as improving transportation networks, attracting more business, and tackling core economic issues such as increasing the region's taxation power.¹⁶²

The Gateway Cities project at George Brown College's Institute Without Boundaries is exploring smarter integration of three key 'gateway' city-regions as an economically interconnected super-region comprising Toronto, New York and Chicago:



- Stressing the potential of cooperation rather than competition, the 10-month project emphasizes that what is good for New York may be good for Toronto or Chicago and vice

versa. Each lacks appropriate regional governance structures to speak for their needs, so cooperating innovatively to tackle region-scale issues will increase the resilience and competitiveness of each.

- Each of the cities is a key global financial centre. Taken together as a super-region, these huge Regions would form the world's second largest economy, second only to that of the US.
- Among the region-wide ideas under investigation are transportation plans, plans for multi-use greenways, alternative energy plans, and identity and culture plans.
- Students have compiled their research findings in a regional atlas mapping systems in and between the three cities and documenting stakeholders, resources and networks.¹⁶³

One of the first research-based explorations of greening the economy at the local level argues that the result will be decent jobs, better services, and lasting prosperity:

- The Metcalf Foundation's **Green Economy at Community Scale** highlights examples of innovative, local initiatives or instruments that tie together ideas that are often seen as being opposing, such as a green economy with high employment and meaningful jobs, for example.
- Community-level investment, enterprise, and finance is effecting change both at the local level and across the economy, by changing the way that business operates or that banks are regulated, for example.



- o Parkdale's **West End Food Co-op**, the city's first in almost 30 years, is an example of a community-based enterprise changing the food supply chain. Only twenty cents of every dollar spent in a conventional grocery store goes to the farmer¹⁶⁴

and the average Ontario farm brings in less than \$25,000 a year. In a co-operative, 60 cents of every dollar goes to the farmer.

- The report explores policy levers that could aid the transition to a green economy. Making green investment, a foundation for the green economy, more attractive, for example, can be influenced by the policy landscape.
 - Benefiting from the Ontario Green Energy Act and its feed-in-tariff for renewable energy, Toronto-based [Options for Green Energy](#) is a cooperative that finances community-based energy initiatives by selling community bonds.



- Other policy levers, and examples drawn from both policy and practice, include:
 - protecting ecological assets (e.g., [Ontario's Greenbelt](#), established in 2005, supports rural communities by curbing urban

sprawl and preserving natural heritage);

- supporting the legislative base for community-based enterprise (the [Canadian Cooperative Association](#) develops and promotes cooperatives and credit unions);
- enhancing the quality and availability of employment ([Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario \(PEPSO\)](#) campaigns for greater security in employment);
- changing the financial system (local exchange and trading systems, or [LETS](#), of which there are over 40 across Canada providing alternatives to mainstream currencies);
- measuring change (the [Canadian Index of Wellbeing](#) measures change in key social and environmental variables); and
- encouraging participation ([Transition Town Peterborough](#), part of a global socioeconomic movement that seeks to build community resiliency in response to peak oil and climate change by securing food, water, energy, culture and wellness).¹⁶⁵



Photo: Seed To Table

Endnotes

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Work

Why is this important?

Toronto does a great job educating skilled residents, and attracts talented, eager (and needed) workers from around the globe. But lack of decent employment prospects for many, especially young workers and immigrants, exacts a high toll on the city, which loses the opportunity to benefit from this talent and commitment, and on individuals and families who experience a myriad of economic, health and social costs while trying to make ends meet.


What are the trends?

Unemployment rates improved somewhat in 2013, but were not back to pre-recession levels (7.5% in 2008). Youth unemployment rates are still high, particularly for youth in Canada less than five years. The number of Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries was lower in 2013 than in 2011.

What's new?

Ontario's minimum wage is set to increase for the first time in four years to \$11 per hour. The percentage of Ontarians however, working at minimum wage more than doubled (to 9%) between 2003 and 2011. For recent immigrants, the percentage jumps to 19% working for minimum wage. The Toronto Region Board of Trade estimates an economic impact of as much as \$2.25B annually from the failure to utilize the skills and experience of immigrants.

Some Key Work Trends ¹⁶⁶	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Unemployment rate (annual average)	9.2%	9.6%	8.8%
2. Youth unemployment rate (15-24 year-olds)	17.2%	20.75%	17.6%
Recent immigrant youth unemployment rate (in Canada less than 5 years) (annual average)	16.3%	29.0%	27%
3. Median hourly wage (unadjusted)	\$20.22 (2012)	\$20.24 (2013)	\$21.18 (2014)
4. Percentage part-time employment (3-month average in June of the year)	16.3% (2012)	19.1% (2013)	17.5% (2014)
5. Number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries (monthly average)	33,343	29,748	28,814

 **The nature of employment is evolving and the standard employment relationship based on full-time, continuous employment, where the worker has access to good wages and benefits, is no longer the predominant form of employment, to the extent it ever was.**

—Law Commission of Ontario

Where is job growth happening in Toronto, and what kinds of jobs are being created?

4,340 new businesses were established in the city in 2013, providing possible places of employment:

- 2013 saw 940 more businesses open in Toronto than in 2012 (but 360 fewer than in 2011).

In The Beaches there were a total of 531 licensed business establishments in 2011, almost the same number as in 2008, when there were 537 (see [Wellbeing Toronto](#) for more detail).

Toronto's importance in the national jobs landscape has been growing since the 2008 financial crisis:

- Almost one in three (28.91%) of all jobs created in Canada between 2010 and 2013 were in the Toronto Region.
- By 2013, the Toronto Region was home to almost half the jobs in Ontario (47.6%) and just under one in five of all the jobs in Canada (18.47%), the highest proportion of the job market since 1987, when comparable data started being kept.¹⁶⁷

Toronto's importance in the national jobs landscape has been growing since the 2008 financial crisis:

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Employment grew in Toronto in 2013, but part-time jobs are growing faster than full-time jobs:

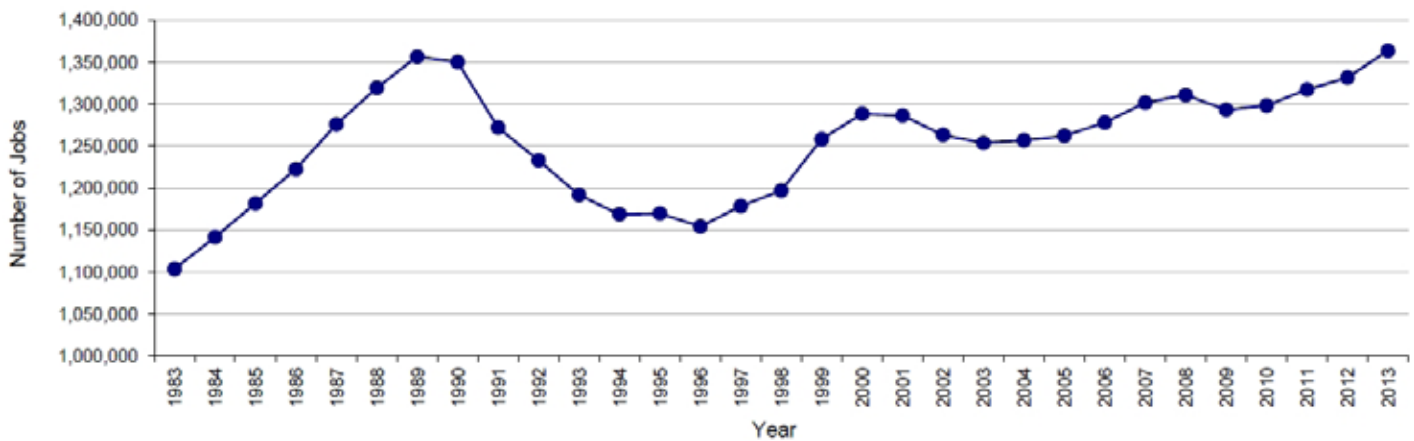
- 1,048,150 Torontonians were employed full-time in 2013 (a 1.9% increase from the previous year), but the city's 315,400 part-time employees represented a 4.2% growth in 2013 in part-time employment. By mid-2014, however, part-time employment was decreasing.
 - o The largest [employment growth](#) occurred in the office sector (18,600 new jobs). This sector represents almost half of all jobs in the city of Toronto (48.2%).
 - o Employment grew by 4.5% in the city's downtown and dense employment centres in North York, Yonge-Eglinton, Scarborough and Etobicoke, with 88% of new jobs (20,980) in the downtown core.¹⁶⁸

In Palmerston-Little Italy, there were 3,262 local jobs in 2011, compared to 3,418 in 2008 (see [Wellbeing Toronto](#) for more detail).

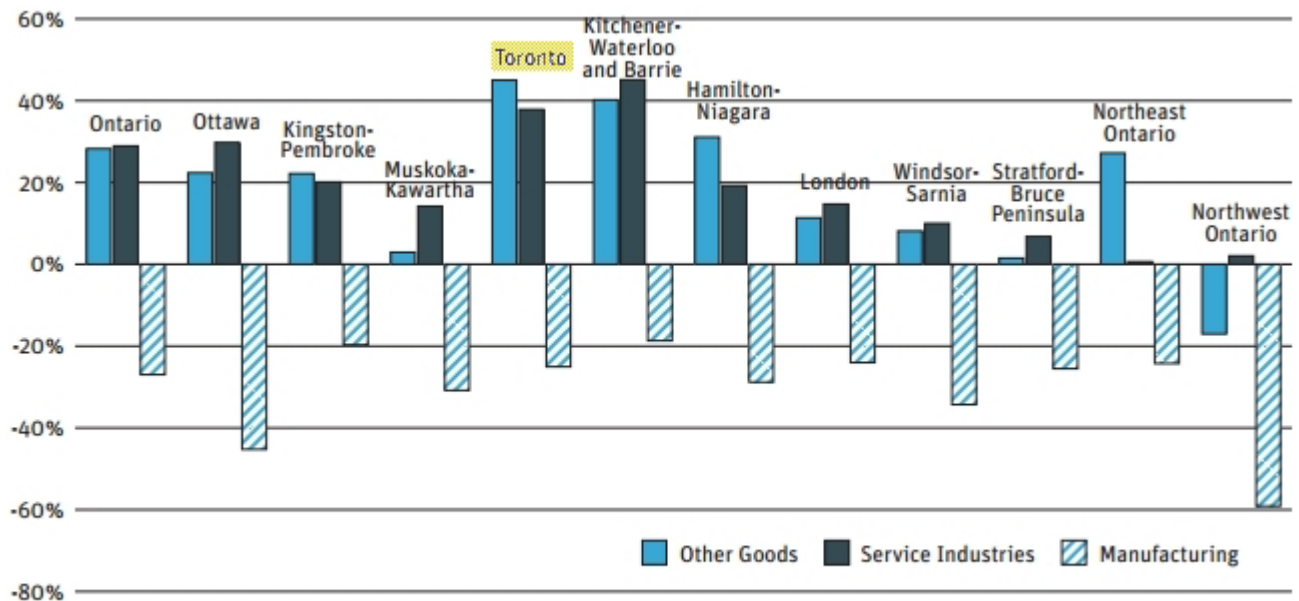
Long-term manufacturing job losses, coupled with the growth of jobs concentrated in the services and precarious work, is creating a seismic shift from secure, middle-income jobs to a prevalence of either high- or low-paid work:

- Growth in Ontario's goods-producing jobs (manufacturing, agriculture; forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas; utilities; and construction) in absolute numbers is eclipsed by growth in the service sector (trade; transportation and warehousing; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing; professional, scientific, and technical services; business, building and other support services; educational services, healthcare and social assistance; information, culture and recreation; accommodation and food services; other services; and public administration).

Total Employment, City of Toronto, 1983 - 2013¹⁶⁹



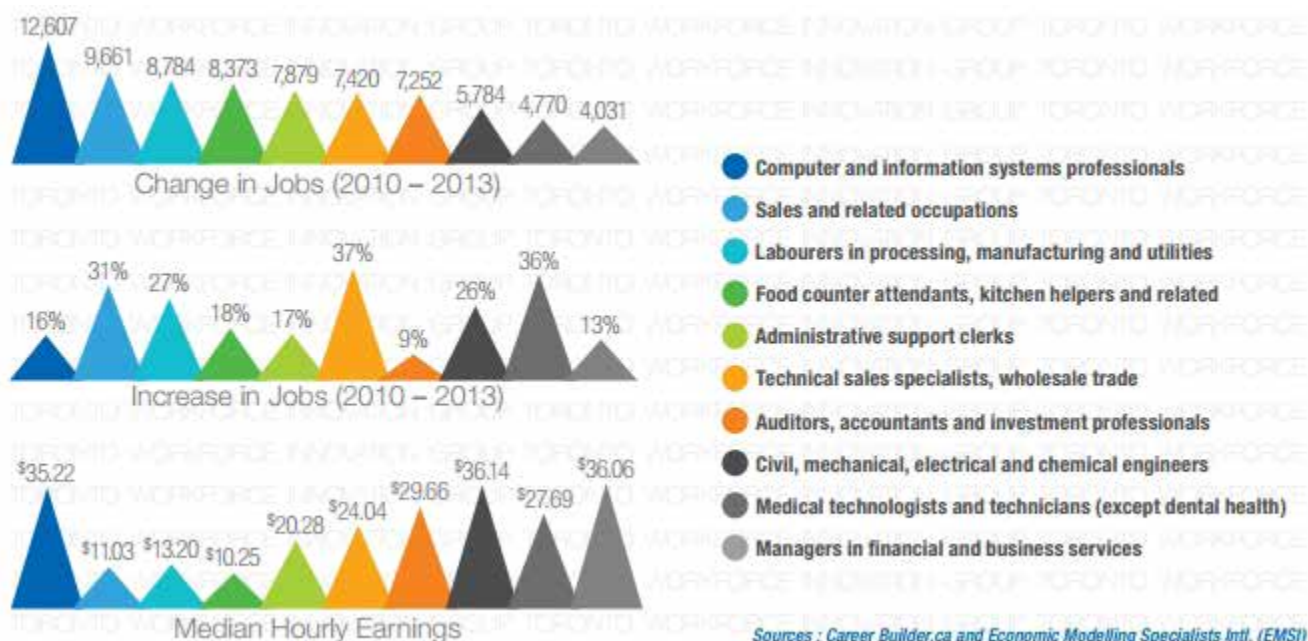
Percent change in Jobs in Selected Industries, Ontario & Economic Regions, 2000-13¹⁷⁰



Source: Author's calculations with data from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0060

- The services producing sector accounted for 79% of all Ontario jobs in 2013, an increase from 73% in 2000.
 - Most of this job growth has been in the health care, social services, finance, insurance, real estate and leasing sectors.
- Construction jobs are the biggest contributor to the growth of jobs in the goods producing sector. Since 2000, the industry has created almost 140,000 jobs in Ontario, 55% of which were in Toronto.
- The manufacturing sector, however, once the bedrock of the province's economy and a source of well-paying jobs, continues to shrink.
 - Toronto lost 22.5% of its manufacturing jobs between 2000 and 2012.¹⁷²
- Almost 65% of the net new jobs created in the province since 2000 have been in the GTA, but 28% of them have been part-time.
- A 2013 United Way Toronto study found that 18.4% of workers in the GTHA had some kind of employment precarity. For workers in Toronto, the figure was 19.4%¹⁷³
- A Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Ontario report says the shift to services-related jobs and precarious (temporary and part-time) work is part of a

“Hot” Jobs in Toronto based on 2010-2013 Growth¹⁷¹



long-term shift in Ontario’s labour market that began in 2000—the beginning of the province’s manufacturing decline, and long before the recession.

- o The report concludes that economic conditions are less favourable than in 2000. The Canadian dollar was low, we were riding on the coat-tails of an expanding American economy, and GDP growth was strong across North America—Ontario had averaged 4.7% GDP growth in the previous four years.¹⁷⁴

A list of “hot” jobs for Toronto highlights growing income polarization:

- CareerBuilder.ca, drawing on data sources including the census, the Labour Force Survey, and the Survey of Employment, Payrolls, and Hours, determined the top 10 hot jobs, or those with the greatest growth in Toronto between 2010 and 2013.

- o The median hourly wage for the fastest growing profession, computer and information systems professional, is \$35.22. (The median hourly wage in Toronto in June 2014 for all professions was \$21.18.)¹⁷⁵
- o However, the wage for the next three jobs on the list—salespeople; labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities; and food counter attendants and kitchen workers—is minimum wage or close to it. These occupations account for more than [one-third of all the job growth](#) in Toronto between 2010 and 2013. Full-time, year-round work (difficult to find in low-paying occupations) translates to maximum yearly earnings of \$26,000 before taxes, compared to \$70,000 a year for the hottest job.
- o Median hourly rates for the remainder of the list range from \$20.28 for administrative workers to \$36.14 for engineers.¹⁷⁶

Who is working in Toronto and who isn’t?

The unemployment rate in the city of Toronto remains high, but it did improve in 2013:

- Toronto’s unemployment rate was 8.8% in 2013, down from 2012, when the rate was 9.6%. However, as of July 2014, the city’s unemployment rate was 10.5%.¹⁷⁷

- The number of Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries in Toronto decreased by 5.7%, comparing December 2013 to an average (across all months) of 28,814, down from 29,748 in 2012.¹⁷⁸

17.2%.¹⁷⁹ In 2006, the rate was 15%¹⁸⁰, and in 2001 it was 11.4%.¹⁸¹

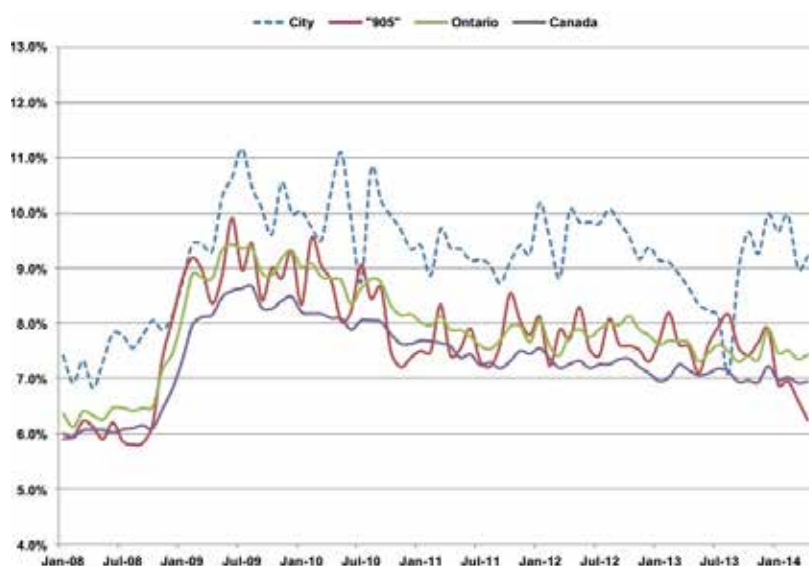
Youth are dropping out of the workforce:

Toronto's youth continue to face poor job prospects:

- After climbing to almost 21%, in 2012, the Toronto youth unemployment rate dropped back to 17.6% in 2013, and remains above the 2011 average of

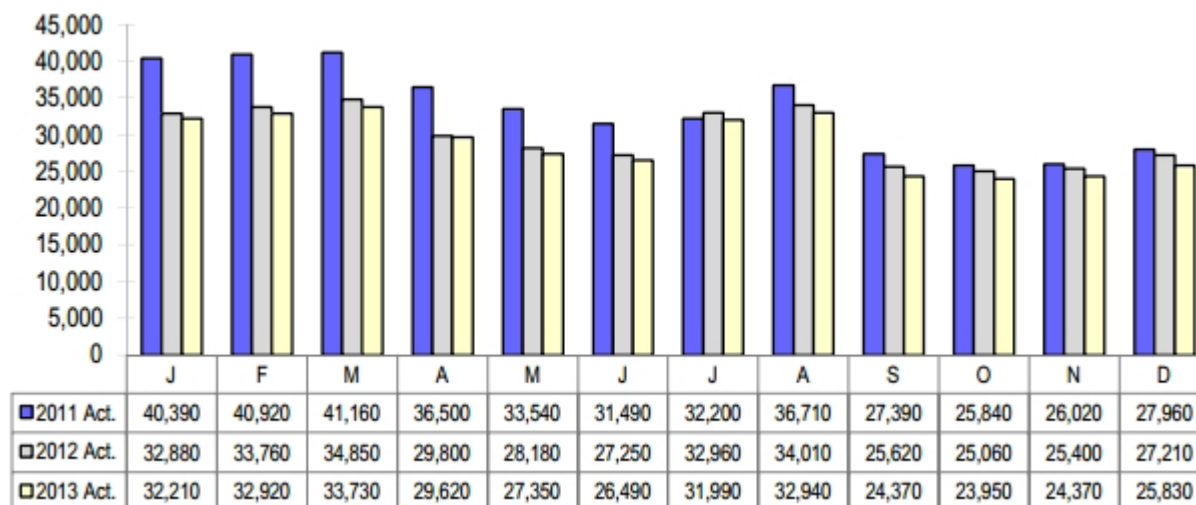
- A Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives [study](#) suggests that the discrepancy between Toronto youth unemployment and employment rates comes from their withdrawal from the labour force. While some may have enrolled in education or training, the employment rate is too low for this to be the only driver, the study says.¹⁸²

Unemployment Rate: January 2008-January 2014¹⁸³



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey (Seasonally Adjusted Monthly).

Employment Insurance Beneficiaries, Monthly Averages, City of Toronto¹⁸⁴



Youth (Aged 15–24) Unemployment in Toronto and Across Canada, 2006 and 2013¹⁸⁵



Youth (Aged 15-24) Unemployment in the city of Toronto, 1987 to 2013¹⁸⁶



- o [Statistics Canada data](#) for September 2013 showing an overall unemployment rate of 6.9%—below 7% for the first time since 2008—acknowledged that the improvement reflected youth dropping out of the job market.¹⁸⁷
- o While youth leaving the workforce in September (the beginning of the school year) may not be surprising, the [numbers](#) are. Even after Statistics Canada's adjustment to remove the effects of seasonal variations, 21,000 more Toronto youth left the labour market in September 2013 than in September 2012.¹⁸⁸

Many youth are not employed, nor in education or training, and the roots of these trends are complex:

- About 10% of youth ages 15-24 in the GTHA, or as many as 83,000 people, were Not in Education, Employment or Training in 2011(or NEET, a Statistics Canada category¹⁸⁹).
- o Many groups are overrepresented in this category, including racialized and newcomer youth, aboriginal youth, youth living in poverty or in conflict with the law, youth in and leaving

care, LGBTQ* youth, and youth with disabilities and special needs.

- o Through extensive consultations with youth on the subject, CivicAction produced a [report](#) that identified common barriers facing this group of youth as well as opportunities to help close the gap between youth who are NEET and those who aren't. Four common barriers facing NEET youth were identified as:
 - Systemic barriers that lead to weakened social networks, such as few mentors or role models;
 - Lack of opportunities to gain meaning experience;
 - Lack of accessible and affordable transportation, and;
 - Racism and structural discrimination.¹⁹⁰

While youth unemployment rates were higher in the 1980s, the Federal Government spent far more money on the problem.

- In a March 2014 submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance studying youth unemployment, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives compares the billions of dollars spent on the Canada Jobs Strategy to the shrinking spending on the [Youth Employment Strategy](#) (which fell by over \$50M between 2010-11 and 2012-13 and is projected to fall a further \$30M by 2015-16).
- The submission recommends that the Federal Government should:
 - o help Canadian youth find the jobs that exist with better information about where jobs are, by industry, level of experience and geography.

(The submission notes that since 2007, use of the low-skill pilot project under the temporary foreign worker program has grown from 13,000 to over 30,000, and the international youth work experience program has more than doubled to over 63,000);

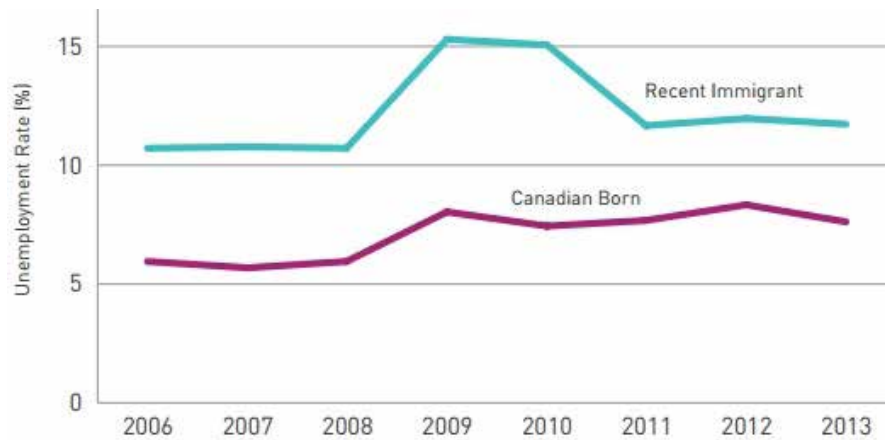
- o offset costs for youth who move to look for work; for student-debt-ridden youth especially, relocating to areas with high job growth is unaffordable;
- o offer employers in low-growth markets a \$10/ hour wage subsidy for the first two months of a young person's employment; this would not only spur private sector job creation but also keep young labour in struggling communities;
- o reserve one-fifth of jobs created by the Building Canada Fund for youth (the submission calls this a "cost-free" move, as the money (\$4B) has already been allocated), and;
- o amend the Canada Labour Code to make unpaid internships illegal.
- The cost of these solutions is estimated at less than \$200M.¹⁹¹

48.7% of the labour force (1,672,200 workers) in the Toronto Region consists of landed immigrants and 1,683,900 (49.10%) were Canadian-born:¹⁹²

- Immigrant unemployment rates continue to be higher in the Region than for workers born in Canada, but the gap has closed considerably. In June of 2014, the rates were 8.4% and 7.9% respectively.¹⁹⁴

Photo: Laura Brown





Note: "Recent" immigrants have been in Canada for less than 10 years.

Source: Prepared from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2013)-Special Tabulation and provided by the City of Toronto, Economic Development and Culture Division

Unemployment was a more likely prospect for recent immigrants in the Toronto Region in 2013 than those who had been in the country longer than 10 years:

- On average, 8.6% of all immigrants in the Region were unemployed in 2013, but for those entering the country within the previous five years, the figure was 14.4% (compared to only 7.4% for those in Canada ten years or more).¹⁹⁵
- The unemployment rate for city of Toronto recent immigrant youth (15-24 year-olds in Canada less than 5 years) is dismal at 27% in 2013, down only slightly from a high of 29% in 2012.¹⁹⁶

New immigrants' lack of access to job opportunities in the Toronto Region's labour market is costly, not only for the job seekers themselves, but also for the whole economy:

- The Toronto Board of Trade estimates that failing to recognize the qualifications and experience of immigrants alone costs the region approximately \$1.5 B to \$2.25B a year.
- These figures do not include social assistance costs or government investment in initiatives to help new immigrants and youth find jobs. The GTA has many such initiatives, yet youth unemployment is much

higher than it is across Canada, and unemployment rates are higher, and incomes lower, for immigrants than Canadian-born workers. At the same time, some employers are having difficulty recruiting workers.¹⁹⁷

- To respond to these challenges, the Mowat Centre [researched](#) successful models not only of programs and services but also of relationships and collaboration.
 - The Centre proposes a collective impact model with five key elements: a common agenda, mutually reinforcing activities, agreed-upon metrics, continuous communication, and a "backbone" organization to support the coordination of a collective initiative to tackle untapped human capital.¹⁹⁸

The number of temporary foreign workers in Toronto increased by 137% between 2006 and 2012 (from 27,083 to 64,284):

- In 2012, there were 338,213 temporary foreign workers (TFWs) in Canada, more than double the 160,819 economic immigrants granted permanent status that year.
- Throughout 2012, the number of TFWs entering the country continued to rise, with a year-over-year increase of nearly 5% during the first two quarters of 2013.

- These growth patterns are replicated at the provincial and municipal levels. The majority of TFWs in Ontario are employed in Toronto.
- A recent Metcalf Foundation [report](#) examines how Ontario regulates transnational recruitment and analyzes whether the existing legal model can adequately protect low-wage TFWs against exploitation.
- Mapping out workers' experiences with third-

party, for-profit labour recruiters and analyzing how abusive practices resonate throughout the labour migration cycle, the report concludes that our complaint-based laws fail to provide effective protection or enable workers to enforce their rights.

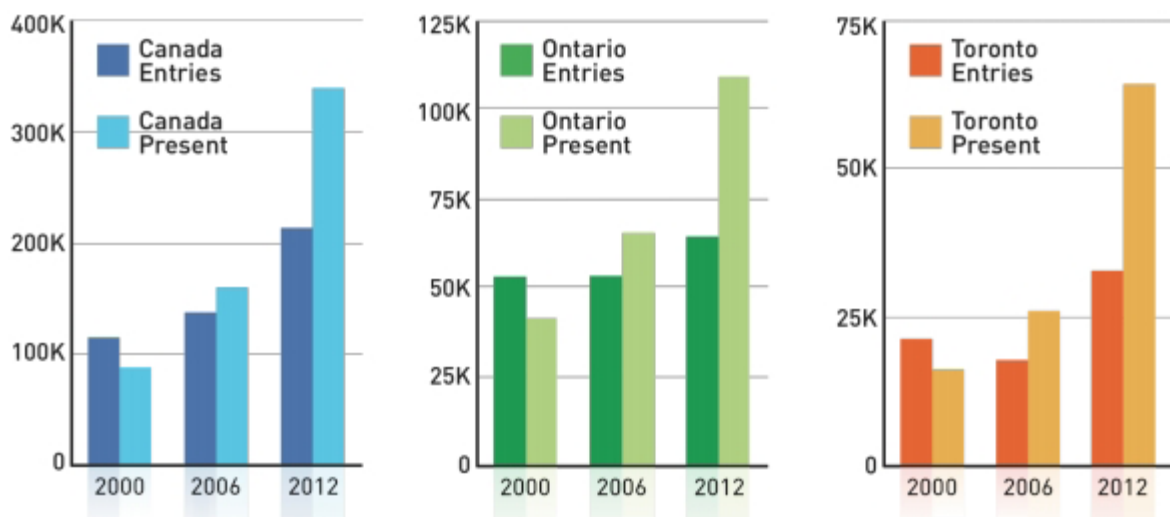
- o Some of the patterns that emerged in the research "may well be consistent with findings of forced labour and human trafficking".¹⁹⁹

How do Toronto's vulnerable workers fare in an environment of increasing low-wage work?

Ontario's minimum wage is being increased:

- Ontario will join Nunavut in having the highest minimum wage in Canada, \$11 an hour. The change is set to take effect as of October 1, 2015.
- o The [Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act](#) was introduced July 2014 and is expected to pass in Fall 2014. It will further protect vulnerable workers by:
 - Eliminating the \$10,000 cap on the recovery of unpaid wages and increasing the period of recovery from six and 12 months to two years;
 - Prohibiting employers from charging fees and seizing personal documents like passports from temporary foreign workers; and
 - Making temporary help agencies and their clients liable for certain employment standards violations, helping to decrease the number of companies that hire individuals solely to work in unsafe conditions.²⁰⁰
- Tying future minimum wage increases to the Consumer Price Index;

TFW Entries and Present in Canada, Ontario & Toronto, 2000-2012²⁰¹



An innovative and voluntary firm-level certification system that organizations can use to demonstrate their commitment to fair wage standards has been developed:



- The [Wagemark Foundation](#) administers the [Wagemark Standard](#) and [Global Registry](#), and funds original research and events aimed at widening the conversation on responsible wage practices. Organizations adopt Wagemark certification to publicly demonstrate their commitment to paying competitive, responsible and sustainable wages. The goal of the Wagemark certification is to boost morale and improve organizational transparency concerning compensation practices. The registry is open to any organization with a wage ratio between their highest and lowest earners of 8:1 or lower.

- o There are 23 certified participants from Toronto from sectors including food services, non-profit, media and entertainment, education, and others.²⁰²

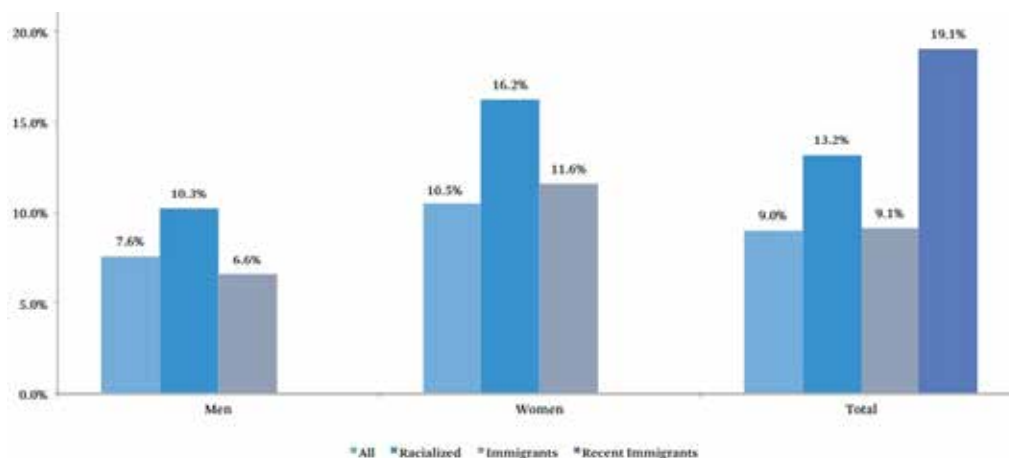
While more and more Ontarians are working for minimum wage, minimum wage work is not distributed equally across demographic groups:

- A Wellesley Institute [report](#) (based on data from Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics between 2003 and 2011) finds the

share of employees working for minimum wage in Ontario more than doubled, from 4.3% to 9%.

- Among all employees, a larger percentage of women than men worked at minimum wage throughout the period, but the percentage working at minimum wage has increased at a similar pace for both sexes. Among employees aged 25-54, the percentage of women earning minimum wage rose more sharply than that of men.
- Many more youth earned minimum wage throughout the period, and the percentage increased sharply after 2008, to 31.5% by 2011, compared to 4.1% of workers aged 25-54.
- Almost 40% of employees working for minimum wage (183,000 Ontarians) were 25 or older. When the lens is shifted to low wages (between the minimum wage, \$10.25, and \$14.25 per hour), 61% of employees were 25 or older.
- While the percentage of adults at minimum wage more than doubled between 2003 and 2011, the pace of increase was even faster for racialized and immigrant adults:
 - o The percentage of racialized employees at minimum wage (13.2%) is 47% higher than for the total population (9% of whom earn minimum wage).
 - o 19.1% of recent immigrants are working at minimum wage, more than twice that of all employees.²⁰³

Shares of Employees at Minimum Wage in Ontario in 2011²⁰⁴



Futurpreneur supports the entrepreneurial spirit of aspiring young business owners through pre-launch coaching, financing, mentoring, and business support:



- Established in 1996 as the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, [Futurpreneur Canada](#) has invested in more than 6,570 young (ages 18 to 39) and emerging Canadian entrepreneurs, whose businesses have created over 26,000 new jobs, \$191 million in tax revenue and hundreds of millions of dollars in sales and export revenue. Futurpreneur Canada delivers its program coast-to-coast through a network of 250 community partners and more than 2,800 volunteers including business mentors.
- An April 2014 study of young Canadian entrepreneurs found that two of the greatest opportunities for expanding youth enterprise are helping young people overcome their fear of entrepreneurship (43% of respondents feared business failure and 41% were concerned about debt) and improving financing (40% had trouble finding start-up financing, and 34% had trouble funding growth stages).²⁰⁵

Women, especially older and younger women, have lost considerable ground in the workforce since the recession and are coping with low wages, precarious work and precarious futures:

- A [study](#) produced by several unions including [Unifor](#) and the [Canadian Union of Public Employees](#) found that women were hit hard by the recession.
 - Older women expressed frustration and despair at feeling no longer valued in spite of their skill, maturity and experience.
 - Younger women are frustrated at being stuck in short-term contract and temporary jobs after

spending years getting educated.

- Women are “de-skilled” by precarious employment. Shifting sectors and job classifications to find work makes it increasingly difficult to classify women by occupation or even sector.
- Recommendations include lifting barriers to women organizing, protecting workers’ rights in precarious employment—by increasing the minimum wage to \$14 an hour, for example—and improving social infrastructures and supports that help women juggle work and family, such as childcare, accessible and affordable transit, health care, library services and community and recreation centres.
- The report also calls on government, employers and unions to develop a strategy and standards for the personal support work sector, a “job ghetto” for women, especially racialized and immigrant women, in order to end exploitation for workers and improve the quality of care for seniors.²⁰⁶

The pay gap between genders is growing:

- Last year, the Ontario Equal Pay Coalition and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives began tracking Equal Pay Day and the pay gap between men and women in Ontario.
- Equal Pay Day—the date that symbolizes the time a woman would need to work into the new year to make what a man earned the previous year—fell a week later in 2014 (April 16) than in 2013 (April 9).
- And the gap between women’s and men’s pay in the province grew in 2011 to 31.5%, a CCPA-[Ontario report](#) notes.
 - That means a woman makes 68.5 cents for every man’s dollar.
 - Over the course of a career, a woman would have to work 14 years longer to make what a man earned by age 65.

- o The gap is even higher for racialized women, immigrant women, Aboriginal women, and women with disabilities.
- The segregation of women into minimum-wage and lower-paying occupations and the increase in part-time work are factors in the widening gender pay gap.
- The report notes that while closing the gender gap requires action from all levels of government, it is municipal governments that are most closely connected to community and can initiate roundtables or plans to galvanize broad-based action.



o Boston has asked employers to sign a [Women's Compact](#) and pledge to pay equal wages. [London, Ontario](#), was the first Canadian municipality to adopt the UN Women and UN Global Compact's [Women's Empowerment Principles](#), which include equal pay and flexible work options for women with families.²⁰⁷

The following groups are addressing issues relating to work through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Alzheimer Society of Toronto](#) - Alleviating personal and social consequences of dementia

[Buddies in Bad Times Theatre](#) – Developing and presenting artists’ voices in the LGBTQ* community

[Common Ground Co-operative](#) - Supporting people with developmental disabilities

[Connect Legal](#) - Promoting entrepreneurship in immigrant communities

[CTI Canadian Training Institute](#) - Enhancing the effectiveness of client services delivered by criminal justice and behavioural health services

[CultureLink Settlement Services](#) - Developing and delivering settlement services to meet the needs of diverse communities

[Daily Bread Food Bank](#) - Fighting to end hunger

[Findhelp Information Services](#) – Providing information and referral services in Ontario and across Canada

[First Work](#) - Helping youth find and keep meaningful employment

[Fred Victor](#) - Providing accessible housing to people experiencing homelessness and poverty

[Frontier College](#) – Provides a wide range of literacy programming

[Interval House](#) - Enabling abused women and children to have access to safe shelter and responsive services

[Learning Enrichment Foundation \(LEF\)](#) – Providing holistic and integrated services in York Region

[Local Food Plus/Land Food People Foundation](#) – Nurturing regional food economies

[New Circles Community Services](#) - Offering volunteer driven services in Toronto’s Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park and Victoria Village

[Newcomer Women’s Services Toronto](#) – Delivering educational and employment opportunities for immigrant women and their children

[Scadding Court Community Centre](#) - Providing opportunities for inclusive recreation, education, and community participation

[Scarborough Arts](#) - Developing programming and cultural initiatives in collaboration with the community

[Serve](#) - Engaging diverse youth in experiential education so that they can achieve their goals

[Sistering: A Women’s Place](#) - Offering emotional and practical supports enabling women to take greater control over their lives

[Skills for Change of Metro Toronto](#) - Learning and training opportunities for immigrants and refugees

[SkyWorks Charitable Foundation](#) – Advocating and participating in social change through community film making

[Springboard](#) – Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[St. Stephen’s Community House](#) – Multi-service programming for newcomer and low-income residents

[Success Beyond Limits Education Program](#) - Improving educational outcomes and providing support to youth in Jane and Finch

[Tropicana Community Services](#) - Providing opportunities to youth, newcomers, and people of Black and Caribbean heritage in Scarborough

[Windfall](#) - Providing new, donated clothing to 64,000 people in the GTA, more than 21,000 of which are children

[WoodGreen](#) – Enhancing self-sufficiency, promoting well-being and reducing poverty

[YWCA Toronto](#) - Transforming the lives of women and girls through programs that promote equality

[Youth Employment Services \(YES\)](#) – Empowering disadvantaged youth through employment services

[Workman Arts Project of Ontario](#) - Developing and supporting artists with mental illness and addiction issues

Endnotes

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Gap Between Rich & Poor

Why is this important?

The healthiest economies are those where the gap between rich and poor is lowest.

Rising income inequality (faster in Canada than in any OECD country other than the US) impacts everyone, as median incomes and income mobility stagnate, poor health outcomes among those with low incomes lead to lost productivity and higher health care costs, and income polarization creates a widening achievement gap in city schools.

What are the trends?

The median family income of low-income families (\$14,630 before taxes in 2012) doesn't come close to supporting a household. The rising cost of nutritious food is out of reach of these households and many rely on area food banks. The number of food bank visitors across the city dropped somewhat in 2013, but is still very high, post-recession, and in areas outside the city core, they are increasing. bankruptcies in 2010).

What's new?

After a six-year decline between 2004 and 2010, Toronto's child poverty rates were on the rise in 2012. Almost 1 in 3 children (17 and under) were living in poverty in 2012. In 14 Toronto communities, the rate was over 40%. Many of these children and their families live in unaffordable, overcrowded and unsafe apartment high-rises in the inner suburbs, and are at some risk of housing vulnerability.

Some Key Trends on the Gap between Rich and Poor ²⁰⁹	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Percentage of children (ages 0-17) living in poverty in Toronto	30% (2006)	27% (2010)	29% (2012)
2. Percentage of seniors living in poverty in the Toronto Region	11.3% (2009)	10.5% (2010)	9.5% (2011)
3. Median total annual family income (before tax) of low-income families in the Toronto Region (based on the Low Income Measure or LIM).	\$13,670 (2010)	\$14,350 (2011)	\$14,630 (2012)
4. Monthly cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four in Toronto	\$748.00	\$762.04	\$792.82
5. Number of visits to Toronto food banks	908,000	946,000	937,500

Canada ranks seventh and leads the G8 countries on a new index meant to move “beyond GDP” in measuring progress:



- Although economic growth has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty worldwide and improved the lives of many more, the 2014 **Social Progress Index** aims to measure not whether a society is rich but whether it is “good”.
- In its second year, the Index measured 132 countries’ outcomes—not spending—on three distinct, though related, dimensions:
 - Does a country provide for its people’s essential needs?
 - Are the building blocks in place for individuals and communities to enhance and sustain wellbeing?
 - Is there opportunity for all individuals to reach their full potential?
- The top three countries in terms of the Index’s three dimensions of social progress are New Zealand, Switzerland, and Iceland.
- Rounding out a distinct “top tier” are a group of Northern European nations (Netherlands is fourth, Norway fifth, Sweden sixth, Finland eighth, and Denmark ninth. Canada is in 7th place, and Australia is in 10th place.
- Canada’s high ranking is due to high scores on opportunity (especially tolerance and inclusion and access to advanced education) and providing for basic human needs (including nutrition and basic medical care). Canada scored poorly, however, on providing access to clean water outside urban areas, and on ecosystem sustainability.²¹⁰

“There is no reason why even one single person should have to experience poverty in Toronto. No child dreams of growing up to be unemployed, homeless, or hungry. All Torontonians have a role to play, and by closing the gap and creating stepping stones out of poverty, together we can make it history.”

—Kevin Lee
Executive Director of Scadding Court Community Centre

Photo: David Suzuki Foundation



How big is the gap in Toronto, between the richest and the rest?

Toronto improved its grade on equality of income distribution, moving up to a “B” in 2013 from a “C” in 2012”:



- The Toronto Region ranked 11th out of 24 global metropolitan centres on the Toronto Region Board of Trade’s 2014 [Scorecard on Prosperity](#) (up from 14th place in 2013), with a score of 0.40 on

the Gini coefficient. (The index measures deviation from perfectly equal income distribution (0) and total inequality (1) where all the wealth is in the hands of one person). Halifax and Montréal ranked just ahead of Toronto, and Vancouver also moved from a C to B ranking, just behind Toronto. Calgary, although just behind Vancouver, retains its C ranking. The 7 US metros on the Scorecard remain at the bottom of the ranking, along with Hong Kong. Barcelona remains in the top 3 (0.35), joined by Milan (0.35) and surpassed by Stockholm (0.33).²¹¹

Toronto has the second biggest gap in Canada between the richest 1% and the rest (Calgary had the biggest):²¹²

- In 2011, the top 1% of individual tax filers in the Toronto Region shared 18.1% of the total declared income.
 - The 68,230 people in the top 1% reported a median income of \$314,500 (up from \$301,200 the previous year), two-thirds of it received in wages and salaries.
 - Toronto is second only to Calgary. Although that city’s median income is lower at \$305,800, the wealth is more concentrated at the top, with the top 1% sharing 26.0% of declared income.²¹³

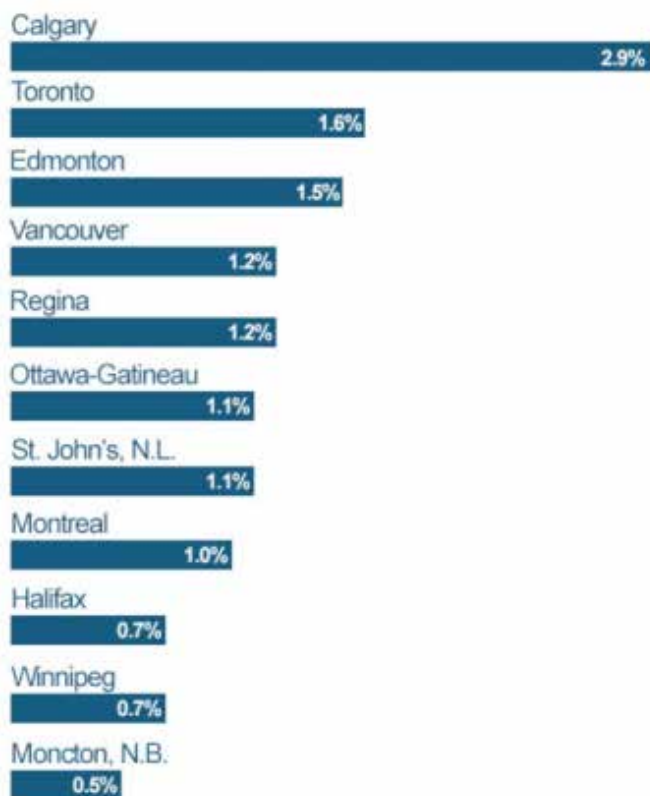
- The average incomes of Toronto’s richest 1% have risen by over 80% since the 1980s—faster than the Canadian rate.²¹⁴
- Increasingly regressive taxation policy at all levels of government has been a significant cause of growing income disparity since the early 1990s when the federal tax-benefit system offset about 70% of inequalities in the market place. That offset is now less than 40%.²¹⁵

2010 data from Statistics Canada’s 2011 National Household Survey analyzed by the National Post shows that Canada’s top 1% earn at least \$191,000 a year, and are most likely middle-aged, white males living in Toronto:

- Canada’s top 1%, who number 272,600, earn at least \$191,000 a year before tax, which is 7 times the national median income of \$29,900.
 - Their average income is \$381,000, or 3 times the average income (\$134,900) of the top 10% and more than 13 times the average income (\$28,000) of the bottom 90%.
- Nearly two-thirds of Canada’s top 1% live in Ontario and Alberta. Ontario is home to 117,615, more than double those in second-ranking Alberta (56,940).
 - Toronto is home to the most of the top 1% in Canadian cities at 73,775, but these individuals account for only 1.6% of Toronto’s population. Calgary is home to the largest proportion of Canada’s top 1% relative to population: 2.9%.
- 80% of Canada’s top 1% are male. More than 60% are aged 45 to 64, with 4.4% under 35. Almost 84% are married or living in a common-law relationship. Previous research from Statistics Canada has shown that the overwhelming majority (90%) are white.

- More than two-thirds have university degrees, (compared to 20.9% of all Canadians aged 15 and up). Nearly all the rest have a certificate or diploma. Only 3% have no post-secondary qualification; this fraction of the 1% actually earns more money on average than those who do. Those who have not even completed high school earn an average of \$405,100, compared to \$387,800 for those with degrees.
- Of the top 1% with a post-secondary qualification, most studied one of three broad fields: business (29.2%), health (14.5%) or engineering (11.4%). Most likely to be in the top 1% were graduates of medical, dental or veterinary programs (more than 25% of graduates of these programs are from the top 1% of earners), and the next likely were law school graduates (7% of whom are part of the top 1%).
- Nearly 90% (87.7%) of the top 1% worked in 5 broad occupation groups: management (38.8%), health (14.3%), business, finance and administration (13.7%), law, community and government services (11%) and natural and applied sciences (9.9%). Comparatively, about half of all Canadians are employed in these 5 occupation groups.
- 5.6% of the top 1% of earners are not employed, but instead live on dividend income, capital gains, interest or rental income, or other private income.
- This is the first time Statistics Canada has reported data on the top 1% (rather than on quintiles as in the previous long-form censuses). Because the data was gathered on a voluntary basis and concerns a small segment of the population, the quality of the data is uncertain.²¹⁶

Canadian Cities by Percentage of Residents in the Top 1% of Earners, 2010:²¹⁷



Source: NHS/Statistics Canada

Are the Province and the City making any progress in reducing poverty?

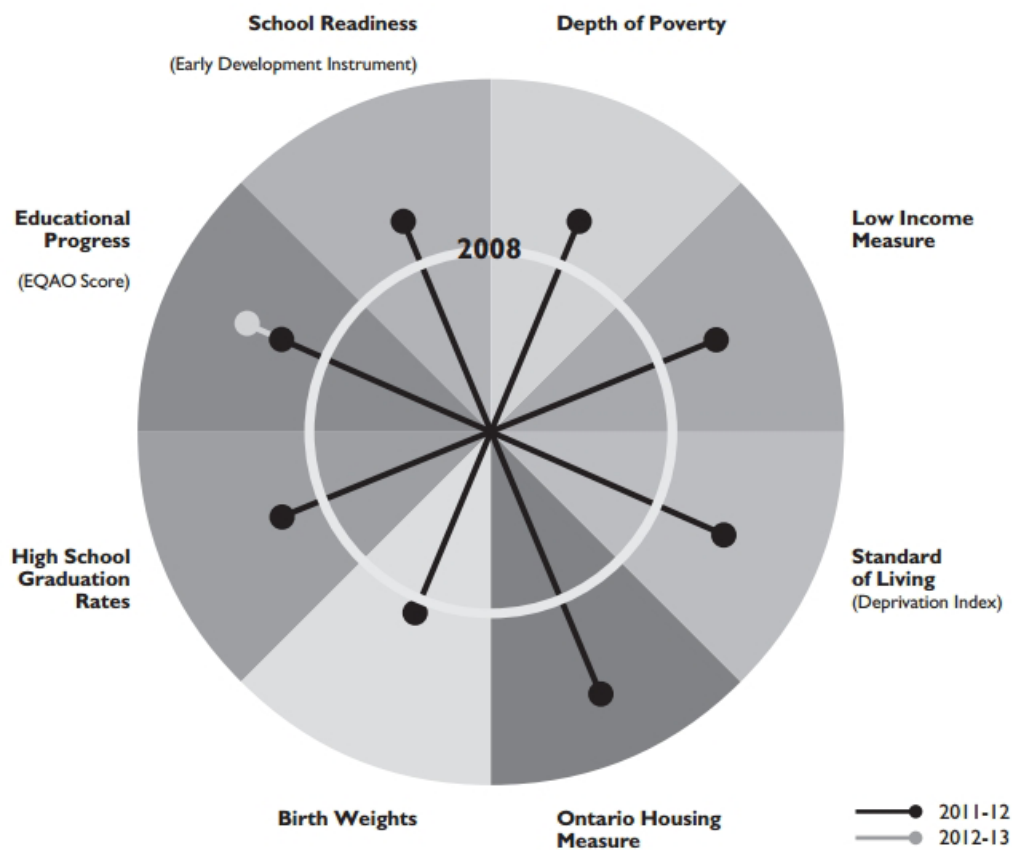
Between 2008 and 2011, the provincial government implemented several new measures to help 47,000 Ontario children and their families achieve a better standard of living, through its strategy to reduce child poverty in Ontario by 25% over five years:

- The number of families below the [Low Income Measure](#) (50% of median family incomes adjusted to consider family needs) decreased 10.5% in the first 3 years of the government's Poverty Reduction

Strategy (from 15.2% to 13.6%).

- Other ways that the Province measures whether it is succeeding include school readiness, high school graduation rates, educational progress (standardized [testing results](#)), birth weights, depth of poverty, and number of households spending more than 40% of income on housing.
- Ontario has made gains in every key indicator since the launch of the strategy.²¹⁸

The Child and Youth Opportunity Wheel*:²¹⁹



Note: The inside circle represents the starting point of each of eight indicators in 2008. The spokes radiating from the centre measure progress over time. The further the spoke is from the inner circle, the greater the improvement.

* Statistics Canada data for income-based indicators lags by 18 months; progress shown is based on data for 2010 and 2011.

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- In 2013, various initiatives were launched and many investments were made :
 - Almost 184,000 four- and five-year-old Ontario children were in full-day kindergarten at approximately 2,600 schools;
 - The Ontario Child Benefit was increased to \$1,310 in July 2014;
 - Investment in provincial student nutrition programs rose by \$3M to \$20.9M;
- The Province is one of the funders of the [Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition \(TPSN\)](#), coordinated by [FoodShare](#), which serves healthy meals and snacks to 144,000 Toronto children through 682 programs in 463 city schools.
 - More than 20,000 children and youth participated in free programs to help them get active, develop healthy eating habits, gain confidence and do better in school, through the Province's [After School Program](#).
 - About 230,000 college and university students received a 30% reduction in post-secondary tuition through the Ontario Tuition grant;
 - 770 new mental health workers were placed in schools, communities and provincial courts, benefiting approximately 35,000 children and youth.
 - A [Youth Jobs Strategy](#) was introduced to create up to 30,000 job opportunities for young people.
 - As part of the Province's [Youth Action Plan](#) (released in 2012), the Province created:

- an annual \$5M [Youth Opportunities Fund](#) to support local community initiatives in high-needs neighbourhoods in the GTA.
- a [strategic framework](#) to guide government decisions related to youth and to help those that work with youth align their efforts toward common, evidence-based outcomes.
- More than \$400M over three years is being invested to implement [changes to social assistance](#) to improve supports and remove barriers to help people find work.
 - Initial steps towards reform include: a \$200 earnings exemption for social assistance recipients, increasing allowable assets, such as a car for employment, and addressing the significant barriers to employment for people with disabilities through the creation of a [Partnership Council on Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities](#).²²⁰
- The Province is expected to introduce its new poverty reduction strategy in the fall of 2014.

Six years after the introduction of the first Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy, the City is developing its own Poverty Reduction Strategy to address Toronto's unique needs:

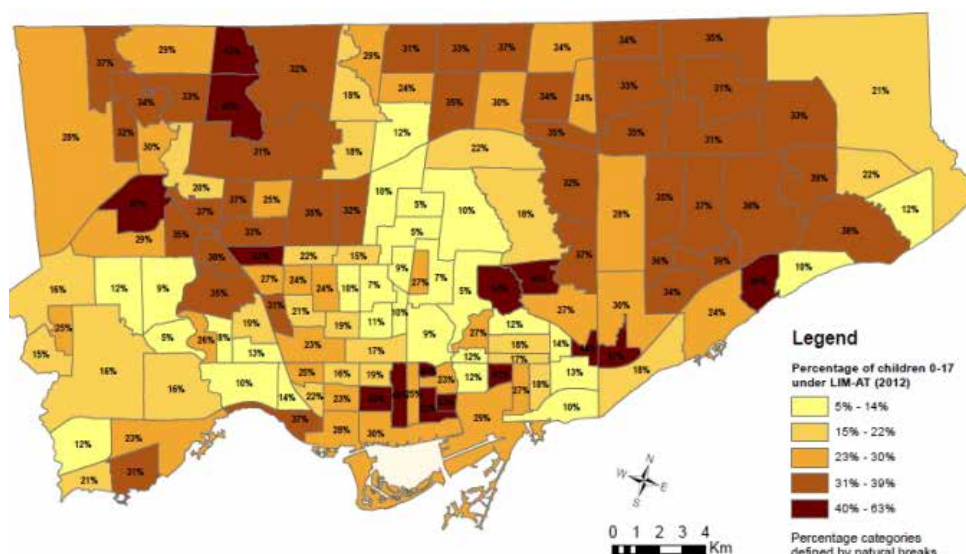
- On April 1, 2014, [Toronto City Council](#) voted to develop in its own poverty reduction strategy in time for the 2015 Budget process.
- The strategy will take off where a 2013 [report](#) from the [Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto](#) and [Social Planning Toronto](#) began in outlining a policy framework to tackle poverty at the City level—a path forward from the historic response of passing responsibility to other levels of government.
- The motion adopted by Council recognized the complexity of the causes of poverty and the interconnectedness of supports needed to combat it, including income security, equitable life opportunities, accessible childcare, stable and affordable housing, fair and equitable access to employment, access to and affordability of transportation, inclusion in social entities such as education, and accessible and affordable public services such as libraries and recreation.
- The strategy will aim to bring together a wide range of City departments and agencies, board, and commissions—from Economic Development and City Planning to Procurement and Police and

EMS—including some that are not traditionally thought of as doing anti-poverty work.²²¹

As the City develops its Poverty Reduction Strategy, analysis of data released by Statistics Canada in July 2014 by a coalition of community activists and social agencies has led some experts to declare “epidemic” levels of child poverty in Toronto:

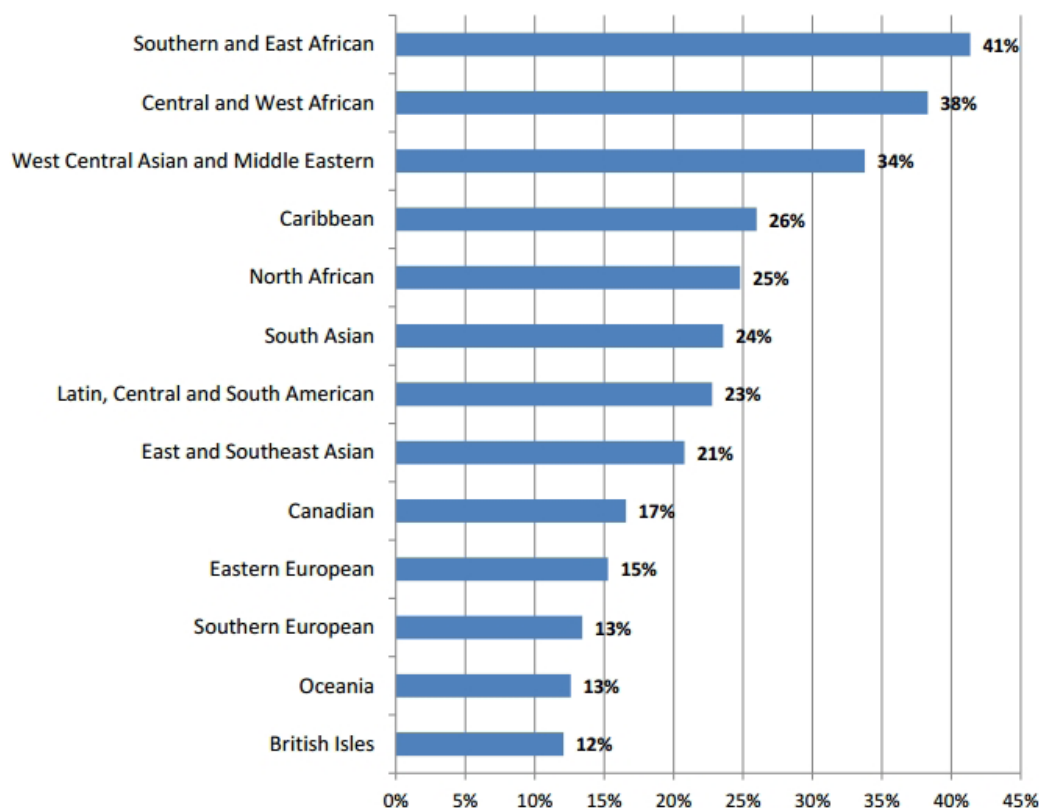
- Median incomes of low-income families in the Region have risen, and social assistance case-loads in Toronto have dropped:
 - The median total annual family income (before tax) of low-income families in the Region (based on the [Low Income Measure](#), or 50% of median family incomes adjusted to consider family needs) increased to \$14,630 in 2012, up 7% from 2010 (\$13,670) and 2% from 2011 (\$14,350).²²²
 - Social assistance case-loads in Toronto numbered 93,207 in December 2013, an 8% decrease (from 101,428) from a year earlier.²²³
- Nonetheless, an examination of 2012 [Statistics Canada Family Data](#) (tax filer data for both couple and lone-parent families) by the [Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto](#), Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change, Ontario [Campaign 2000](#), and [Social Planning Toronto](#) found that Toronto has the highest child poverty rate in the GTA, and shares the highest level of child poverty among Canada’s 13 major cities with [Saint John, NB](#).
 - The analysis used the after-tax low-income measure (LIM-AT) to define low-income families. This measure represents households living on less than half of Toronto’s median household income after taxes. In 2010, the LIM-AT threshold was \$19,460 for a single person, \$27,521 for a single parent and child, and \$38,920 for a family of four. The coalition’s analysis shows that:
 - After declining from 2004 to 2010 (to 27%), Toronto’s child poverty rates are rising again, increasing between 2010 and 2011, and again in 2012. The rate last rose between 1997 and 2004 (when it increased from 28% to 32%).
 - Almost one in three (29%) of Toronto’s children (17 and under) are living below the LIM-AT.
 - One in every 10 of Toronto’s 140 social planning neighbourhoods have child poverty rates of at least 40%, and almost three in 10 have rates of at least 30%.
 - In four neighbourhoods—[Regent Park](#), [Moss Park](#), [Thornccliffe Park](#) and [Oakridge](#)—at least 50% of children are living in poverty.
 - The research also shows that poverty is racialized in Toronto. Residents of African, Asian, Middle Eastern, Caribbean and Latin American background are much more likely to be living on low-incomes.²²⁴
 - The coalition’s analysis is the first detailed look at child poverty in the city since a 2008 Children’s Aid Society of Toronto [report](#) compared Toronto to the rest of the GTA. The coalition will release its full report in the Fall.²²⁷

Percentage of Children (0-17) Living under the LIM-AT in Toronto’s Neighbourhoods, 2012:²²⁵



Source: Statistics Canada, 2012 T1FF Family File Table F-18; Community data Program; City of Toronto; Social Policy Analysis and Research

Percentage of Individuals by Ethnic Origin* Living Below the LIM-AT, Toronto, 2011:²²⁶



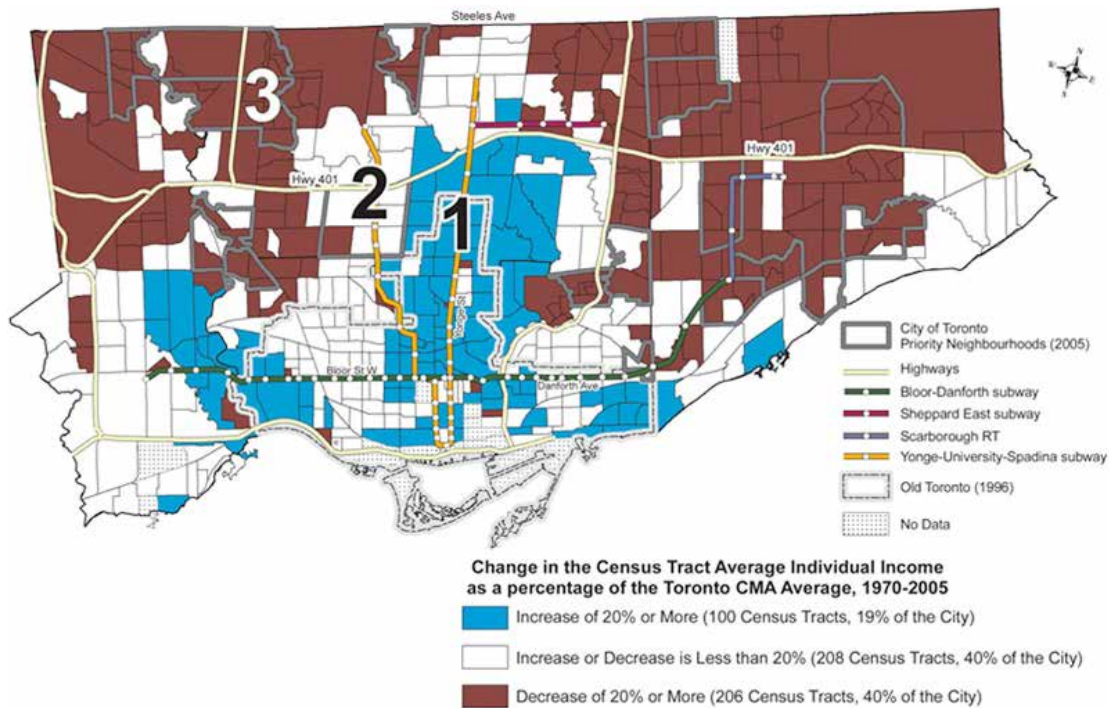
* As defined by Statistics Canada Source: City of Toronto, 2011 NHS

Should we be worried about rising inequality and increasing socio-spatial and ethno-cultural divisions in the city?

An increase in the strength of divisions in the city and the inequality among them means that “if nothing changes,” 60% of the city’s neighbourhoods will be low- or very low-income by 2025:²²⁸

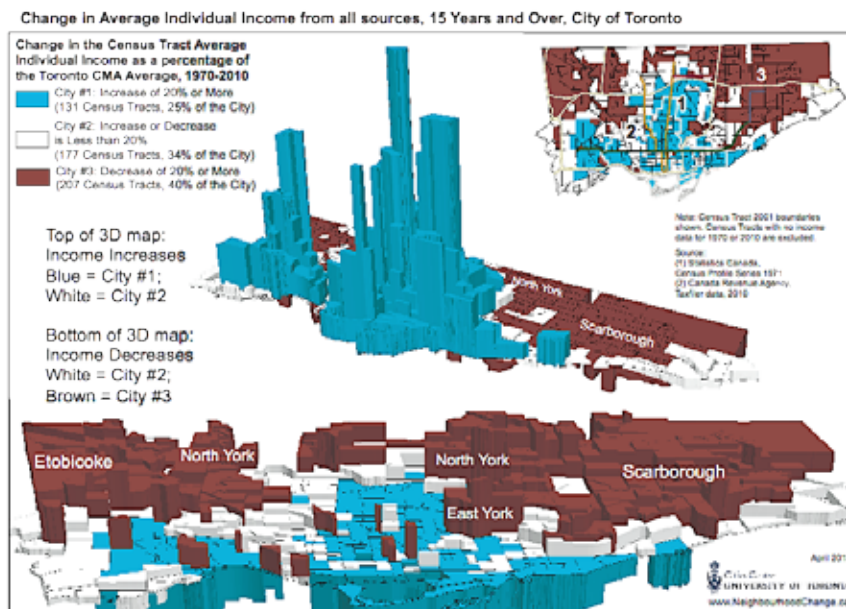
- The work of researchers at the Cities Centre, University of Toronto, in documenting the 40-year pattern of income trends that has created three increasingly unequal “cities” in Toronto has been highlighted in the Toronto’s Vital Signs Report since 2009.
- Since 2012, the research has continued through a new [Neighbourhood Change](#) Research Partnership (NCRP) between the University’s [Factor-Inwentash Faculty](#) of Social Work and the [Cities Centre](#). The researchers continue to examine income inequality and polarization, spatially expressed at the neighbourhood level (using census tracts as the units of analysis).
- The research continues a conversation about neighbourhoods, services, and equity in Toronto that was sparked and framed 35 years ago, in April 1979, with the release of a groundbreaking report from the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto (now [Social Planning Toronto](#)): [Metro Suburbs in Transition](#).
- What was not foreseen in the 1970s was the future social-spatial income polarization of Toronto’s two geographies at the time, the “Central Urban Area” and the “Rapid Growth Suburbs”.
 - In 1970, only 1% of “Rapid Growth Suburbs” census tracts were low- and very-low income; 80% were middle-income.²³¹
 - In 2010, more than 1 million Torontonians lived in low-income neighbourhoods (20% or more below the average income), and only 23% were middle-income. An astonishing 68% were low- and very-low income.²³²
 - The “Central Urban Area,” on the other hand, had 10% very high income census tracts in 1970 and 27% in 2010.

Change in Average Individual Income, Toronto, Relative to the Toronto CMA, 1970-2005 :²²⁹



Average individual incomes from all sources, 15 years and over, by census tracts (2001 boundaries of 527 CTs shown). CTs with no income data for 1970 or 2005 are excluded from the analysis). Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1971, 2006.

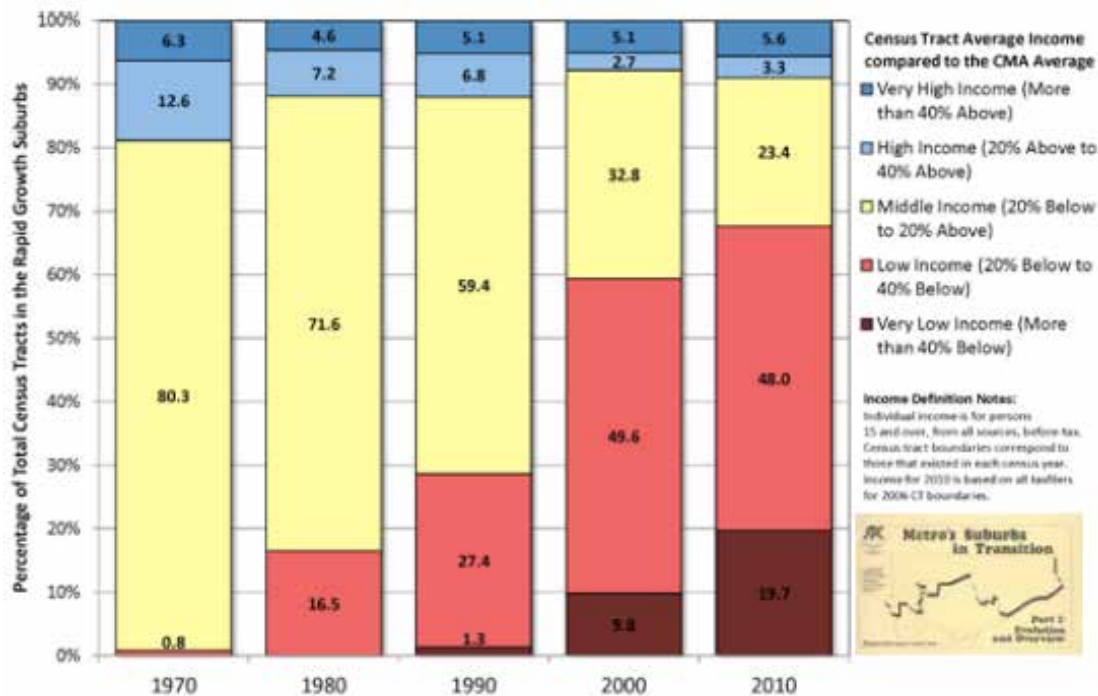
Toronto's Growing Income Gap, Census Tract, 1970-2010 :²³⁰



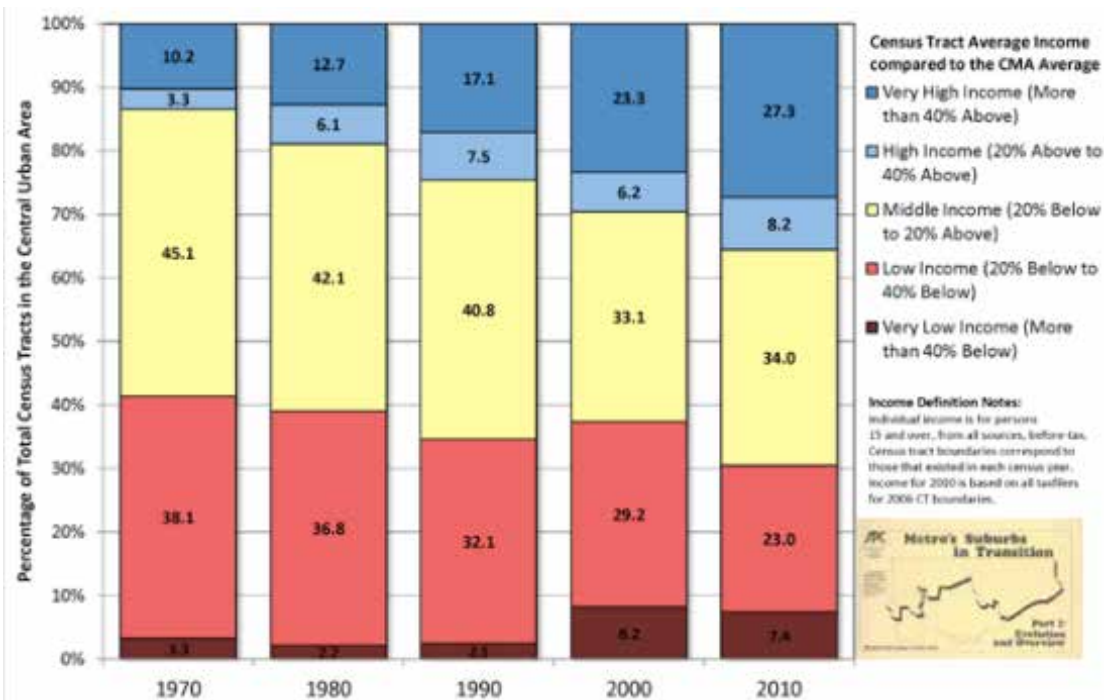
Inequality promotes strategies that are more self-interested, less affiliative, often highly antisocial, more stressful, and likely to give rise to higher levels of violence, poorer community relations, and worse health.”

—Richard Wilkinson,
The Impact of Inequality, 2005

Change in Neighbourhood Income Distribution, "Rapid Growth Suburbs," 1970-2010 :²³³

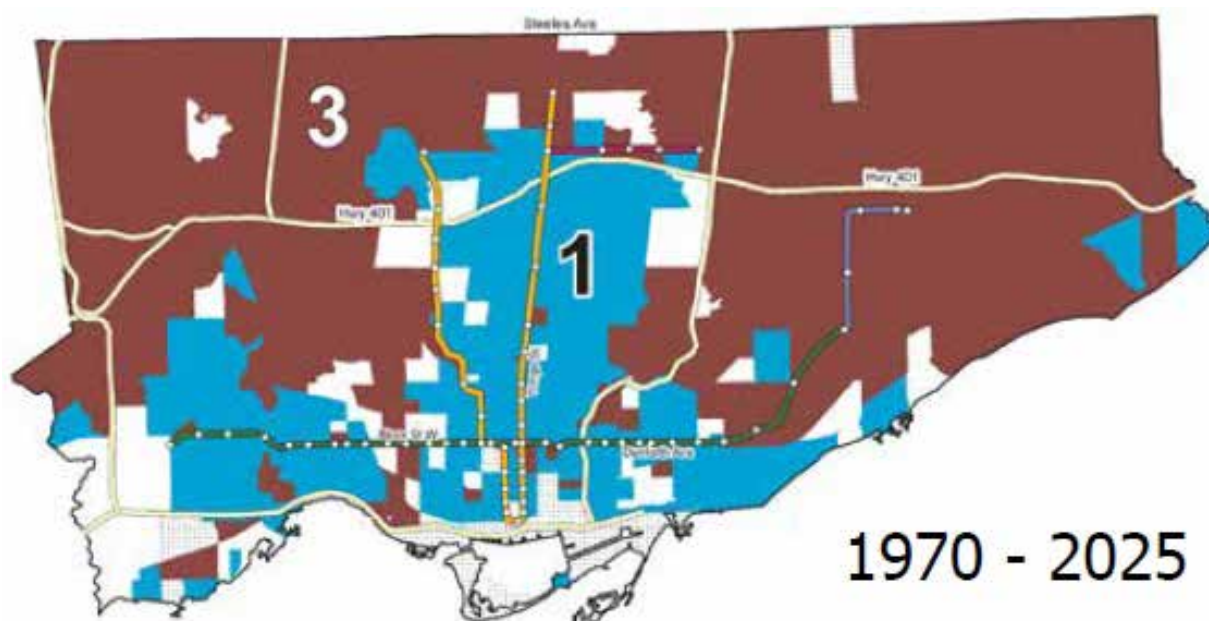


Change in Neighbourhood Income Distribution, "Central Urban Area," 1970-2010 :²³⁴

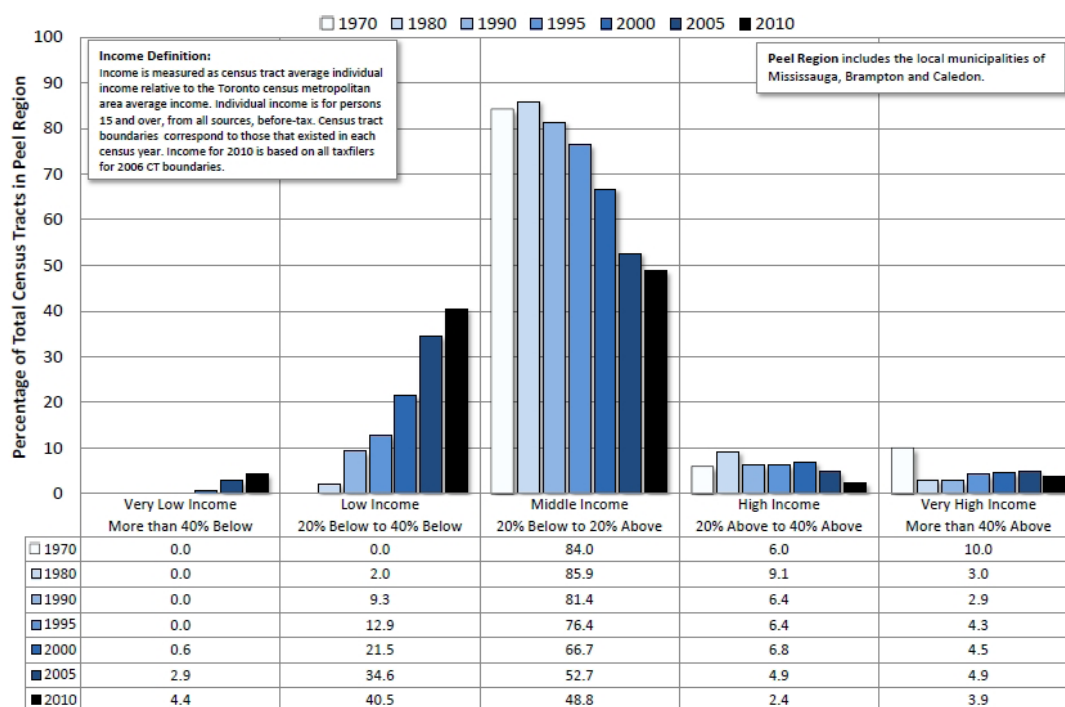


- The researchers warn that if nothing changes, if the trend of income equality and partitioning of urban space and resulting socio-spatial and ethno-cultural divides continues, by 2025:
 - City 1 (Toronto's wealthiest neighbourhoods) will comprise 30% of the city;
 - The poorest, City 3, will comprise 60%; and
 - City 2, the middle-income neighbourhoods, will have almost disappeared.²³⁵
- Neighbouring Peel Region (Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon) shows a similar pattern to the city of Toronto, but with fewer "City 1" and more "City 3" census tracts.
 - 60% of Peel's census tracts are City 3, compared to 40% in Toronto.
 - Only 9% of Peel's census tracts are City 1, compared to 25% in Toronto.²³⁷

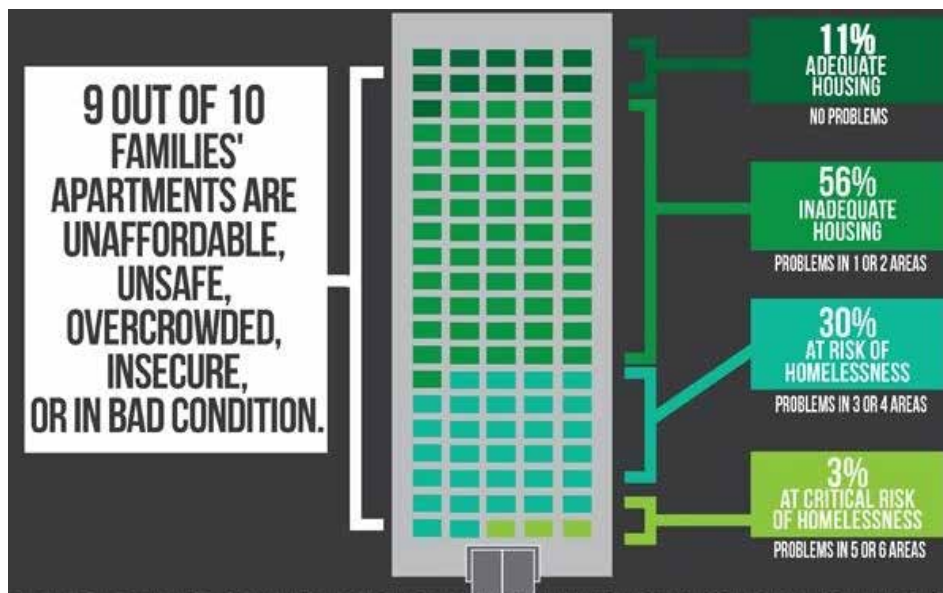
What Toronto's Three Increasingly Distinct "Cities" Could Look Like by 2025 :²³⁶



Change in Neighbourhood Income Distribution in the Regional Municipality of Peel, 1970-2010 :²³⁸



Source: Statistics Canada, Census Tract Profile Series 1971-2006, Canada Revenue Agency Tax Filer Data 2010

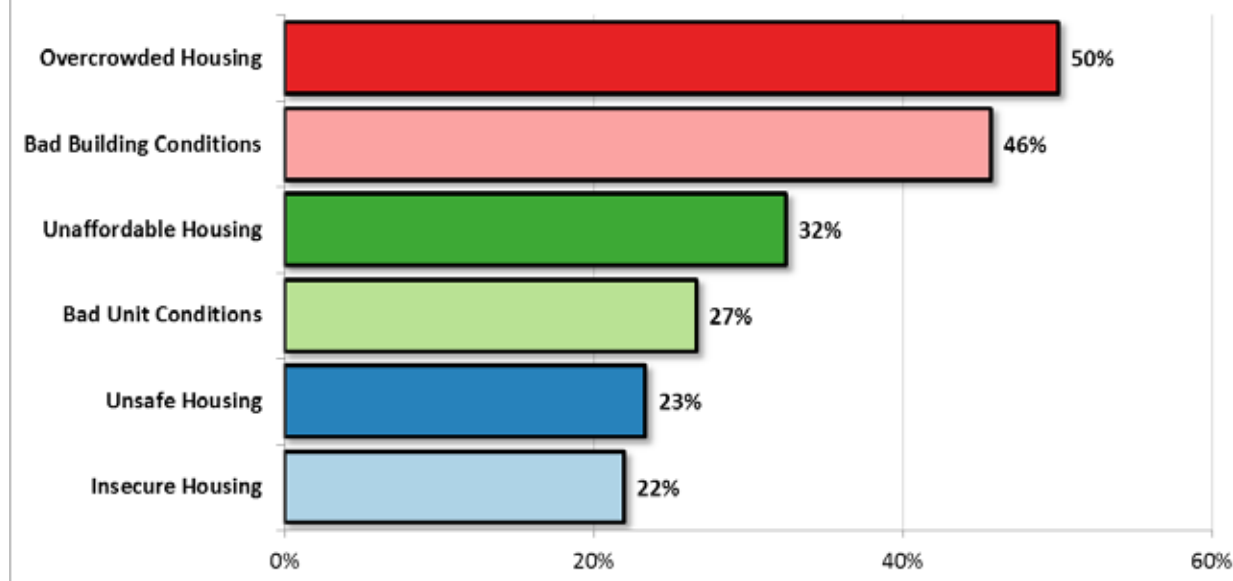


Design: Isaac Coplan

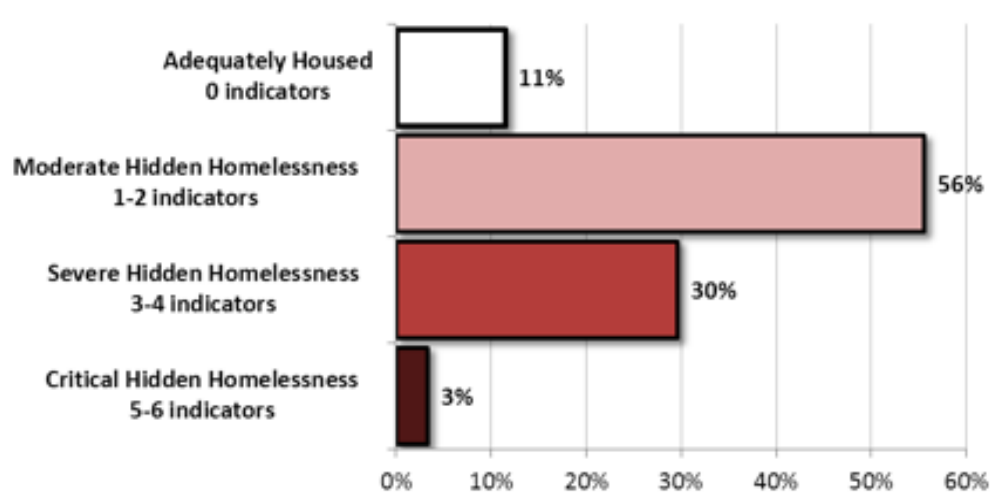
Nine out of 10 families with children living in Toronto's aging high-rise apartment buildings in low-income neighbourhoods are inadequately housed and at some risk of housing vulnerability.

- New [research](#) (funded by the Government of Canada's [Homelessness Partnering Strategy](#)) by the [Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership](#) reveals a crisis of inadequate and unaffordable housing, hidden homelessness, and housing vulnerability among low-income families in the inner suburbs (Toronto's "City 3") and in the downtown neighbourhood of Parkdale.
- Researchers surveyed more than 1,500 parents housed in rental apartment high-rises (both private rental and social housing) built between 1950 and 1979 in low-income areas, and conducted focus groups in neighbourhoods across the city with more than 100 service providers and more than 30 families facing housing problems and homelessness.
 - Conditions in these buildings affect tens of thousands of people, as this apartment stock houses approximately half of Toronto's renter population.
- Six indicators of inadequate housing were examined:
 - unaffordable (50% or more of household income spent on housing);
 - overcrowded (2 or more persons per bedroom, excluding couples and same-gender children);
 - unsafe (changed routines or areas avoided due to concerns);
 - insecure (behind in rent in the past year, risking eviction);
 - bad unit conditions (three or more repairs needed in the past year and not all fixed); and
 - bad building conditions (two or more of: frequent elevator breakdowns, pests and vermin, and/or broken entrance locks).
- The study's indicators describe conditions that are more severe than other measures such as [CMHC's](#) Core Housing Need indicators.
 - For example, other measures of unaffordability use 30% spent on housing as the cutoff, with 50% representing deep deprivation and housing vulnerability.
- Although a family experiencing no indicators is considered adequately housed, there are other factors that were not measured in this study such as violence towards women and children, relationship breakdown, precarious immigration status, and mental health and/or addiction problems, which are also strongly related to family homelessness.
- The presence of even one indicator indicates a serious problem.
- The study results show each of the six indicators affecting between 1 in 5 and 1 in 2 families surveyed.
- The more indicators a family deals with, the more precarious its housing. A family crisis or widespread economic changes can tip the scales towards a family losing their housing.

Frequency of Inadequate Housing Indicators for Families in Rental High-Rises Surveyed, Toronto:²⁴⁰

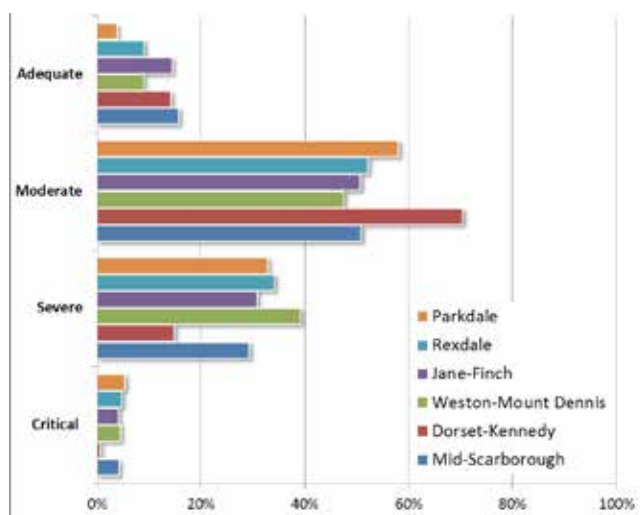


Multiple Indicators and Increased Housing Vulnerability Among Survey Respondents, Toronto:²⁴¹

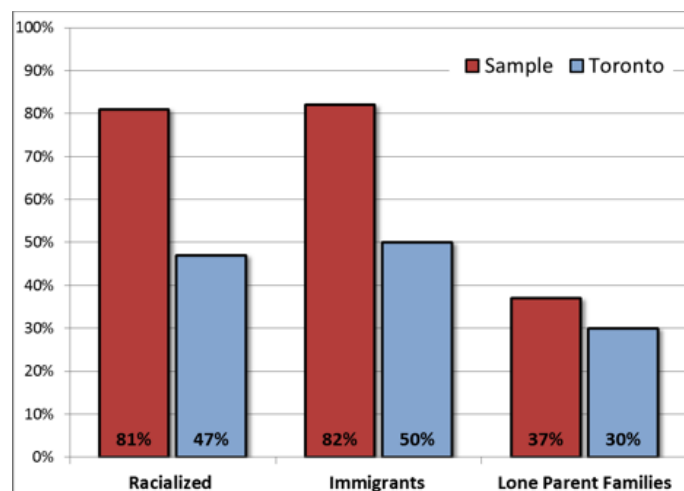


- The vast majority of families who lose their housing do not resort to shelters, but instead double up with another family or with family or friends. This “hidden homelessness” means that the number of families in shelters represents only a fraction of those who are actually homeless.
 - The study found that housing problems were least severe in Dorset-Kennedy; less severe in Thorncliffe-Flemingdon, Mid-Scarborough, and Jane-Finch; more severe in REXdale and Parkdale; and most severe in Weston–Mount Dennis.
 - Racialized, immigrant, and lone-parent (usually female) headed families are over-represented in these aging, deteriorating apartment neighbourhoods.
- o o More than 80% of those surveyed were immigrants, identified as racialized or both, compared to the total population of Toronto, of which only half are immigrants and fewer than half are racialized. 37% of the surveyed families were headed by a lone parent, compared to 30% of all Toronto families.
 - o o Recent immigrants and racialized persons are more likely to live in overcrowded conditions, but less likely than long-term immigrants (and Canadian-born tenants) to face bad building conditions and eviction due to rent arrears.

Severity of housing and homelessness vulnerability by neighbourhood, Toronto:²⁴²



Racialized Persons, Immigrants, & Lone-Parent Families, Sample vs. Toronto:²⁴³



- Neither education nor being employed offers much protection to these families. 56% of the parents surveyed had post-secondary education, and two-thirds reported employment as the family's main source of income. Yet at least 71% of all, and two-thirds of those with post-secondary education, are living below the Low Income Cut Off.
- Inadequate housing and housing vulnerability affects health, wellbeing and children's development:
 - Housing problems were strongly associated with self-reported physical health problems.
 - Those with greater housing vulnerability reported much higher levels of distress (anxiety and depression), which increased dramatically the more severe housing problems were.
 - Parents facing more housing problems were much more likely to report that their unit's conditions adversely affected their children's health and safety.
 - The report recommends a coordinated response at the federal, provincial, and city levels, including four key interventions: a national housing strategy to support the [Housing First](#) initiative; a provincial housing benefit; inclusionary zoning to make new developments include family and affordable housing; and strengthened enforcement of landlord obligations and tenant rights.²⁴⁴

Research shows that poverty is a health issue, affecting physical and mental wellbeing:

- High levels of inequality profoundly affect the

health and wellbeing of all members of a society. Residents in cities with more equal [income distribution](#) are likely to live longer, have less risk of a range of health problems from addiction and mental health issues to obesity, trust one another more, and commit less crime.²⁴⁵

- A growing body of research links inadequate housing and poor physical and mental health.
 - There is a reciprocal relationship between poor mental health and housing vulnerability. Poor housing negatively impacts mental health, yet people experiencing poor mental health face barriers to obtaining adequate housing, including housing discrimination and difficulty sustaining employment.
 - Poor housing conditions and homelessness may be related to lasting effects on children's health, wellbeing, and development.²⁴⁶
- In Ontario:
 - neighbourhoods with the highest level of material deprivation have higher rates of low birth weight babies (60/1,000 births) compared to neighbourhoods with the lowest level (43/1,000 births); and
 - people living in the poorest neighbourhoods report lower positive mental health (66%) compared to those living in the best-off neighbourhoods (78%).
- Increased income security leads to better health. Even modest income growth can have immediate health benefits.²⁴⁷

What does food insecurity look like in Toronto?

Food insecurity is a growing problem in most parts of the country, creating daily hardship and the lifelong risk of diminished physical and mental health:²⁴⁸

- In 2008, 11.3% of the Canadian population was identified as food insecure.²⁴⁹ In 2012 the figure was 12.6%—4 million people, including 1.15 million (1 in 6) children.
 - In 2012, 1 in 5 food insecure households in Canada were severely food insecure. Severe **food insecurity** means:
 - that the food bought for the household runs out and there is no money to buy more;
 - feeling hungry, cutting the size of meals, and/or losing weight, because there isn't enough food;
 - depending on a narrow range of low-cost food items to feed children; and
 - in nearly half of households, not feeding children enough.
 - The primary cause of food insecurity is lack of money to buy food. Not surprisingly, it is strongly linked to household income levels. The majority of food insecure households (62.2%) were reliant on wages or salaries from employment, but food security was also experienced by:
 - 69.5% of households whose primary income source was assistance; and
 - 38.4% of households relying on Employment Insurance or Worker's Compensation;
 - Other groups that experienced food insecurity in 2012 were:
 - 34.3% of lone female-headed households;
 - 29% of households living below the LIM;
 - 28.2% of Aboriginal households; and
 - 26.1% of renter households.²⁵⁰
 - Almost 1 in 10 households in the Toronto Region (9.5%) were food insecure in 2011-12.²⁵¹
- varying ages and sizes. **The Nutritious Food Basket** reflects the lowest prices for 67 basic food items. Processed, prepared and snack foods are excluded, as are household items such as laundry detergent and soap. The actual grocery bill for most households would likely be higher than the estimate, due to costs not reflected in the nutritious food basket:
- the cost of transporting, storing and cooking food;
 - the cost of convenience foods to households that lack the time or skills to plan and prepare meals from scratch; and
 - the added expense for households of one (it is cheaper to buy food in larger quantities).²⁵²
 - More costly beef (up 2.7% from 2012 to 2013), eggs (up 4.8% from 2012 to 2013), bread (up 5.1% from 2012 to 2013), apples (up 14.7% from 2012 to 2013), oranges (up 5.2% from 2012 to 2013), and fresh vegetables (up 5.8% from 2012 to 2013) meant that the almost 1 in 10 food insecure households in Toronto likely ate far fewer healthy foods.²⁵³
 - The major barriers to accessing nutritious food are low incomes and the high cost of housing. The chart below shows the situations facing low-income Toronto households, forced to choose between shelter and healthy food, and funding all of their other daily needs.
 - A one-person household with Ontario Disability Support Program income has negative \$103.50 (i.e. they are \$103.50 in debt) after paying for nutritious food and rent, a 30.8% decrease (from negative \$149.54) from the previous year. For a family of four with Ontario Works as its source of income has negative \$58.82 left—a 51% increase from \$119.04.²⁵⁴

The cost of a Nutritious Food Basket in May 2013 for a family of four in Toronto was \$792.82 per month (a 4% increase since 2012):

- Food insecurity puts families and individuals at higher risk for many poor health outcomes including reported poorer physical and mental health and a range of chronic diseases.
- Boards of Health in Ontario are required to monitor food affordability annually, and calculate the average cost to feed a nutritious diet to households of

East Scarborough's Rouge neighbourhood, Toronto's largest in area and second most populated out of all 140 neighbourhoods, had no community run gardens in 2011 (see **Wellbeing Toronto** for more detail).

Nutritious Food Basket Scenarios, City of Toronto, May 2013:²⁵⁵

	Family of Four, Ontario Works	Family of Four, Minimum Wage Earner (Full-time/ Full-year)	Single Parent Household with 2 Children, Ontario Works	One Person Household, Ontario Works	One Person Household, ODSP
Income	\$2,147.00	2,722.63	1,962.00	690.00	1,170.00
Average rent (may or may not include hydro)	(3 Bdr.) \$1,413.00	(3 Bdr.) 1,413.00	(2 Bdr.) 1,183.00	(Bachelor) 837.00	(1 Bdr.) 1,007.00
Nutritious food	\$792.82	792.82	599.27	266.50	266.50
Total food and rent	\$2,205.82	2,205.82	1,782.27	1,103.50	1,273.50
Funds remaining*	(58.82)	516.81	179.73	(413.50)	(103.50)
% income required for rent**	66%	52%	60%	121%	86%

Prepared by the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) Work Group

* Funds remaining for other basic needs, e.g., telephone, transportation, childcare, household and personal care items, clothing, and school supplies²⁵⁶

** Households must spend 30% or less of their income on housing for it to be considered affordable.

Expenditure of more increases the risk of homelessness.²⁵⁷

- Adding in the cost per month of one transit pass paints an even harsher picture for low-income Torontonians:

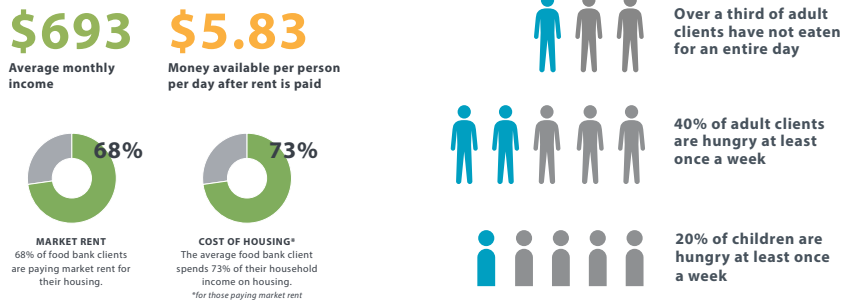
Nutritious Food Basket Scenarios and Metropass Affordability, May 2013:²⁵⁸

	Family of Four, Ontario Works	Family of Four, Minimum Wage Earner (Full-time/ Full-year)	Single Parent Household with 2 Children, Ontario Works	One Person Household, Ontario Works	One Person Household, ODSP
Total food and rent	\$2,205.82	2,205.82	1,782.27	1,103.50	1,273.50
Cost of TTC Metropass	\$133.75	133.75	133.75	133.75	133.75
Funds remaining	(192.57)	383.06	45.98	(547.25)	(237.25)

For the fifth year in a row, GTA food banks have seen over one million visits:

- There were 1,120,000 visitors to GTA food banks between April 2012 and March 2013, down 3,500 from the previous 12 months.
- Toronto residents accounted for 937,500 of those trips, down from almost 950,000 in 2012.²⁵⁹
- But there were likely many more in need who stayed away. One recent study estimated that due to stigma and other factors, only 40% of food insecure households in Toronto make use of a food bank.²⁶⁰
- Compared to five years ago, people accessing food banks are getting older, are more highly educated, and are more likely to be born outside of Canada.
 - 26% were aged 45-64 and 4% were aged 65 and up;
 - 25% were university or college graduates;
 - 50% were born outside Canada;
 - 47% were disabled;
 - 39% had gone without food for an entire day because of lack of money; over half of those (52%) do so almost every month;
 - 20% were children who go hungry at least once a week.
- Torontonians use food banks because they don't have an income that allows them to pay for rent and have enough left over for groceries. For 69%, their primary source of income was social assistance (Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program). Employment is not always, however, a ticket out of hunger. Those who have work are generally in the most precarious of employment situations.
 - The median monthly income of food bank users during the period was \$693, while in 2012 the average rent for a bachelor apartment in the GTA was \$836, and \$1,003 for a one-bedroom apartment.
 - The 68% who were paying market rents were spending an average of three-quarters (73%) of their income on rent.
 - For 23% of users, a member of the household was employed, but the median hourly wage was \$15, and the median number of hours worked weekly was 20. 13% were working for less than minimum wage and 78% had no benefits.
- The median length of time those in the city core use a food bank is two years, and one year for those in the inner suburbs and 905 region.²⁶¹

Who is Going Hungry in the GTA in 2013 and Why:²⁶²

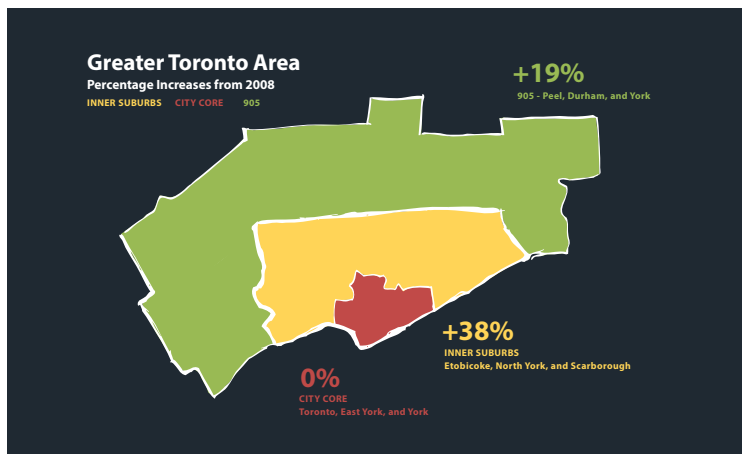


While visits to food banks in the central core of Toronto are now back to pre-recession levels, visits to food banks in the inner suburbs have skyrocketed since 2008:

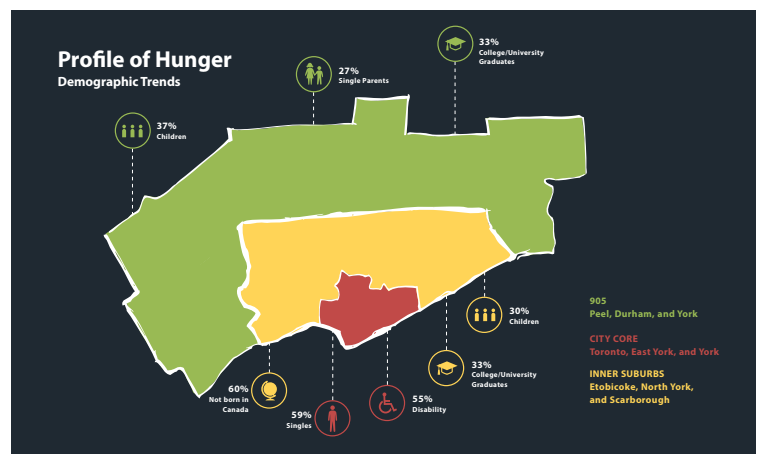
- There has been no reported overall increase in food bank use in the city core (the former municipalities of Toronto, East York and York) since 2008, but visits to food banks in Toronto's inner suburbs (the former municipalities of Scarborough, Etobicoke and North York) have grown by 38% over that time.

- Visitors to food banks in the inner suburbs are more likely to be newcomers (38% have been in Canada less than 5 years, compared to only 28% of food bank users in the city core) and families (48% are single parents or couples, in contrast to food bank users in the city core where 59% are single people and only 32% are single parents or couples).²⁶³

Percentage Increases in GTA Food Bank Visits, 2008-2013:²⁶⁴



Demographics of GTA Food Bank Users in 2013:²⁶⁵



What programs help to bridge the inequality gap in Toronto?

An alternative currency in Parkdale empowers people living on low-incomes to gain new skills and access healthy food:



- The Co-op Cred program is a unique food-security initiative and partnership between the [West End Food Co-op](#), the [Parkdale Activity - Recreation Centre](#), and [Greenest City](#). It is an alternative currency model that facilitates the participation of low-income community members in the healthy and economic benefits of local, organic, and sustainable food. Participants volunteer at community organizations like Greenest City and receive co-op credits in return to spend at places like the West End Food Co-op's [Sorauren Park Farmer's Market](#) while also enabling them to develop employment skills and pay for healthy food regardless of any social assistance restrictions.²⁶⁶

A successful made-in-Toronto program model for helping single moms escape poverty is being replicated in other cities:

- Toronto's [WoodGreen Community Services](#) has been running its unique and widely successful



Homeward Bound program for ten years. Under this long-term job readiness program, participants are provided with affordable housing, free quality child care, training and post-secondary education in a marketable

skill, personal development support, mental health and recreational services for children, and a guaranteed, family-sustaining career opportunity at the end of the program. Since 2004, 176 women have successfully completed the program.

- o In 2014, Home Suite Hope Shared Living Corp., a Halton non-profit housing corporation became the first in Canada to replicate the program. WoodGreen is also talking to potential partners in Peterborough and Brockville as well as the [Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres](#), which is interested in adapting Homeward Bound to help First Nations women in cities across the province.²⁶⁷

Photo: Hospice Toronto



The following groups are addressing issues relating to the gap between rich and poor through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[ACCESS Community Capital Fund](#) - Enabling individuals with economic barriers to realize sustainable self-employment
[Arts for Children and Youth](#) – Hands on, community and school based arts education
[Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders](#) – Leadership skills for underserved teens through sailing
[Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre](#) - Improving the quality of life in the Christie Ossington community.
[Community MicroSkills Development Centre](#) – Assisting the unemployed, with priority to women, racial minorities, immigrants and youth
[Connect Legal](#) - Promoting entrepreneurship in immigrant communities
[COSTI Immigrant Services](#) – Providing educational, social, and employment services to all immigrants
[Covenant House](#) - Serving suffering children of the street
[The Children's Book Bank](#) - Providing free books and literacy support to children in priority neighbourhoods
[Daily Bread Food Bank](#) - Fighting to end hunger
[Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre](#) – Supporting their neighbours
[Dixon Hall](#) - Creating opportunities for people of all ages to dream
[The Dorothy Ley Hospice](#) - Fostering hope and dignity for individuals living with life-limiting illness or loss
[Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club](#) -Providing a safe, supportive place for children and youth
[East York East Toronto Family Resources Organization](#) - Increasing the well-being of individuals and families
[Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre](#) – Serving a low-income, ethnically and socially diverse community
[Elizabeth Fry Toronto](#) - Supporting women have been or are at risk of being in conflict with the law
[Findhelp Information Services](#) – Providing information and referral services in Ontario and across Canada
[FIT Community Services](#) - Friends In Trouble - Bridging the income inequality gap
[FoodShare](#) - Working towards a sustainable and accessible food system
[For Youth Initiative \(FYI\)](#) - creating healthy communities by increasing life-chances of underserved youth
[Fred Victor](#) - Providing accessible housing to people experiencing homelessness and poverty
[Frontier College](#) – Providing a wide range of literacy programming
[FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners](#) - Fostering the creation of sustainable communities
[The Good Neighbours' Club](#) – A safe and welcoming drop-in centre for homeless men aged 50 and over
[Habitat for Humanity Toronto](#) - Mobilizing volunteers to build affordable housing
[Inner City Angels](#) - Bringing imaginative interdisciplinary arts programs to children in Toronto
[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - A gathering place focused on social justice and collaboration

[JUMP Math](#) – Encouraging an understanding and a love of math in students and educators
[Junior Achievement of Central Ontario](#) - Educating young Canadians to understand business and economics
[Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project \(LAMP\)](#) - Partnering with their community to address emerging needs
[Learning Enrichment Foundation \(LEF\)](#) – Providing holistic and integrated services in York Region
[Licensed to Learn Inc.](#) - Empowering children to reach their potential through peer-led tutoring
[Literature for Life](#) – Helping marginalized young moms develop a practice of reading
[LOFT Community Services](#) - Helping people with challenges including mental health and addiction issues
[Macaulay Child Development Centre](#) - Helping all children thrive in caring, responsive families
[The Massey Centre for Women](#) - Striving to achieve healthy outcomes for all young mothers and families
[Mentoring Junior Kids Organization \(MJKO\)](#) - Promoting healthy and active lifestyles for youth
[Merry Go Round Children's Foundation](#) - Enabling financially disadvantaged students to achieve their academic pursuits
[Moorelands Community Services](#) - Providing youth affected by poverty fun experiences to strengthen their confidence
[Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto](#) – Building the collective capacity of Aboriginal women
[Neighbourhood Information Post \(NIP\)](#) - Empowering marginalized and socially isolated people
[New Circles Community Services](#) - Offering volunteer driven services in Toronto's Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park and Victoria Village
[Newcomer Women's Services Toronto](#) – Delivering educational and employment opportunities for immigrant women and their children
[North York Harvest Food Bank](#) - Creating community where all members can meet their food needs
[OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants](#) - Provides integration services to immigrants and refugees
[Pathways to Education Canada](#) - Helps underserved youth graduate from high school and transition to further education
[PEACH: Promoting Education and Community Health](#) – Provides transformative, youth-centred, social and educational programs
[Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario](#) - Champions of childhood cancer care
[Pathways to Education Canada](#) - Helps underserved youth graduate from high school and transition to further education
[Ralph Thornton Centre](#) - Building the potential of the Riverdale community
[The Redwood](#) - Supporting women and their children to live free from domestic abuse
[Renascent Foundation Inc.](#) - Facilitating recovery, education and prevention relating to alcohol and drug addictions
[Scadding Court Community Centre](#) - Providing opportunities for inclusive recreation, education, and community participation
[Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities](#) – Cultivating vital and connected communities
[Seeds of Hope Foundation](#) – Building sustainable communities with resource centres that encourage learning, recovery, and enterprise
[Shakespeare in Action](#) - Enhancing arts and education through exploring and performing Shakespeare

[Sherbourne Health Centre Corporation](#) – Providing healthcare and transformative support to those experiencing systemic barriers

[Sistering: A Women's Place](#) - Offering emotional and practical supports enabling women to take greater control over their lives

[SKETCH Working Arts](#) - An arts initiative for young people who are homeless or living on the margins

[SkyWorks Charitable Foundation](#) – Advocating and participating in social change through community film making

[Small Change Fund](#) - Supporting grassroots projects that contribute to social and environmental change

[Social Planning Toronto](#) - Building a civic society by mobilizing community organizations around specific local issues

[Springboard](#) – Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre](#) - Providing programs and services for seniors and older adults

[St. Stephen's Community House](#) – Multi-service programming for newcomer and low-income residents

[The Stop Community Food Centre](#) - Increasing access to healthy food by building community and challenging inequality

[Teen Legal Helpline](#) - Free and confidential online legal advice for youth

[TIFF](#) - Bringing the power of film to life by providing arts education for all ages and running the world's largest public film festival

[Toronto ACORN](#) - Building community groups in low income areas to establish community campaigns

[Toronto City Mission](#) - Creating lasting change through preventative and transformational programs

[Toronto Foundation for Student Success](#) – Initiating innovative anti-poverty programs for students

[Toronto Lords](#) – A basketball league providing recreation for young women in marginalized communities

[Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs](#) - Providing a safe, supportive place for the young people of Regent Park, Cabbagetown, and Trinity-Bellwoods

[Toronto Public Library Foundation](#) - Providing essential resources for the enhancement of the Toronto Public Library

[Trails Youth Initiatives Inc.](#) - Challenging and equipping youth from the inner city of Toronto

[Vermont Square Parent-Child Mother Goose Program](#) - Fostering parent-child bonding and literacy through a rich oral language experience

[Windfall](#) - Providing new, donated clothing to 64,000 people in the GTA, more than 21,000 of which are children

[WoodGreen](#) – Enhancing self-sufficiency, promoting well-being and reducing poverty

[YMCA of Greater Toronto](#) - Offering opportunities for community involvement and leadership

[Youth Employment Services \(YES\)](#) – Empowering disadvantaged youth through employment services

[YouthLink](#) – Providing a range mental health services to improve the life outcome for youth at risk

[YWCA Toronto](#) - Transforming the lives of women and girls through programs that promote equality

Endnotes

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Housing

Why is this important?

Safe and affordable housing is key to health and wellbeing of Toronto residents. Households must spend 30% or less of their income on housing, for it to be considered affordable. Expenditure of 50% or more greatly increases the risk of homelessness.²⁶⁴

What are the trends?

2013 was not a good year for affordable housing (rental and affordable ownership) after progress in opening new units in 2011 and 2012. Projections for 2014 are low as well,²⁶⁵ jeopardizing the City's commitment to build 1,000 new units annually between 2010 and 2020.²⁶⁶ Meanwhile, the wait list for social housing continues to grow, and more individuals and families crowd the city's shelters.

What's new?

Toronto was downgraded once again on both national and international rankings of housing affordability. And for renters (particularly young ones), the market is increasingly difficult. The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the Toronto Region consumed more than 40% of the average wages of a young person (15-24) working full-time in 2013, up almost 4% from 2009.

Some Key Housing Trends ²⁶⁷	2011-2012	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Average rent (2-bedroom apartment) as a proportion of median annual family income	19.8% (2010)	19.8% (2011)	19.9% (2012)
2. Vacancy rate of rental units (one-bedroom apartments) in the GTA	1.8% (2011)	1.7% (2012)	1.7% (2013)
3. Number of units of affordable housing opened	777 (rental) 156 (affordable ownership)	1,139 (rental) 316 (affordable ownership)	260 (rental) 7 (affordable ownership)
4. Number of households on the active waiting list for social housing (Q4)	69,342	72,696	77,109
5. Emergency shelter use by single people (average number of individuals per night) Emergency shelter use by families (average number of individuals per night)	2,879 (856)	2,952 (925)	3,017 (948)

Everyone deserves access to safe, secure housing they can afford. We all want to be citizens of a great city. To achieve this all residents need opportunities to thrive and participate and that includes a safe place to live.

—Brian Smith
President and CEO, WoodGreen Community Services

What does it cost to call Toronto home?

Toronto remains the second most unaffordable housing market in Canada:

- RBC's [affordability index](#) measures the percentage of pre-tax household income needed to cover home ownership (including mortgage, utilities and property taxes) at current market prices.
- Toronto's affordability index for the first quarter of 2014 was 65.3% (up 2.7 points over 2013's overall rate). Vancouver was up 1.6 points over 2013 to a whopping 86.5% in 2014's first quarter.
- Home ownership is becoming increasingly out of reach for most in Canada. It takes almost half of a household's income to afford a two-storey home:
 - Nationally, the index deteriorated in the first quarter of 2014 (for the third time in four quarters) by 0.3 points to 49.0%. Condos, on the other hand, fell 0.1 points to 27.9%.
 - Ontario's affordability index of 51.0% for a two-storey home represented a 24-year high.²⁶⁸

The Toronto Region still ranks as "severely" unaffordable according to an annual, international housing affordability survey—Toronto's rating this year is its worst ever:

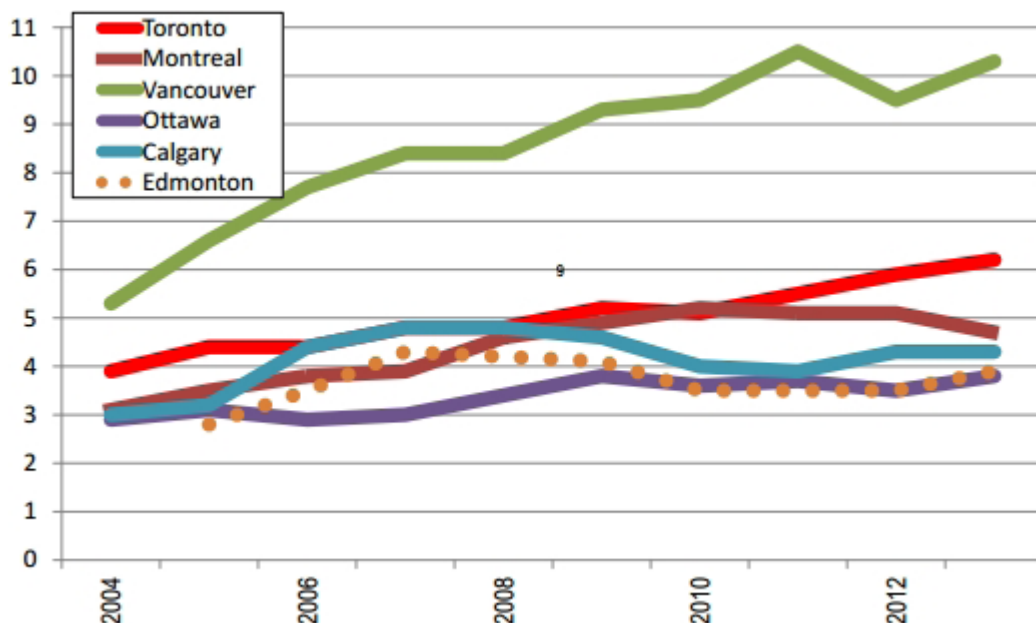


- [Demographia's](#) survey of 360 markets in Canada, the US, UK, Ireland, Australia, NZ, Japan, Singapore, and Hong Kong downgraded Toronto's ranking again this year, from 5.9 to 6.2 (3.0 or less is considered affordable).

- The measure of median housing prices against median household income keeps Toronto near the top of the list (in 15th place) of the most unaffordable markets worldwide. Vancouver remains in second place after least affordable Hong Kong.²⁶⁹

An OECD [report](#) on the Canadian economy warns of trouble from home prices and rents that are increasingly out of reach for too many, particularly in Vancouver and Toronto Regions:

- A shortage of rental housing, especially in the range that is affordable to low-income households, and overbuilding in the condominium sector are cited as risks for Toronto.
- To prevent the marginalization of low-income households, the report says that planning policies should support mixed-income housing and increase incentives for private-sector development of affordable housing.²⁷⁰



Housing Affordability Trend in Canada's major markets, 2004-2013²⁷¹

The Toronto area was the only market in Canada that saw deterioration (albeit mild) in affordability at the end of 2013 in all housing markets. A standard two-storey home required a qualifying household income of more than \$139,400:

- The average price of a standard (1,500 square-foot) 2-storey house in the Region was \$ 691,300 at the end of 2013, meaning that 65.3% of a household's average income would be spent on housing.²⁷²

Home sales in Toronto remained below 2010 levels as the average price of a home topped half a million dollars:

- In December 2013, the average price for a home in Toronto was \$541,771, an increase of 9.6% from December 2012. Total sales numbered 33,143, compared to 33,414 in 2012, and 36,771 in 2011.²⁷³

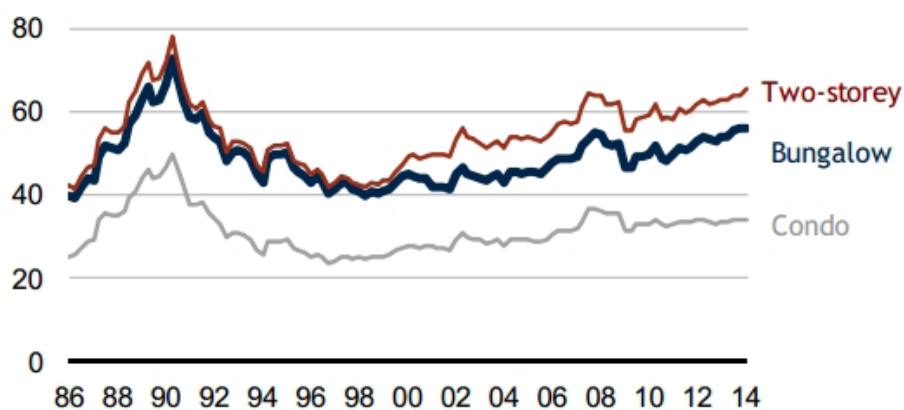
Condo sales increased by 9% in the first quarter of 2014, compared to the same period a year before:

- In the first quarter of 2014, 4,454 units sold at an average price of \$351,213, up 5.6% from the average price of 332,431 in Q1 2013, when 4,085 units sold.²⁷⁴

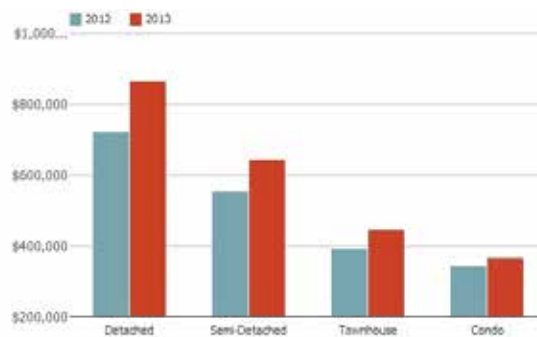
The vacancy rate for purpose-built one-bedroom rental apartments in the GTA was 1.7% in 2013, the same as in 2012, and just below 2011's rate of 1.8%.²⁷⁵

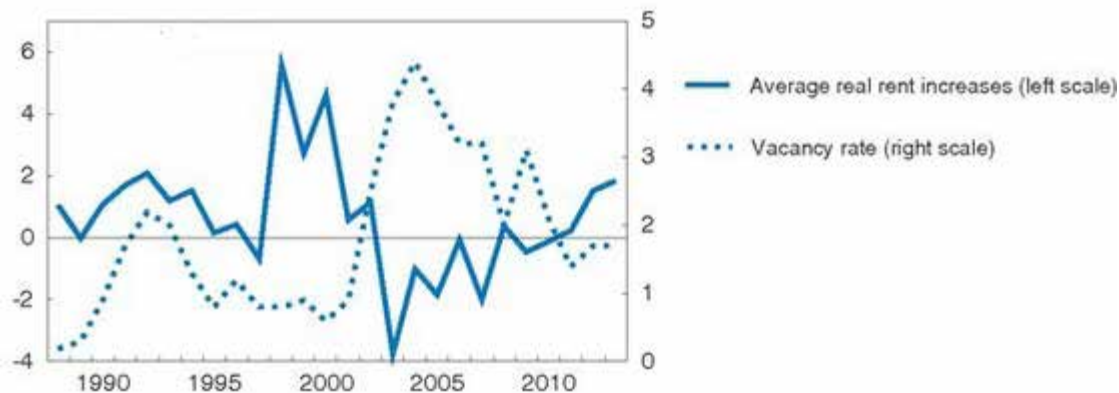
- Vacancy rates that fall consistently below 3% are generally linked to increases in rental rates.²⁷⁶

Ownership Costs as a Percentage of Household Income, Toronto Region, 1986-2014²⁷⁷



Average December 2013 Home & Condo Prices in the 416 Region²⁷⁸





Average of Real Rent Increases and Vacancy Rates, Toronto²⁷⁹

Toronto rents continue to rise:

- At \$1,134, Toronto had the second highest average monthly rent (across all apartment sizes) in the GTA in 2013 (Halton had the highest at \$1,142). The average increase in rents was 3.1%.²⁸⁰
 - The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the Toronto Region in 2013 took up 40.6% of the average wages of a fully employed youth (aged 15-24), up 3.8% from 39.1% in 2009.²⁸¹
 - The average market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Toronto in 2013 was \$1,225.²⁸² In 2011, rent for a two-bedroom (\$1,161 on average) took 19.8% of a family's median annual income.²⁸³
 - The average rent for a seniors' housing space in Toronto (1.5 hours or more of care per week) decreased slightly to \$4,923 in 2014 from \$4,968 in 2013.²⁸⁴

The condominium apartment vacancy rate increased to 1.8% in the GTA as increased supply outstripped strong demand growth:

- About 600 new primary rental apartments (units in structures with three or more units built specifically to house rental tenants) were added to the GTA rental market, but the 2013 rental market was still down about 600 units from 2012.
- The declines in apartment numbers were concentrated within Toronto and among two-bedroom apartments.

- The average rent for condominium rental apartments in the GTA was up 9.5% from 2012. The cost of renting in buildings surveyed in both 2012 and 2013 rose 7.1%.
- Although condos are the only affordable option to many home buyers, it is still an average \$665 a month cheaper to rent than buy a condo, keeping many young professionals and downsizing baby boomers willing to pay increasingly higher rents for shrinking spaces.²⁸⁵

Across the country, 20-somethings are living with their parents longer. Toronto's high rent costs are keeping young adults living at home:

- Statistics Canada data show that 76% of people born in the '80s live in the parental home in their early twenties, a dramatic increase from the 46% of people born in the '70s who lived at home in their twenties.
 - In Toronto, 45% of people in their 20s live with their parents, fewer than in other GTA regions (73.1% in York, 65.8% in Peel, and 61.5% in Durham) but more than in Ottawa (40.2%), Montreal (34%) and Halifax (31%).²⁸⁶

How long must Torontonians wait for an affordable place to live?

77,109 households were actively waiting for affordable housing at the end of 2013—4,413 more than in 2012:

- There was a 6% increase in one year in the number of families and individuals on the “active” [waiting list](#) (eligible and waiting to move into affordable housing). 3,698 households were housed in 2013, the lowest total in the past five years.²⁸⁷

The number of units of affordable housing opened in 2013 was shockingly low:

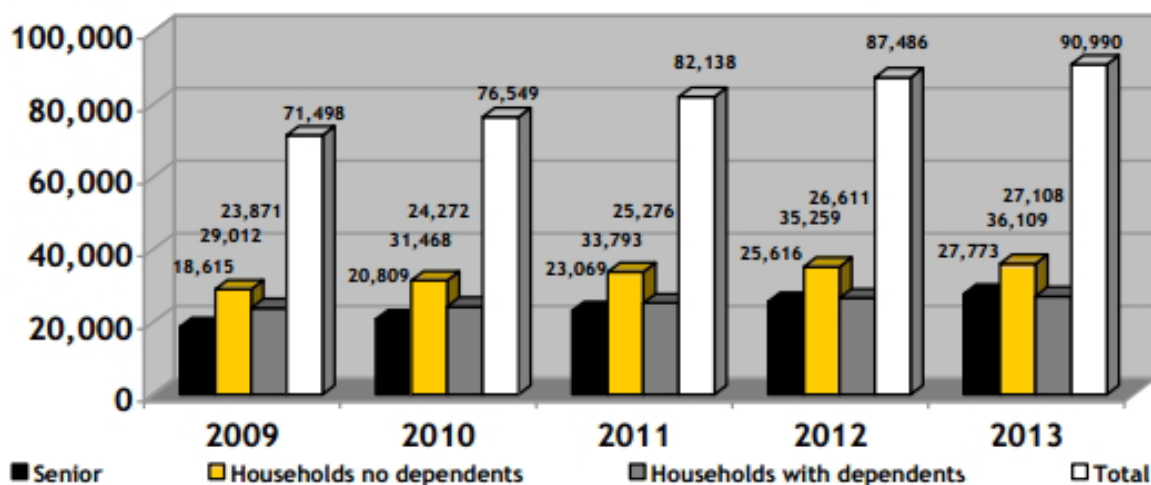
- The 260 units of affordable rental housing opened in 2013 represented a drop of 77% from 2012 (and 66% from 2011). Only 7 units built for affordable ownership were made available in 2013, 98% fewer than the previous year.²⁸⁸

In the Junction, there were 343 applicants waiting for a social housing placement in 2011 (see [Wellbeing Toronto](#) for more detail).

Germany’s model of the Mehrgenerationenhaus—or “multigeneration house”—could help solve several pressing issues facing Toronto at once, from childcare, to senior care, to affordable housing:

- The Mehrgenerationenhaus is a respite daycare centre, community centre for the elderly, and a place where young families can drop in for coffee and advice. There are more than 450 across Germany.
 - At one Mehrgenerationenhaus in Pattensen near Hanover, seniors volunteer to read books to children once a week and run a “rent-a-granny” service to relieve exhausted parents. In return, young people offer to show elderly people how to use computers and mobile phones.²⁸⁹ At the [Amaryllis Centre](#) (Note: website is in German) in Bonn, 70 children, young parents and seniors live together in student-style apartment dormitories and help each other by living communally and sharing their mutual resources.

Five-year Total Waiting List for Social Housing, City of Toronto²⁹⁰



Do land-use policies such as the Greenbelt contribute to Toronto's housing affordability problem?

An RBC-Pembina Institute [study](#) found no evidence that provincial land use policies—implemented to balance growth with sustainability—restrict housing development or contribute to rising home prices:

Location-efficient development

- Close to workplaces, amenities, and urban hubs
- Access to rapid transit
- Shorter commute times
- Option to walk, cycle, or take transit to destinations

- Over 80% of GTA residents would give up a large home and yard in a car-dependent location to live in a “location-efficient” neighbourhood (close to transit, amenities, and work), whether in the city or the suburbs.
- Nonetheless, homebuyers are being “[priced out](#)” of these desired areas. 70% of GTA residents live where they do, not because it's where they prefer to live, but because it's where they can afford to live.
- While incomes overall in the GTA have risen in the past few decades—by 18% in 2012 dollars—they have been far outstripped by the housing price growth of 80% during the same period.
- The report concludes that GTA homebuyers are being priced out by several factors:
 - Low interest rates and increased accessibility of mortgages have “significantly driven” the increase in home prices in Canada.

Average Housing Prices & Real Income in Toronto, Calgary, & Vancouver, 1980-2010²⁹¹



- o Population and demographics are the greatest influence on Toronto's prices.
 - Population growth continues to increase demand for housing.
 - A shift toward smaller households has caused demand to outstrip the limited supply of affordable single-family homes in established location-efficient neighbourhoods (both in the city and in the municipalities that border it). Prices have risen as a result, and will continue to rise.
- o Homebuyers still wanting to live in location-efficient neighbourhoods are shifting demand to comparatively more affordable multi-unit homes such as condominiums, and their prices have risen accordingly.
- The study found plenty of land available for single-family housing development in the GTA—so much, in fact, that 81% of it will still be unused by 2031. However, it is predominantly located outside the city of Toronto and other major GTA employment centres. And it includes some 18.4% of the “Whitebelt,” prime agricultural land on which Toronto's food security depends.
- Cash-strapped, want-to-be homeowners are left faced with a trade-off between condominium-style living in favoured neighbourhoods, or a single-family home in a car-dependent neighbourhood far from the urban centre.²⁹²

It may not really be cheaper to live in the suburbs:

- **Calculations** by a Toronto-area mortgage broker shows that over the long run, suburban living might lose its cost advantage for two adults commuting by car each day.
 - o The calculations indicate that over 40 years, a two-parent family might actually spend more once mortgage and transportation costs are factored in. And spend more time sitting in gridlock.
 - Car costs were estimated at \$9,500 per vehicle per year (using CAA numbers for a

compact car). Downtown transportation costs were estimated at \$235.50 for 2 transit passes per month plus discretionary spending (e.g., on taxis and car sharing or rentals) of \$264.50 a month.²⁹³

Low-density housing creates car dependency (for those who can afford them), which has contributed to Canada's very high transport-related carbon emissions:

- An **OECD** report ranks Canada 7th among OECD countries for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, both per capita and per unit of GDP.
 - o Toronto's urban containment policies aim for more sustainable development by reducing urban sprawl. Environmental benefits aside, the report says, urban containment policies must be well integrated with public transit planning to improve social outcomes for low-income households who have been pushed further from Toronto's city centre and therefore have the poorest access to transit, services and jobs.²⁹⁴

What about the people without housing options?

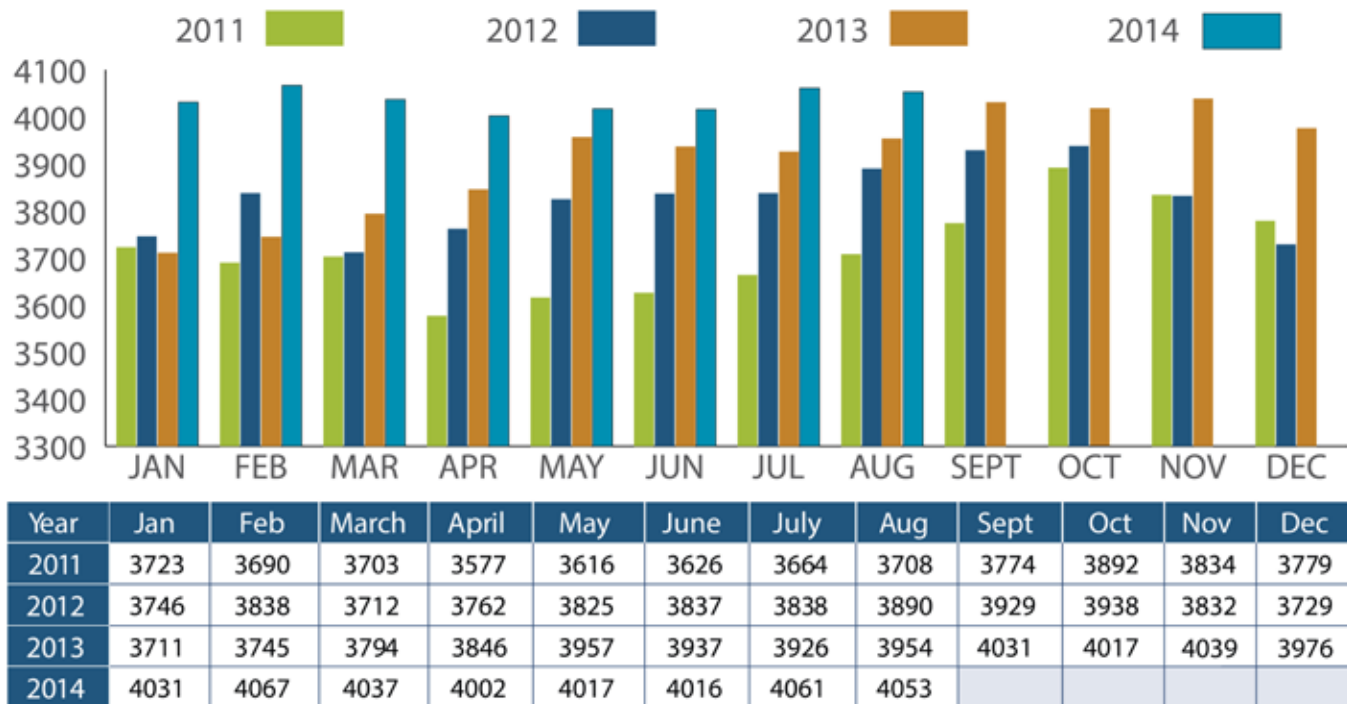
Shelter use is on the increase:

- An average of 3,017 single people and 948 members of families occupied shelter beds in Toronto every night in 2013 (an increase from 2,952 and 925 respectively, in 2012 and 2,879 and 856 respectively, in 2011).²⁹⁵
- 142 people have **died** in Toronto's shelters from 2007 to the end of 2013, and 16 in 2013 (two less than in 2012). Homeless people suffer far higher rates of chronic disease and premature death than those who are housed, and they have more difficulty accessing health services.²⁹⁶

Targeted outreach and strategic planning are helping Toronto's street homeless:

- As part of its 10-year **Affordable Housing Action Plan** adopted in 2009, the City is responding to a tightening funding environment and increased

Average nightly census of City of Toronto permanent emergency shelter system



Figures show average nightly occupancy by month in all City of Toronto permanent emergency shelter programs. As of April 12, 2013, flex beds were made part of the permanent system. Figures as of May 2013 are reflective of this addition. Statistics are from the Shelter Information Management System which was in use throughout the system by Jan 2011. These numbers do not include Out of the Cold programs. Note that as of March 2014, all stats adjusted to include use of part-time beds available weekends only.

Average Nightly Occupancy by Month, Toronto Permanent Emergency Shelters, 2011-2014²⁹⁷

demand for services with a comprehensive 5-year [service planning framework](#) (approved by Council in December 2013).

- o With “housing stability” as its key goal, the framework aims to better integrate housing and homelessness services with targeted prevention strategies.

- o The plan will support the implementation of provincial (the consolidated [Community Homelessness Partnership Initiative](#)) and federal (Homelessness Partnering Strategy or HPS) funding. A renewal until March 2019 of \$119M annual HPS funding will help support the [Streets to Homes](#) street outreach program.²⁹⁸

Affordable housing is not the only solution to homelessness, but homelessness cannot be solved without an adequate supply of affordable housing:

- The societal shift with the most profound impact on homelessness has been the reduction in the investment in, and overall supply of, affordable housing in Canada (including private sector rental and social housing).
- While government funding for social housing declined, the private sector increased the overall supply of housing—but not rental housing. In fact, particularly in gentrifying neighbourhoods, many existing rental properties were demolished or converted into unaffordable condominiums.
 - The very significant decline in affordable housing, combined with stagnating or declining incomes, benefit reductions, and economic changes contributed to the creation of Canada's homelessness problem.
- A cautious estimate says that there are 3 “hidden homeless” for every one who is in an emergency shelter and/or is unsheltered (no reliable data exists, as this kind of homelessness is difficult to spot and accurately measure).
- A recent study of shelter use in Toronto, Ottawa, and Guelph found that approximately 88–94% of the homeless population can be considered transitionally homeless, 3–11% episodically homeless, and 2–4% chronically homeless (compared to 10% in the US).²⁹⁹
- On any given night in Toronto, more than 5,000 people are homeless.
 - 8% of those people are unsheltered,
 - more than three-quarters (79%) are in shelters,
 - 3% are in Violence Against Women shelters,
 - 6% are in correctional facilities, and
 - 4% are in health care or treatment facilities.³⁰⁰

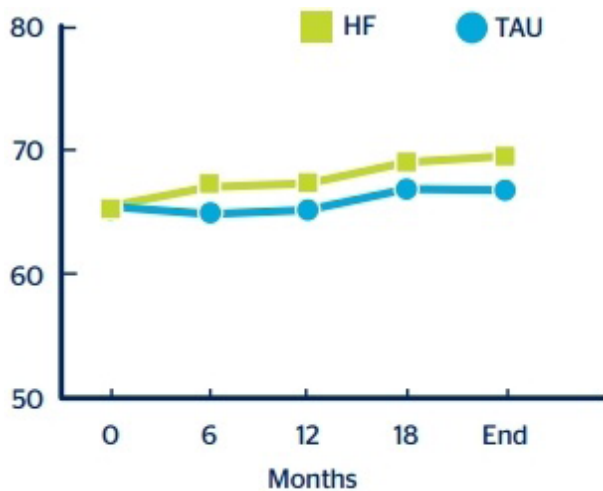
A landmark Canadian study has demonstrated that a Housing First approach, which provides immediate access to permanent housing and community-based supports, saves money and keeps people housed:



- The two-year [Cross-Site At Home/Chez Soi Project](#), funded by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, was the world's largest trial of the Housing First (HF) approach as a means of ending homelessness for people living with mental illness. It followed more than 2,000 participants in five Canadian cities ([Vancouver](#), [Winnipeg](#), [Toronto](#), [Montréal](#), and [Moncton](#)), comparing HF to a Treatment as Usual (TAU) approach.
 - Canada's current response to homelessness relies heavily on shelters, and emergency and crisis services for health care.
 - Homeless individuals must typically first participate in treatment and attain a period of sobriety before they are offered permanent housing—and housing only. The HF approach shifts away from crisis and institutional services to longer-term, community-based support and treatment services.³⁰¹
- In Toronto, the majority (68%) of participants were males. Almost all (93%) were absolutely homeless. Two-thirds (67%) had two or more mental illnesses or substance abuse disorders. And, reflecting the diverse makeup of the city, more than half (59%) of the 575 participants were from ethnoracial groups and nearly half (46%) immigrants.
 - Roughly half received TAU, relying on the city's network of services, while the other half received HF. Those in the HF stream were not only housed, but received help in finding supports such as medical or mental health treatment.
- Across all cities, HF participants were much more likely to remain stably housed. In Toronto, HF participants had, at the study's end, been stably housed 80% of the time, compared to 54% for the TAU participants.
- Reductions in hospitalizations, health provider visits, emergency department and shelter use,

involvement in the criminal justice system and other uses of publicly funded services among HF participants also meant cost savings.

- o HF services cost \$21,089 a year for a high-needs participant, and \$14,731 for one with moderate needs (the distinction is based on disability and need for mental health services). The researchers calculated that every \$10 invested in HF resulted in average savings of \$15.05 (more than \$31,000 annually) for high-needs participants and \$2.90 (over \$4,200 annually) for moderate-needs participants.
- The study also found improvements in HF participants' community functioning and quality of life. Community functioning was significantly better for high-needs participants and moderate-needs ethnoracial participants.³⁰²



Community Functioning, Moderate-Needs Ethnoracial Participants³⁰³

Community Functioning, Moderate-Needs Ethnoracial Participants:

HF = Housing First, TAU = Treatment as Usual

MCAS = Multnomah Community Ability Scale, a 17-item scale covering mental and physical health, ability to cope with illness, social skills, and problem behaviours. Higher scores indicate better functioning.

As the largest and final phase (Phase 3) of the revitalization of Regent Park gets underway, research with residents affected by Phase 2 has examined whether residents' health and wellbeing has improved as a result of re-housing:

- Researchers from the Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH) at St. Michael's Hospital and the Collaboratory for Research on Urban Neighbourhoods, Community Health and Housing (CRUNCH) at McMaster University interviewed 59 residents who lived in old Regent Park buildings in 2009-2010 and again after they had lived in new units for at least a year.
- Residents were asked questions about feelings of safety and security, social relationships, sense of community, health behaviours, and other factors in wellbeing. The study found significant change in housing satisfaction:
 - o Residents were more satisfied with their home and felt like it was a good "fit". 93%, for example, felt proud to show their home to visitors, up from 49% in the old units.
 - o Participants felt better about their neighbourhood and more connected to the community. 92% thought their neighbourhood was a good place to live, up from 69%.
 - o Residents felt safer, particularly after dark. 95% felt very or somewhat safe, up from 73%.
 - o Participants also felt less "distress" (mild depression) after a year in their new unit.
- Beyond lower levels of distress, however, the study found no significant improvement in residents' physical or mental health.
- While residents expressed satisfaction with the neighbourhood as a whole, many things didn't change, including feelings about neighbours, access to social supports, and opinions on the need for services in the neighbourhood.

After Phase 2 of Regent Park's revitalization, residents felt safer, particularly after dark. 95% felt very or somewhat safe, up from 73% before revitalization.

- The researchers acknowledge that positive changes to residents' physical and mental health and social supports after only one year would be surprising. They hope to follow up with these participants to measure long-term impacts of the revitalization.
- This report followed tenants who moved directly into new units. Other Regent Park residents—like the majority of those relocated in Summer 2014 as part of Phase 3—are temporarily displaced off site, often dispersed to distant parts of the city, far from their social supports. 73 people interviewed while living in relocation housing will be re-interviewed after they've moved into their new units.³⁰⁴
- **Research** with re-housed Regent Park residents found many concerned about the size and quality of their new homes, and criticism that tenant needs came second to selling condos.³⁰⁵

Saskatchewan is using an alternative path to finance affordable housing:



- In Saskatoon, investors were able to finance the opening of **Sweet Dreams**, a home for at-risk single mothers, by using an alternative funding model called a social impact

bond. Under this emergent but increasingly popular and attractive funding model, investments are made with the intention to generate a measurable, beneficial social impact alongside a financial return. It is an appealing model because after a specific social outcome is determined, money is raised from multiple investors, who then are set to be repaid a pre-arranged sum if the pre-determined outcomes are achieved after a specific time period. Funds for Sweet Dreams were contributed by the Government of Canada, the City of Saskatoon, a local credit union and other private investors.³⁰⁶

Affordable housing will be a lasting legacy of the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games:



- **Waterfront Toronto** is incorporating 787 market value housing units and 253 affordable rental units as part of its construction in preparation for **the Games**.
- o The corporation is already being **lauded** for the Internet infrastructure being put in place for post-Game residents.³⁰⁷

Note: 2011 information on housing and dwellings in all of Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods can be found at <http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing/>.

The following groups are addressing issues relating to housing through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Artscape](#) – Urban development organization providing shared space for non-profit and arts based orgs

[Community Living Toronto](#) – Provides meaningful ways for those with an intellectual disability to participate in their community

[Covenant House](#) - Serving suffering children of the street

[The Dorothy Ley Hospice](#) - Fostering hope and dignity for individuals living with life-limiting illness or loss

[East York East Toronto Family Resources Organization](#) - Increasing the well-being of individuals and families

[Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth](#) - Works locally and nationally to prevent, reduce, and end youth homelessness

[Fred Victor](#) - Providing accessible housing to people experiencing homelessness and poverty

[The Good Neighbours' Club](#) – A safe and welcoming drop-in centre for homeless men aged 50 and over

[Habitat for Humanity Toronto](#) - Mobilizes volunteers to build affordable housing

[The Massey Centre for Women](#) - Striving to achieve healthy outcomes for all young mothers and families

[LOFT Community Services](#) - Helping people with challenges including mental health and addiction issues

[Interval House](#) - Enabling abused women and children to have access to safe shelter and responsive services

[Neighbourhood Information Post \(NIP\)](#) - Empower marginalized and socially isolated people in our community

[Nellie's Women's Shelter](#) - Operating services for women and children who have experienced and are experiencing violence, poverty and homelessness.

[New Visions Toronto](#) - Providing services for individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities

[Regeneration Community Services](#) - Promoting self-determination and a higher quality of life for people living with mental health issues

[The Redwood](#) - Supporting women and their children to live free from domestic abuse

[Seeds of Hope Foundation](#) – Building sustainable communities with resource centres that encourage learning, recovery, and enterprise

[Sherbourne Health Centre Corporation](#) – Providing healthcare and transformative support to those experiencing systemic barriers

[SkyWorks Charitable Foundation](#) – Advocating and participating in social change through community film making

[Small Change Fund](#) - Supporting grassroots projects that contribute to social and environmental change

[Springboard](#) – Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[St. Stephen's Community House](#) – Multi-service programming for newcomer and low-income residents

[Street Health Community Nursing Foundation](#) - Improving the wellbeing of homeless and under housed individuals

[Toronto ACORN](#) - Building community groups in low income areas to establish community campaigns

[Unison Health Community Services](#) - Delivering accessible and high quality health and community services

[WoodGreen](#) – Enhancing self-sufficiency, promoting well-being and reducing poverty

[YWCA Toronto](#) - Transforming the lives of women and girls through programs that promote equality

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Getting Around

Why is this important?

The ability to move people and goods efficiently is vital to the economic health of the city. The congestion on regional arteries may be costing the greater Toronto and Hamilton region more than \$6B annually in lost productivity. Focusing on building good transit and active transportation networks is also healthy – for us and for our environment.

What are the trends?

Transit usage has been growing steadily in Toronto (TTC ridership was up by almost 25 million trips in two years), but infrastructure hasn't kept pace. The City has also been slow to build cycling infrastructure to make cycling a safer and more attractive transportation option on city streets.

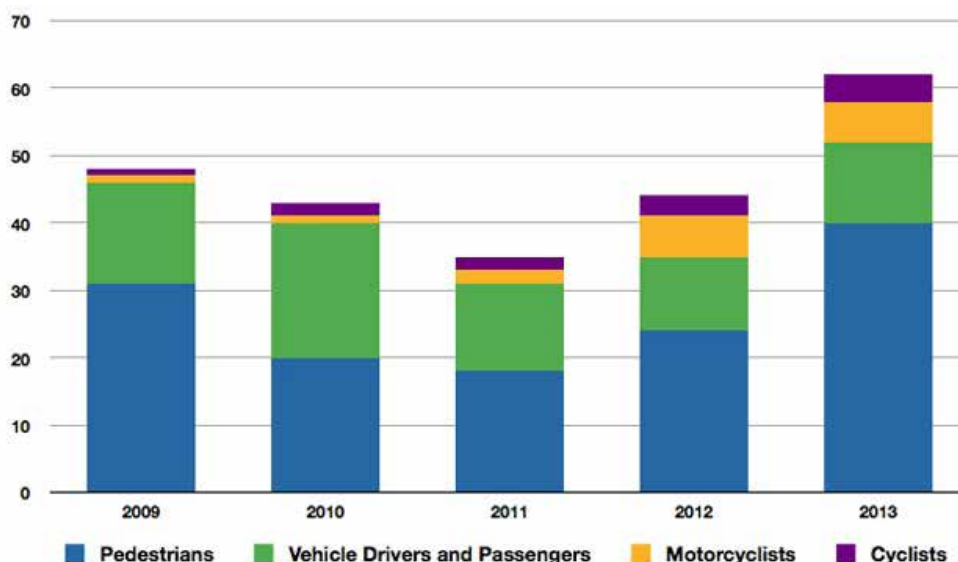
What's new?

Major transit projects are well underway in Toronto, but there is ongoing debate about the larger regional transportation model ("The Big Move") and how to raise the \$50B needed to pay for it. A new 2014 poll suggests growing public support for increased taxes or fees to directly fund transportation infrastructure. Toronto's financially troubled bike-sharing program has been taken over by the City under a new name – Bike Share Toronto. And new reports indicate that enhancing cycling infrastructure is good for local businesses.

Key Getting Around Trends ³⁰⁸	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Annual number of traffic fatalities	36	44	63
2. Percentage of commuters who take transit, walk or bike to work rather than driving	42.4% (2001 census)	44.2% (2006 census)	47.2% (2011 NHS)
3. Number of km of on-street bikeways added	-3.2km	2.3km	4.6km
4. Annual TTC ridership	500,219,000 (4.8% increase)	514,007,000 (2.8% increase)	525,194,000 (2.2% increase)
5. Per person number of transit trips taken in a year in Toronto	172.1 (2010)	179.3 (2011)	184.2 (2012)

In 2013 the city saw more traffic fatalities than homicides for the first time since 2004:

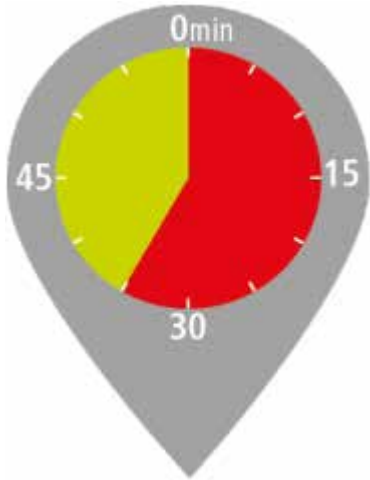
- From 2009 to 2011, the number of traffic (pedestrian, vehicle, motorcycle, and cyclist) fatalities decreased significantly. 2011 saw a record low of 36.
- In the last six months of 2013, there were 45 traffic fatalities, more than in all of 2012. 2013's total, 63, was an increase of 43% over 2012.
- An [analysis](#) of preliminary numbers (not all 2013 data was available at the time) revealed an alarming increase in pedestrian deaths in particular—they increased 67% between 2012 and 2013 alone.
 - Compared to a peak in 2002, vehicle fatalities dropped from 34 to 12, but pedestrian fatalities dropped less sharply, from 50 to 40.
- Seniors are the most vulnerable pedestrians, accounting for six in 10 of all fatalities in 2013.
- Collisions that result in fatalities are most likely to occur outside the downtown core (only 15% of 2013's traffic-related deaths were downtown). Most deaths happened on arterial roads (such as Steeles, Finch, and Eglinton) that are not suited for active transportation. The four cyclists killed in 2013 were riding streets without a bike lane.
- Suggested solutions to keep pedestrians safer include:
 - accelerating the rollout of more visible “zebra crossings” (currently zebra crossings replace regular crosswalks only when intersections are resurfaced; 1,000 were put in place in 2013, compared to just 300 in 2010);
 - designing curbs so that they force drivers to make safer turns; and
 - reducing the distance pedestrians have to cross to get from one side of a street to the other, or increasing the time they have to do so with timed crosswalk signals.
- Change may be slow, however, as the City reconstructs only about 1% of transportation infrastructure each year.
- In 2012, Toronto's Chief Medical Officer of Health recommended a controversial move—[reducing speed limits](#) on Toronto streets to a maximum of 40 km/h.³⁰⁹



Toronto Traffic Fatalities by Category, 2009-2013³¹⁰
Source: David Hains/Torontoist

The GTHA's congestion crisis continues to threaten the economy of Canada's largest city-region and the quality of life of its six million residents:

- Vancouver is the worst city in Canada for gridlock, but Toronto is a close second. Toronto ranks ninth worst among 63 cities in the Americas on the fourth annual traffic index from TomTom, a Dutch-based company that specializes in navigation and mapping products. Vancouver is fifth on the index, which is based on travel times across the day and for peak vs. non-peak periods.



- Toronto drivers experience a 34-minute delay per hour driven in peak period—adding up to 83 hours per year.
 - The most congested times of the week are Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. The least congested times on the road are Friday mornings and Monday evenings.³¹¹

1	Rio de Janeiro
2	Mexico City
3	São Paulo
4	Los Angeles
5	Vancouver
6	San Fransisco
7	Honolulu
8	Seattle
9	Toronto
10	San José

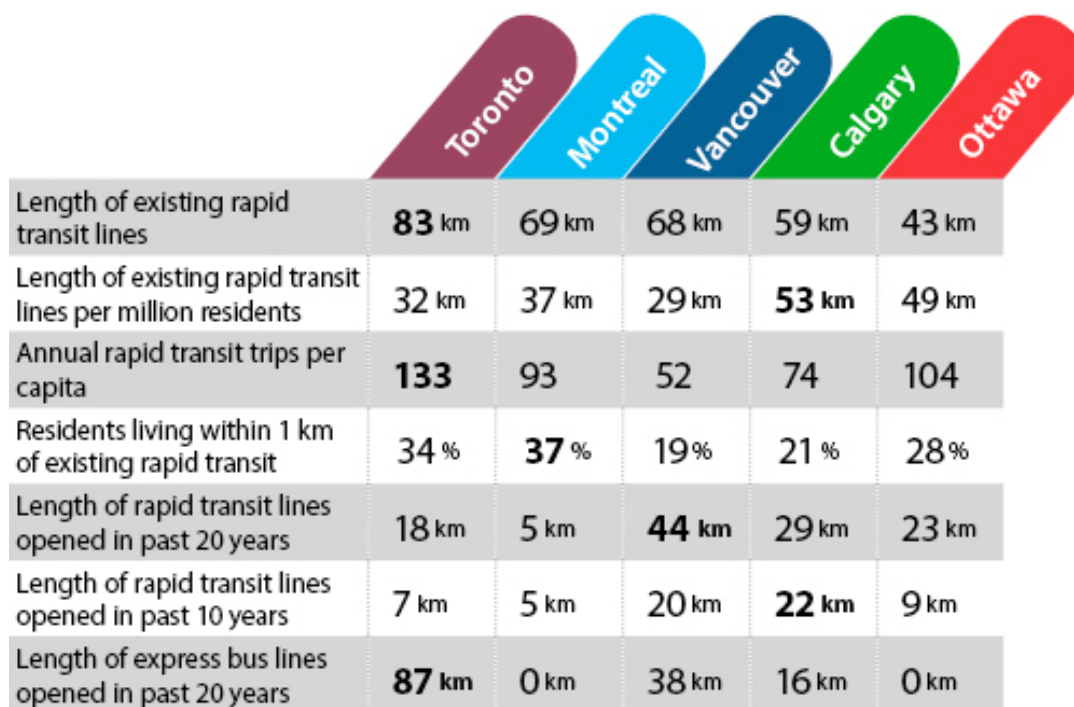
Commuting time in the Toronto Region (average 66 minutes round-trip), is longer than anywhere in North America except in New York City (where it is almost 70 minutes):



- The Toronto Region continues to receive a failing grade on [commuting time](#). The 2014 Toronto Region Board of Trade Scorecard again ranked Toronto 15th (out of 22 global metro areas), highlighting the Region's average commute time "one of the region's most talked about detractions" (in 2012 it was 66 minutes).
- Toronto's ranking is all the poorer because less than one-third (29%) of the Region's commuters take transit, walk or bike to work.³¹² The city regions on the Board of Trade Scorecard with longer car commute times than Toronto also have higher proportions of commuters who do not drive to work (Paris at 73.7%; Tokyo at 68.0%; New York at 41.0%; Stockholm at 51.0%; London at 59.3%; Madrid at 60.0%; and Shanghai at 74.8%).
- Congestion in the Toronto Region alone costs the regional economy \$6 billion a year, and is estimated to rise to an estimated \$15 billion in 2031 should no action be taken.³¹³
- Increasingly longer commute times have a negative effect on health and intensify the "time crunch" that one in five Ontarians feels caught in.³¹⁴

Compared to other large cities in Canada, Toronto has a ways to go in terms of rapid transit investment:

- Calgary and Vancouver have built more rapid transit than Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa over the last 10 years. During that time, the two cities have opened 22 and 20 kilometres of new lines respectively.
- Toronto has less infrastructure per capita to accommodate riders compared to Calgary, Ottawa or Montreal, even though Torontonians take the most trips on rapid transit, at an average of 133 per capita per year.³¹⁵



	Toronto	Montreal	Vancouver	Calgary	Ottawa
Length of existing rapid transit lines	83 km	69 km	68 km	59 km	43 km
Length of existing rapid transit lines per million residents	32 km	37 km	29 km	53 km	49 km
Annual rapid transit trips per capita	133	93	52	74	104
Residents living within 1 km of existing rapid transit	34 %	37 %	19 %	21 %	28 %
Length of rapid transit lines opened in past 20 years	18 km	5 km	44 km	29 km	23 km
Length of rapid transit lines opened in past 10 years	7 km	5 km	20 km	22 km	9 km
Length of express bus lines opened in past 20 years	87 km	0 km	38 km	16 km	0 km

The state of rapid transit investment in five of Canada's biggest cities³¹⁶

Despite our much-maligned traffic situation, there are some extensive transportation projects currently underway locally and regionally:

- "The Big Move," Metrolinx's regional transit plan, could reduce commute times by an estimated average of **32 minutes** per day by 2025 (from a projected 109-minute commute if no system is funded and constructed, to an average of 77 minutes if the Big Move is funded and built). The initial \$16B initial **investment** is funding new projects across the GTHA:
 - o Union Station is being remodeled;
 - o The express train to Pearson airport, will leave every 15 minutes from Union Station and carry 5,000 passengers a day;
 - o The Spadina subway is being extended to Vaughan;
 - o The PRESTO fare card will be implemented across 10 local transit systems, making regional transportation more seamless;
 - o The Eglinton Crosstown LRT is currently under construction and Council has voted to renew Eglinton after it opens in 2020. Wider sidewalks, more trees, and bike lanes will be accommodated by cutting traffic to one lane in each direction between Mount Pleasant and Avenue Roads (with right-turn lanes to ease the impact on motorists), and;
 - o Innovative bus rapid transit (BRT) projects are underway in **York Region** and **Mississauga**.³¹⁷

The number of commuters who take transit, walk, or bike to work continues to increase:

- o As of 2011, 47.2% of Torontonians were choosing transit or active transportation instead of driving to get to work, an increase from 44.2% in the 2006 census.³¹⁸
- o Over 525 million passenger trips were made on all TTC vehicles in 2013, an increase over the more than 514 million trips in 2012.³¹⁹
- o GO Transit passengers numbered 65.6 million in 2013, up from 65.5 million the previous year.³²⁰

Will Torontonians support new funding mechanisms for regional transportation infrastructure?

An April 2014 [poll](#) of 1,042 GTHA residents showed growing support for new revenue sources for transportation infrastructure:

- 60% of respondents polled for Move the GTHA, a coalition working to build support for transportation investment in the GTHA, stated they would support an increase in taxes and fees in order to improve transportation infrastructure.
- o Nearly 60% of respondents said they would be more likely to support a political leader who proposed one or more funding sources to directly support transportation improvements (only 12% were less likely to support, and 29% indicated a mixed opinion).
- o Support was highest in Peel region (62%), Toronto (60%), and York Region (59%).³²¹

The provincial government has promised up to \$15B over the next decade for transit in the GTHA, by raising new money, re-directing about \$1.3B a year in gas taxes, and through debt financing including green bonds:

- Added to the \$16B already funded, the new figure is at least \$20B short of what is needed to fund the Big Move, which calls for an investment of \$50B, along with \$2B in annual operating costs.
- Business groups have urged the Province to

establish a set of dedicated revenue tools to construct the regional transportation plan.³²²

- Metrolinx's own \$2B-a-year investment strategy (delivered in 2013) proposed increases to the HST and the gas tax, a 5 cent/litre increase to the regional fuel and gasoline tax, a parking levy, and development charges.³²³
- In December 2013, the Province's Transit Investment Strategy Advisory Panel, charged with finding new ways of paying for transit, recommended a 5- to 10-cent/litre gas tax increase, a 0.5% corporate income tax increase, and re-directing HST revenue to a transit trust fund to raise between \$1.7B and \$1.8B annually.³²⁴

More than six years into The Big Move, a critical review is second-guessing the \$36B plan:

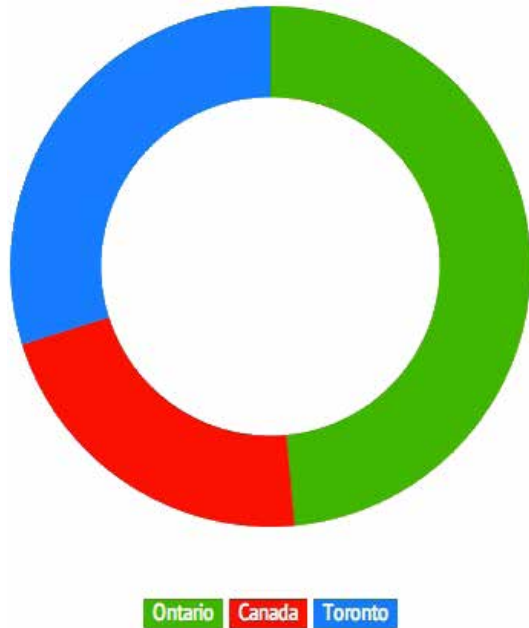
- A 2013 [report](#) by the [Neptis Foundation](#), a Toronto urban think tank, concludes that integrating TTC and GO would offer faster and cheaper relief than most of the current subway and LRT plans.
- o The report suggests that most Metrolinx proposals, including the Eglinton-Scarborough Crosstown LRT (under construction), two planned LRTs on Finch Avenue West and Sheppard Avenue East (with relatively inexpensive construction budgets), the downtown relief line and the Scarborough subway do not present "value for money" because they will not attract enough ridership to ease the region's congestion crisis.³²⁵

[How will the city resolve its transit deadlock?](#)

Rapid transit in Scarborough remains a dominant issue at Toronto City Council and Queen's Park:

- The promise of a \$1.8B light-rail line in Scarborough, paid for entirely by the Province, was rejected by City Council in October 2013 in favour of a subway extension.
- The Province would contribute less (\$1.5B, less \$85M in sunk costs) to the subway project, with the remainder covered by \$660M promised by Ottawa and \$910M raised from Toronto residents through an already approved 1.6% property tax increase.

- The existing contract for a light-rail line (signed in 2012 between the City, the TTC, and Metrolinx) is still being renegotiated, with no completion date in sight for those talks. Meanwhile, the original [master agreement](#) remains in force.³²⁶



Money Pledged for Scarborough Subway Extension by Level Of Government³²⁷

Total capital cost: \$1.8B-\$2.9B, funded by the Province (\$1.48B less \$85M in sunk costs), the Federal government (\$660M) and Toronto (\$910M from 1.6% property tax increase).

A February 2014 [poll](#) found a majority of Torontonians prefer LRT over a subway extension as the transit option best able to improve service to Scarborough:

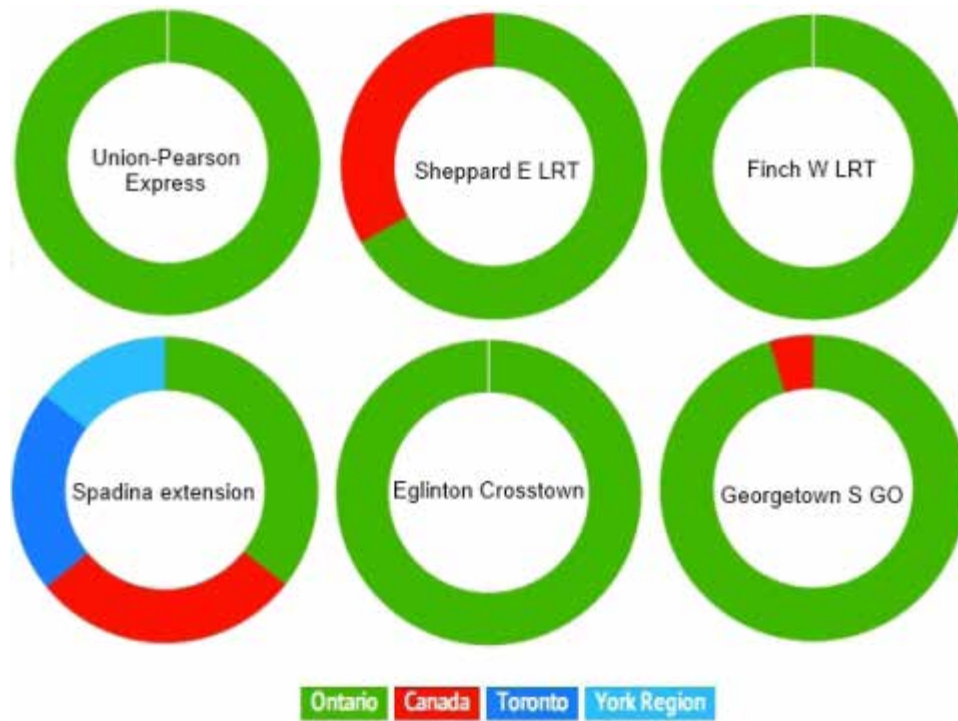
- 523 eligible voters were asked for their opinion, based on both options' cost, property tax impact, accessibility to transit users and projected dates of completion:
 - 61% said they support the LRT line, while 39% support the subway extension;
 - 56% of Scarborough respondents preferred an LRT over a subway;

- Strongest support for the LRT was found in the former City of Toronto (75%), York (68%) and East York (67%), while support for the subway came from respondents in North York, who were split 50%-50%.

- The findings indicate a change in voters' views from January 2011, when another survey found that 52% preferred building subways over light rail. That poll was not specifically about Scarborough, however, and did not mention that a subway extension to Scarborough would mean a \$1B property tax increase for all Toronto residents.³²⁸
- The City of Toronto Act, passed in 2006, gives the City the ability to add its own tax to various goods and services. A former Provincial transportation minister [criticized](#) the City for not using its taxing authority to pay for transit before asking higher levels of government for more money.
- The [Transit Investment Strategy Advisory Panel](#) has said solving the congestion crisis cannot be funded by efficiencies or savings.
- While the Federal and Provincial governments generally avoid funding operating costs of transit projects, they have typically contributed to capital funding (building costs).
- A [breakdown](#) of how much each level of government is contributing to capital funding of Toronto's six active projects shows that the Province is paying about \$10.7B, the Federal government \$1.03B, and the City of Toronto about \$526M.

Money Pledged for Toronto's New Transit by Level of Government:

- Spadina Line Extension, \$2.6B (\$2006); Province \$870M (33.4%); Federal government \$697M (26.8%); City of Toronto \$526M (20.2%); York Region \$352M (13.5%).
- Eglinton-Scarborough Crosstown, \$6.6B (including \$400M re-routed from Scarborough LRT); Province 100%
- Georgetown South Go Project, \$1.2B (\$2010); Federal government \$55.3M (4.6%); Province \$1.14B (95.4%)



Source: Chris Bateman, blogTO

- Union-Pearson Express, \$456M; Province 100%
- Sheppard East LRT, \$1B (\$2010); Federal government \$333M (33.3%), Province \$667M (66.7%)
- Finch West LRT, \$1B (\$2010); Province 100%³²⁹

New streetcars and buses are making transit more comfortable and more wheelchair accessible:

- The newly designed low-floor, accessible [streetcar](#) entered into service on the 510 Spadina route on August 31 2014. All 204 new streetcars, which have double the capacity of present vehicles, large windows, air conditioning and interior bike racks, are scheduled for delivery by 2019.³³⁰
- Delivery of low-floor [diesel buses](#) began in December 2013 and will continue to December 2014. Each bus has LED interior and exterior lighting, automatic central air conditioning and heating, ergonomic seating for 46 seated passengers (including nine priority passenger seats), and room for 31 standing passengers and

two standard wheelchairs. All 153 new buses are expected to be in service by January 2015.³³¹

The City's transit costs per passenger trip have remained quite steady since 2009:

- In 2012, it [cost](#) \$2.86 per passenger trip to move Torontonians by transit (including operating and amortization costs), a decrease of 2% from a peak the year prior (\$2.92 in 2011).³³²

Transit vehicles were involved in almost 18,000 collisions—an average of 3,564 a year—between 2009 and 2013, but the vast majority were minor:

- [TTC data](#) show that about a quarter of those collisions (nearly 5,000) were deemed “preventable” by a TTC manager reporting to the collision scene.
- Streetcars, which cannot move “out of the way” are more than twice as likely as buses to be involved in collisions.
- Drivers who are deemed dangerous are taken off the road or fired. In 2013, there were 16 collisions

in which drivers faced firing or suspension without pay.

- Accident claims are paid out from the TTC's operating budget:
 - 2013 insurance costs were over \$27M, a 26% drop from \$36.5M the previous year (although this is largely attributable to 2011 changes to the Insurance Act that prevent accident benefit claims by transit vehicle passengers unless a vehicle has actually hit something).³³³

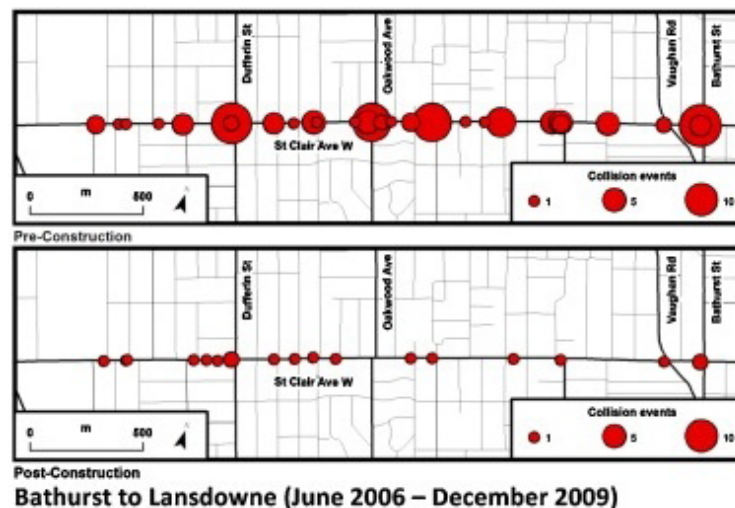
- The infrastructure, which included a raised track-bed with platform stops on either side, was associated with a 48% reduction in the rate of pedestrian–vehicle collisions, particularly those involving children and minor injuries.
- The study suggests that dedicated streetcar ROWs may be safer alternatives for pedestrians than mixed traffic streetcar routes.
- Increase pedestrian safety, the study says, and people will more likely choose walking and public transit as modes of transportation.³³⁴

St. Clair Avenue West is safer for pedestrians with its streetcar right of way:

- **Analysis** of three route segments—Yonge to Bathurst, Bathurst to Lansdowne, and Lansdowne to Gunn's Loop—shows a reduced, more diffuse pattern to collisions after construction of the dedicated streetcar Right of Way (ROW) on St. Clair.

The new street car infrastructure on St. Clair West has led to a 48% reduction in the rate of pedestrian–vehicle collisions, particularly those involving children and minor injuries.

Collision Patterns on St. Clair Avenue, Bathurst to Lansdowne, Before and After Streetcar Right of Way³³⁵



Where is there support for active transportation in Toronto?

Toronto was named the third-most walkable city in Canada in Walk Score's second national ranking:

- Among Canada's 10 largest cities, Toronto finished behind Vancouver again this year and lost its second-place standing to Victoria.
 - Toronto received a score of 71.4 out of a possible 100, while Vancouver scored 78, Victoria 77.7, and Montréal 70.4, making all of these cities "very walkable". Mississauga was a distant 7th at a "somewhat walkable" 58.6.³³⁶

Torontonians are big on cycling:

- A [Share the Road](#) survey conducted in 2014 found that 5.7% of Torontonians, or 158,000, ride their bikes daily.
- During rush hour on College Street, as many cyclists are travelling the bike lanes as there are cars on the road, and the number is increasing.³³⁸

Toronto's public bike sharing program has been saved, but under a new name—Bike Share Toronto:

- Launched in May 2011 with 1,000 bikes and 80 stations in the downtown core, Bixi Toronto was a key component of the transportation plan for the Pan/Parapan Am Games, but its original operator, Montréal-based Public Bike Share Company, faced financial difficulties.
- The City entered into a 10-year agreement with Bixi to finance up to \$4.8M in start-up costs. The company's high debt load and the seasonality of its cash flow jeopardized the viability of the operation, putting the City at risk of losing about \$3.9M (a default on the loan rather than any operating loss).³³⁹
- When Bixi's infrastructure was put under the control of the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) in Fall 2013, there were 4,000 active subscribers and 1.8M bike trips logged.
- The TPA has since chosen Portland-based [Alta Bicycle Share](#) to take over Bixi, with a new name ([Bike Share Toronto](#)) and new prices:

- One-day passes will increase to \$7, and three-day passes to \$15.
- Monthly memberships, however, are now less than half their original cost at \$18, and yearly memberships drop from \$97 to \$90.³⁴⁰

Thirteen years after adopting the [Toronto Bike Plan](#) (and three years past its targeted completion) the City is beginning work on a new Cycling Plan:

- Despite its original plan to build 50 kilometres per year, the City has completed only 571 km of its proposed 1,000-km cycling network and just 114 of 495 km (about 23%) of on-street bike lanes. Suburban areas of Scarborough, Etobicoke, and North York are especially lacking on-street bike lanes.
- During the current term, cyclists have lost bike lanes (including on Pharmacy Road, Birchmount, and Jarvis) and seen an increase in focus from on-street bike lanes to off-road trails, which don't service commuters or connect the places across the city where people live, work, shop or go to school.
- In 2014, the Public Works Committee approved additional lanes totaling less than seven kilometers on Harbord and Hoskins Avenues and the first lanes on Richmond and Adelaide Streets. If approved and carried out, these will be the biggest additions to cycling infrastructure in the downtown in the past four years.³⁴¹
- The Province, meanwhile, has announced plans to create a province-wide cycling network by announcing \$25M in spending on cycling infrastructure over the next three years.
 - The funding will be used to automatically incorporate cycling infrastructure into road works on provincial highways and municipal roads.
 - Toronto will be looking for [its share](#) of the money as it begins work on a new Cycling Plan to be presented to Council in 2015. Amongst other considerations, the plan will reassess what is needed downtown in light of unexpected growth.
- The city of Toronto saw an overall loss of 3.2 km in on-street bikeways in 2011, and gained 2.3km in 2012, and 4.6km in 2013.³⁴³

A city-by-city comparison of on-street bike lanes vs. city size:



City	km	sq. km
Toronto:	114	630
Chicago:	320	606
Copenhagen:	443	86
Montréal:	730	365

Data from City of Toronto, Chicago, Copenhagen and Montréal³⁴⁴

A new smartphone app helps Torontonians contribute to the City's cycling infrastructure planning:

- Available for smartphone download on the City's website, the [app](#) allows cyclists to record their cycling routes and provide this data to the City. The data will be part of the toolkit used to help inform data collection and analysis when developing new cycling network plans. A new Cycling Plan will expand on the existing 570 kilometre cycling network, to be presented to Toronto City Council in 2015. The data will also assist the City in monitoring cycling patterns over time as cycling infrastructure is evaluated, improved and expanded.³⁴⁵

Overall traffic collisions went down along Jarvis Street once it had bike lanes, and up again after it lost them:

- [Analysis](#) of five-and-a-half years (June 1, 2008 to October 31, 2013) of City of Toronto data shows an almost 20% decrease in collisions per year.



Total Traffic Collisions along Jarvis Street (before, during and after bike lanes were present) June 1, 2008–Oct. 31, 2013:

- The trend was the same for injury rates: injuries went down (to 36.4 per year from 42.0) once the street had bike lanes, and up again (to 41.1) after they were removed.
- The number of cycling accidents more than doubled, because far more cyclists chose to ride Jarvis once bike lanes were present –numbers tripled during the busiest eight hours of the weekday.
- The decrease in collisions while the bike lanes were there cannot be accounted for by fewer cars on the street. Almost 2,600 more cars were counted daily over three days in 2012 before the lanes were removed than were counted over three days in 2007. The numbers could reflect:
 - a greater proportion of under-reported collisions involving cyclists, (studies elsewhere have shown that cyclists report accidents less frequently than drivers);
 - improved safety in general thanks to the loss of the confusing reversible centre lane;
 - coincidence.
- Although there was no testing to determine whether the differences were statistically significant and no examination as to whether changes in total volumes were implicated, the data show that for

the two years (July 2010 to November 2012) that Jarvis had bike lanes, it was a safer street, not just for cyclists, but for drivers and pedestrians.³⁴⁶

A November 2013 study from Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank shows that cyclists and cycling infrastructure are good for business:

- Focused on North American research, the study by the School of the Environment at the University of Toronto demonstrates a clear and solid economic case for supporting cycling infrastructure in “main street” urban shopping districts.
- While business owners sometimes oppose replacing on-street parking with bike lanes, two Toronto studies have shown that they tend to overestimate the number of customers arriving by car, and that the volume of customers who do arrive by car can be relatively small.
 - In The Annex, customers are more likely to arrive by cycling than by driving (12% cycling mode share vs. 10% car). Retailers, though, overestimated the number of customers arriving by car by 100% on average.
 - Merchants from Bloor West Village, where car use is more prevalent, also over-estimated the number of drivers by 100%.
- The Annex study also demonstrated that on-street parking in the neighbourhood is typically between one-third and two-thirds full, making the removal of some on-street parking unlikely to trigger any profound negative economic impacts. It would likely encourage people within cycling distance to shop there.

Evidence suggests that cyclists could be responsible for greater monthly per capita spending than drivers in North American urban centres, and even in suburban areas:



- A 2012 study showed that patrons of Portland convenience stores, bars and restaurants who arrived by bike spent more on average per month and returned more often.

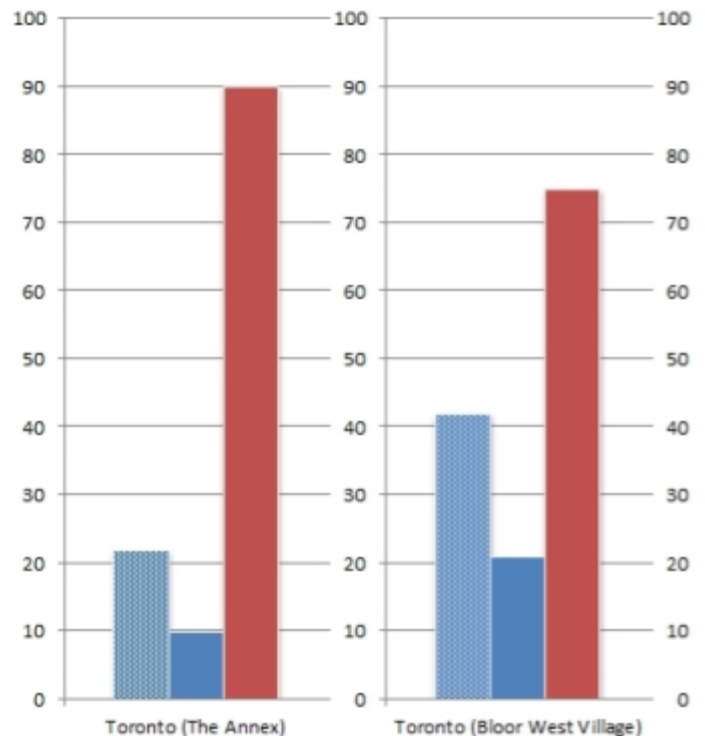
- In Toronto, cycling advocates are wealthier than the population average.³⁴⁷

Evidence also suggests that bike lanes effectively act as a catalyst for economic activity:



- In New York City, for example, physically separated bike lanes contributed to:

- a 49% increase in retail sales on 9th Avenue (compared to a 3% increase borough wide), and
- 49% fewer commercial vacancies on Union Square (compared to a 5% increase borough wide).³⁴⁸



- Perceived percentage of customers who arrived by car (derived from merchant surveys)
- Measured percentage of customers who arrived by car
- Measured percentage of customers who arrived by walking, cycling, or public transit

Source: Annex graph Stabinsky (2009); Bloor West Village Forkes et al. (2010)

In The Annex, customers to local businesses are more likely to arrive by cycling than by driving

As Metrolinx embarks on an update of The Big Move plan active transportation and environmental experts and advocates are campaigning for active transportation and transit improvements:

- It's Your Move is a [video campaign](#) launched by the [Toronto Centre for Active Transportation \(TCAT\)](#) in partnership with Metrolinx to enlist regional support for dedicated funding for walking and cycling infrastructure in the GTHA.
 - o The video series features leaders living in the GTHA sharing personal and professional stories about the benefits of active transportation.
 - o Although The Big Move sets aside 25% of funding for local transportation initiatives, walking and cycling projects are lumped into a "grab bag" category that will get only 5% of that 25%.
 - o The entire 4,500 km of new walking and cycling infrastructure proposed in the Big Move could be built for the same cost as only 18 km of a new 4-lane city road.
 - It costs about \$20,000 per kilometre to build buffered bike lanes, compared to about \$5M per kilometre for a new road.
 - o Cycling and walking projects also create twice as many jobs (11–14) as highways for every \$1M spent.³⁴⁹
- [Building a Toronto that Moves](#) aims to set municipal election priorities for walking, cycling and public transit.

- o The campaign by a coalition of five active transportation and environmental advocacy groups (the Toronto Environmental Alliance, Canada Walks, Cycle Toronto, Toronto Centre for Active Transportation and Walk Toronto) proposes 12 ideas to make the city easier to navigate on foot, bicycle and transit.
- o Recommendations include safer winter walking through harmonized snow clearing, a well-designed network of bike lanes and boulevards, and keeping transit fares low, especially for low-income residents.³⁵⁰

The infrastructural legacy of the Pan/Parapan Am Games will include transit and active transportation:



- The remaking of the West Don Lands into the site for the Athletes Village, and a mixed-use neighbourhood after the Games (the Canary District), is bringing new streets, transit and active transportation infrastructure to the formerly industrial port lands.
- o The neighbourhood design includes new transit in close proximity to residences and businesses, including streetcar tracks on Cherry Street that will allow the King Street East car to turn down Sumach to the Distillery District.
- o Street designs encourage transit use, cycling and walkability. Included are Toronto's first "[woonerfs](#)" (Dutch for "living streets" in which pedestrians have priority over vehicles).³⁵¹
- o The site will also connect to the [Pan-Am Path](#), a \$2M, 80+ km, multi-use trail combining the power of culture and sport to create a living path across Toronto, linking suburban and urban neighbourhoods.³⁵²



Photo by Open Streets TO, Sunday, August 17, 2014

Open Streets TO took place on two Sundays in August 2014, completely opening Bloor Street from Spadina to Parliament, and Yonge Street from Bloor to Queen to non-motorized Torontonians:



- With a dual focus on active recreation and community-building, [Open Streets](#), or [Ciclovias](#) as they are also known, involves briefly opening streets to people and closing them to cars. Streets become “paved parks” for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to come out to and use to participate in physical activity and healthy recreation. Offered in cities around the world from [Ottawa](#) to [New York City](#) to [Guadalajara](#), they are free, regularly occurring programs, and offer communities the opportunity to experience their city streets in a whole new way.³⁵³

The following groups are addressing issues relating to getting around through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Community Bicycle Network](#) - Providing access, training, and support for all cyclists

[Community Matters Toronto](#) - Supports newcomers living in St. James Town

[CultureLink Settlement Services](#) - Developing and delivering settlement services to meet the needs of diverse communities

[Cycle Toronto](#) - Advocating for a healthy, safe, cycling-friendly city for all

[Dixon Hall](#) - Creating opportunities for people of all ages to dream

[Evergreen](#) – Solving the most pressing urban environmental issues

[Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance](#) - Bringing people together to tackle our region's toughest challenges

[Jane's Walk](#) – Creating walkable neighbourhoods and cities planned for and by people

[Newcomer Women's Services Toronto](#) – Delivering educational

and employment opportunities for immigrant women and their children

[The Pollution Probe Foundation](#) - Improving the well-being of Canadians by advancing environmental change

[Vermont Square Parent-Child Mother Goose Program](#) - Fosters parent-child bonding and literacy through a rich oral language experience

[Springboard](#) – Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[Toronto Atmospheric Fund](#) - Helps the City achieve the targets set out in the Council-approved climate plan

[Toronto Environmental Alliance](#) - Promoting a greener Toronto

[Toronto Public Library Foundation](#) - Providing essential resources for the enhancement of the Toronto Public Library

[WoodGreen](#) – Enhancing self-sufficiency, promoting well-being and reducing poverty

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Environment

Why is this important?

Toronto won't be able to absorb the effects of climate change (increasing and severe weather events) if its natural and built environment isn't healthy. Features such as abundant tree canopy, storm water control, and green roofs are key to the city's resilience. Parks, recreation areas and walkable neighbourhoods enhance the health and quality of life of all residents. And protection of the rich but threatened farmland that still surrounds the city is an important contribution to our food security.


What are the trends?

The City has focused on a number of important environmental initiatives. The tree canopy was expanding through to the end of 2013. Residential water consumption has been consistently dropping year over year. And the percentage of residential waste diverted was up slightly in 2013, although many question whether the pace is fast enough.

What's new?

An ice storm in December 2013 may have damaged as much as 20% of Toronto's urban forest (although it will be 4-5 years before the full extent of the loss is known) and tested the city's ability to keep its vulnerable residents safe. Almost none of Toronto's high-rises have backup generators to keep essential services running in the event of an extended power outage. And 36 extreme cold alerts over the winter added to the challenges of homeless Torontonians.

Some Key Environment Trends ³⁵⁴	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Percentage tree canopy (estimated)	-	20%	26.6-28%
2. Percentage of summer time days that Toronto's 11 beaches are open for swimming	91%	89%	83%
3. Average daily water consumption (1 ML=1 million litres)	1,270 ML/day	1,254 ML/day	1,133 ML/day
4. Residential waste generated, in tonnes (Residential waste diverted, in tonnes)	799,812 (391,610)	815,450 (424,188)	823,743 (439,222)
5. Percentage residential waste diverted	49%	52%	53%

 The life of our city rests upon the environment that sustains us. Our capacity to live, work, learn and grow well here is dependent on a web of living relationships that we call 'the environment.' By tending this environment—and deepening our understanding of it—we lay the foundation for our continuing health and prosperity.

—Sarah Wiley
Executive Director, Outward Bound Canada

Our city can celebrate much good news on the environmental front in 2013:

- For the fourth year in a row, 8 of the city's 11 beaches were awarded the international **Blue Flag** designation in 2013.
 - Toronto's beaches were safe for swimming, on average, 83% of the time during the summer of 2013, down from 89% the previous year. The 2013 season was worse than the previous one mainly due to a July 8 rainstorm.
 - Rouge, Marie Curtis Park and Sunnyside, the non-Blue Flag beaches, were posted "unsafe" most often (44%, 48% and 33% of the summer days, respectively).³⁵⁵
- The number of **LEED** certified buildings has increased by about 60 each year for the last two years. In 2011 there were 59; the number has since doubled to 123 in 2012 and tripled to 186 in 2013.³⁵⁶
- Torontonians continue to use less water. Consumption dropped by 16 million litres per day between 2011 and 2012. As of September 22, 1,227 ML (millions of litres) per day had been consumed on average in 2014 to that date.³⁵⁷
- The amount of residential waste generated has increased for the past three years, from 799,812 tonnes in 2011 to 815,450 in 2012 to 823,743 tonnes in 2013. However, the percentage of it diverted has increased every year as well, reaching 53% in 2013 (up from 52% in 2012 and 49% in 2011).³⁵⁸
- City revenue from recycling increased slightly (2.7%) to \$19.6M after a significant (32.6%) drop between 2011 and 2012 (from \$28.3M to \$19.1M).³⁵⁹

What is Toronto doing to create greater resiliency in the face of extreme weather?

The past year saw the city hit with more extreme weather, putting vulnerable residents at risk:

- The City declared six extreme heat alerts in 2013 and 36 extreme cold weather alerts over the winter.

- 7 heat alerts and 6 extreme heat alerts helped those people most at risk of heat-related illness take appropriate precautions.³⁶⁰
- Extreme cold weather alerts triggered additional services for homeless people; 44% of them happened in January and 33% took place in February.³⁶¹

Almost none of Toronto's high-rise apartment buildings and condominiums have backup generators capable of keeping essential services (e.g., elevators, heating, phones) running during extended power outages:

- Seniors, people who are ill, and people with disabilities are especially vulnerable in these buildings. With an aging population and increased vertical densification, the city needs to plan accordingly.
 - An independent panel that studied Toronto Hydro's response to a pre-Christmas ice storm in 2013 recommends that the Province amend the Ontario Building Code, requiring all high-rise residential buildings to install backup generators or power supplies that can enable people trapped for extended periods to cook, have lights, keep warm, and have contact with the outside world.
 - The code currently requires only enough power for safe evacuation in the event of a fire and to assist in firefighting operations.³⁶²

The worst ice storm in recent memory brought the city to a standstill in December 2013. It cut power for a million residents, damaged or destroyed an estimated 20% of Toronto's tree canopy, and cost the City an estimated \$106M:

- In a typical day, Toronto Hydro handles 135 calls. In the five days after the ice storm, it averaged more than 40,000 a day. Roughly 57% of Toronto Hydro customers (about one million people) lost power at some point during the storm or in its wake. Phone lines and operators were incapable of keeping up, meaning the majority of callers were not able to get through to report outages or get information on the status of repairs.

- A panel set up to review Toronto Hydro's response to the ice storm suggested that Toronto Hydro needs a more extensive scale to understand and communicate the severity of emergencies.
- Recent history has seen incidents lasting up to 10 days (the 2013 ice storm), or even 30 (as experienced by some Canadians after the 1998 ice storm). Toronto Hydro's planning accommodates emergencies that last up to three days.³⁶³
- Tree trimming would help prevent falling wires but conflicts with City plans to increase the tree canopy to 40% for its environmental benefits. An easier solution, the panel suggested, may be revisiting City guidelines that put hydro lines and front yard trees on the same corridor.
 - Converting the entire system underground would cost about \$15B and triple rates for customers. It would also not work for all parts of the system, for example, in flood-prone areas.³⁶⁴

Assessing the city's 10.2 million trees and repairing damage has proved a daunting task:

- The full extent of the damage to the city's tree canopy from the ice storm is still not known. Urban forestry crews have been working since May to assess the persistent damage and remove unstable limbs. The work is expected to continue until the end of the year.
 - In the wake of the storm, the City gathered about 40,000 tonnes of branches and limbs that had fallen or been removed from trees, about the same amount of yard waste gathered in five months in 2013.
 - In January 2014 the City committed \$50M to repairing the damaged canopy, but more will have to be devoted to continue to expand it.³⁶⁵

The City is working on a resiliency strategy to deal with extreme weather:

- City staff are developing a "Resilient city—Preparing for climate change" report to support an adaptation plan that will serve as a basis for enhanced public engagement and for assessments of Toronto's vulnerabilities.
- The report is based on 2014 City [research](#) into best practices in climate resilience in six North American cities that are comparable in size to Toronto and leaders in climate change adaptation and resilience to extreme weather: Vancouver, New York, Seattle, Chicago, Calgary and San Francisco/Oakland.³⁶⁶

What is the value of Toronto's urban forest?

It's well worth repairing and protecting Toronto's urban forest—the trees, shrubs and plants that grow in parks, ravines, our lawns and at the sides of streets. A 2014 [report](#) from TD Economics estimates its worth at \$7B, or about \$700 a tree:

- Toronto is home to over 10 million trees of 116 different species, representing 16,000 trees for every square kilometre, or about 4 trees for each person. From a bird's eye view, these trees cover almost one-third of the city.³⁶⁷
 - A 2013 estimate of the tree canopy was 26.6–28% of land in Toronto.³⁶⁸
- The urban forest provides Toronto residents with over \$80M dollars worth of environmental benefits and cost savings per year (roughly \$8/tree).
 - It costs only \$4.20 annually to maintain a tree, but for every dollar spent on maintenance, trees return up to \$3.20 in value.
 - A single family household, for example, saves an average \$125 per year due to less demand for heating and cooling.³⁶⁹

Benefit	Description	Tangible benefit	\$ value (millions)	\$/tree
Wet-weather flow	Reduced strain on water transportation and processing infrastructure from rain and wet-weather flow intercepted.	25,112,500 cubic metres	\$53.95	\$5.28
Air quality	Air pollutants absorbed removed and avoided by street trees.	1,905 tonnes	\$19.09	\$1.87
Energy savings	Energy saved through shading and climate moderation.	749,900 MBTU of natural gas 41,200 MWH of electricity	\$6.42	\$0.63
Carbon sequestration	Carbon sequestered from the atmosphere and emissions avoided through energy savings.*	36,500 tonnes	\$1.24	\$0.12
Energy emission abatement	Carbon emissions from fossil fuel power generation avoided through climate moderation.	17,000 tonnes	\$0.58	\$0.06
Total benefit	Sum of economic benefits provided by urban forests.	-	\$81.29	\$7.95
Cost benefit ratio	Benefits to citizens for every \$ spent on maintenance.	-	-	\$1.35 - \$3.20

Annual Benefits Provided by the Urban Forest³⁷⁰

* Carbon avoided and sequestered is net of the emission from the decomposition and maintenance of trees.

Source: Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation, TD Economics

- Trees also increase property values, support higher rents, and generate more property tax revenue for the City.
 - o In some locations, rental rates of commercial office properties are about 7% higher on treed sites.
 - o A New York City study found that having trees on or near a property generates an additional US\$90 in property taxes.
- The amount of particulate matter removed annually by the urban forest is equivalent to the amount released by over one million automobiles or 100,000 single family homes.³⁷¹

Pollutant removed	Tonnes per-year	Equivalent annual automobile emissions	Equivalent annual single family home emissions
Carbon stored	1.1 million*	733,000	367,900
Carbon sequestered	10	30,900	15,500
Carbon monoxide	10	44	180
Nitrogen oxides	297	20,700	13,800
Sulfur dioxide	62	99,900	1,700
Particulate matter	357	1,047,000	101,100

Air Pollution Removed by Toronto's Urban Forest³⁷²

* Refers to the total amount of carbon stored in wood tissues of Toronto's urban forest (not an annual value)

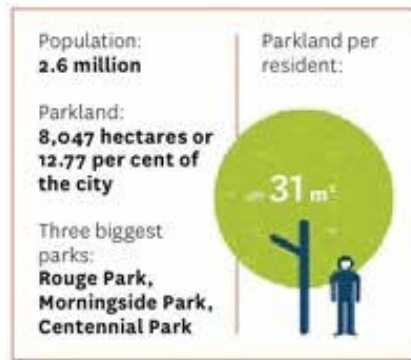
Source: Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation, TD Economics

- The study did not factor the economic impact of the ice storm, but the report concludes that the vast majority of Toronto's urban forest is in good or excellent condition. It also did not consider the urban forest's other values—aesthetic, cultural and recreational, for example.³⁷³

With 1,600 parks, Toronto has more green per resident than many other large North American cities:

- o Data from [Park People](#), a city-wide advocacy group formed in 2011 to help make parks a political priority, show that Toronto has 31 square metres of parkland per resident, while Montréal has 23 square metres, Vancouver 22, New York City 15, and Chicago 12.³⁷⁴
- o At 10,000 acres, Toronto's Rouge Park is roughly 13 times the size of New York's Central Park.³⁷⁵

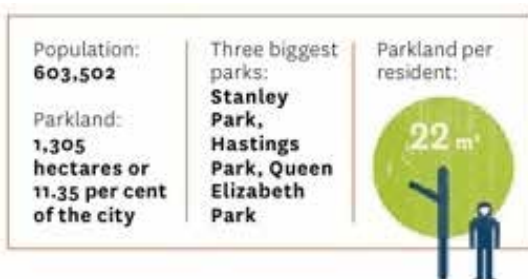
Biggest Parks, Parkland, and Parkland per Resident, 2014³⁷⁶



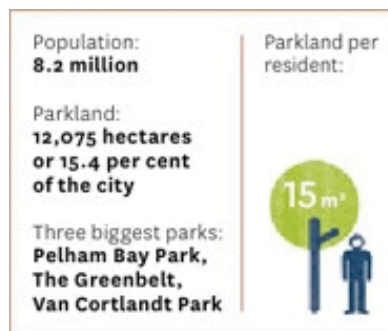
Toronto



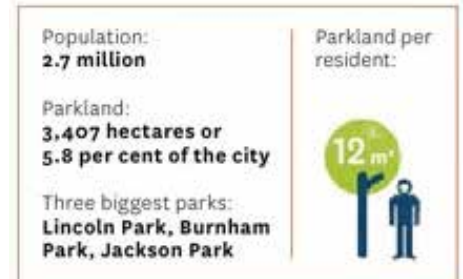
Montréal



Chicago



New York



Vancouver

Source: David Topping (text) and Anna Härlin (illustrations).

Toronto's air quality has improved, but does that mean we have nothing to worry about?

Toronto has exceeded its 2012 target of a 6% reduction from 1990 greenhouse gas (GHG) levels:

- In 2012, overall greenhouse gas **emissions** were 25% lower than in 1990.
- The City did not, however, meet its target of a 20% reduction in locally generated air quality pollutants from 2004 levels, by 2012.
 - 2012 emissions of nitrogen oxides in Toronto (80.5% of which come from cars and trucks on city roads) declined only 2.8% from 2004 levels.³⁷⁸
 - Transportation emissions are up at least 15% since 1990. Transportation is now the single largest and fastest growing source of GHG emissions in Toronto, accounting for 36% of emissions.³⁷⁹

City of Toronto's Electricity Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions³⁸⁰

	Electricity Consumption (kWh)	Change from 1990	Electricity Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Electricity Emissions per kWh	Change from 1990
1990	25,314,997,857		5,596,300	220	
2008	27,898,394,277	10.21%	5,217,000	187	-6.33%
2011	26,253,247,548	3.71%	2,658,829	101	-52.30%
2012	25,833,769,360	2.05%	2,699,629	105	-51.53%

Toronto's Rouge Park in Scarborough is over 40 km² in size, or roughly 13 times the size of New York City's Central Park.

Toronto's air is cleaner than it was 10 years ago, but air pollution still poses a significant burden of illness in Toronto, says the Chief Medical Officer of Health:

- The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a 10-point scale that indicates the level of health risk associated with air quality. The Air Quality Index (AQI) measures six key air pollutants including ozone. The AQI triggers smog advisories and alerts.³⁸¹
- In 2013, Toronto saw only 2 high-risk days on the AQHI.³⁸²
- There were only two smog alert days in 2013, one more than in 2011 but down from the 8 in 2012, when a hot and dry summer resulted in some of the highest ozone concentrations recorded. From 2008 to 2011 ozone levels were consistently lower than in previous years.
- In 2014, a cool summer meant no smog advisories in Toronto or anywhere else in Ontario.
- A new **study** finds that while some airborne pollutants have decreased significantly since 2000, concentrations of ozone persist at levels that violate Canada-wide standards.
 - Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides combine to form ground-level ozone, a secondary pollutant. Levels of both of these primary pollutants have declined since 2000 but ozone itself has not, because the primary pollutants are reacting in the atmosphere more quickly.
- Improved air quality has translated into meaningful public health gains.³⁸³
 - The number of Torontonians (12 years and older) suffering from asthma continues to drop. The rate fell to 5.3% in 2013, down from 5.8% in 2012 and 2010's 6.9%.³⁸⁴

Air Pollution Source		Health Outcome	
		Premature Deaths	Hospitalizations
All Sources Combined¹		1,300	3,550
Sources in Toronto	Traffic (Cars and trucks)	280	1090
	Mobile off-road (eg., rail, air, marine sources)	80	280
	Industrial	120	200
	Residential/Commercial	190	400
Sources outside Toronto	Transboundary from United States	390	870
	Transboundary from Ontario	270	740

Estimated Annual Burden of Illness Attributable to Air Pollution from Sources Inside and Outside Toronto³⁸⁵
Note: Totals may not appear to sum correctly as a result of rounding.

- o Premature deaths and hospitalizations as a result of air pollution have dropped by 23% and 41% respectively since 2004 (thanks to phasing out coal-fired power generation and the city's purchase of low-sulfur fuel).
 - But there is still much work to be done to reduce harmful emissions, according to a Toronto Public Health [report](#).
 - o Air pollution still causes 1,300 premature deaths and 3,550 hospitalizations each year in the city. 42% of those premature deaths and over half (55%) of the hospitalizations can be blamed on the biggest local source of air pollutants—motor vehicle traffic.
 - o Air pollution produced in Toronto contributes to 670 deaths each year.
 - o Toronto Public Health estimates that air pollution from traffic also contributes to the following each year:
 - 800 episodes of acute bronchitis among children;
 - 42,900 asthma symptom days (mostly among children);
 - 43,500 days where respiratory symptoms (such as chest discomfort, wheezing, or sore throat) are reported, and;
 - 128,000 days when people stay in bed or otherwise cut back on normal activities.
 - Toronto City Council has adopted a number of Board of Health recommendations to further reduce emissions. They include:
 - o developing an urban freight strategy to improve the movement of goods through the city;
 - o designing an air-monitoring strategy;
 - o more conscientious planning when designing residential and other “sensitive use” buildings near high-pollution areas such as highways, and;
 - o encouraging urgent provincial funding of transit and active transportation infrastructure.³⁸⁶
- Half of Toronto's air pollution is beyond the City's control, but there are actions individuals can take:**
- In periods of elevated smog, half of Southern Ontario's smog originates in the US (historically in its Midwest), usually the result of unfavourable weather patterns. However, driving better-tuned cars, driving less, and avoiding using gas-powered lawn mowers and air conditioning during the summer can all help lessen the severity of smog events, especially for those vulnerable to breathing difficulties or other pollution-related health concerns.³⁸⁷

- The replacement of coal-fired power plants by cleaner burning natural gas plants (officially completed by the Province in April 2013) as well as renewable energy means the carbon intensity of our electricity supply has fallen by about 30%. But the coal phase-out would not have been possible without conservation efforts to reduce overall electricity consumption. Per capita electricity consumption in Toronto has fallen by 10% over the past 20 years. As a result, overall emissions from electricity are down 26%.
- Continued improvements to energy performance in homes and buildings will help reduce emissions even as the population and economy grow. Natural gas and electricity used to heat and power our homes and buildings account for 53% of Toronto's emissions.³⁸⁸

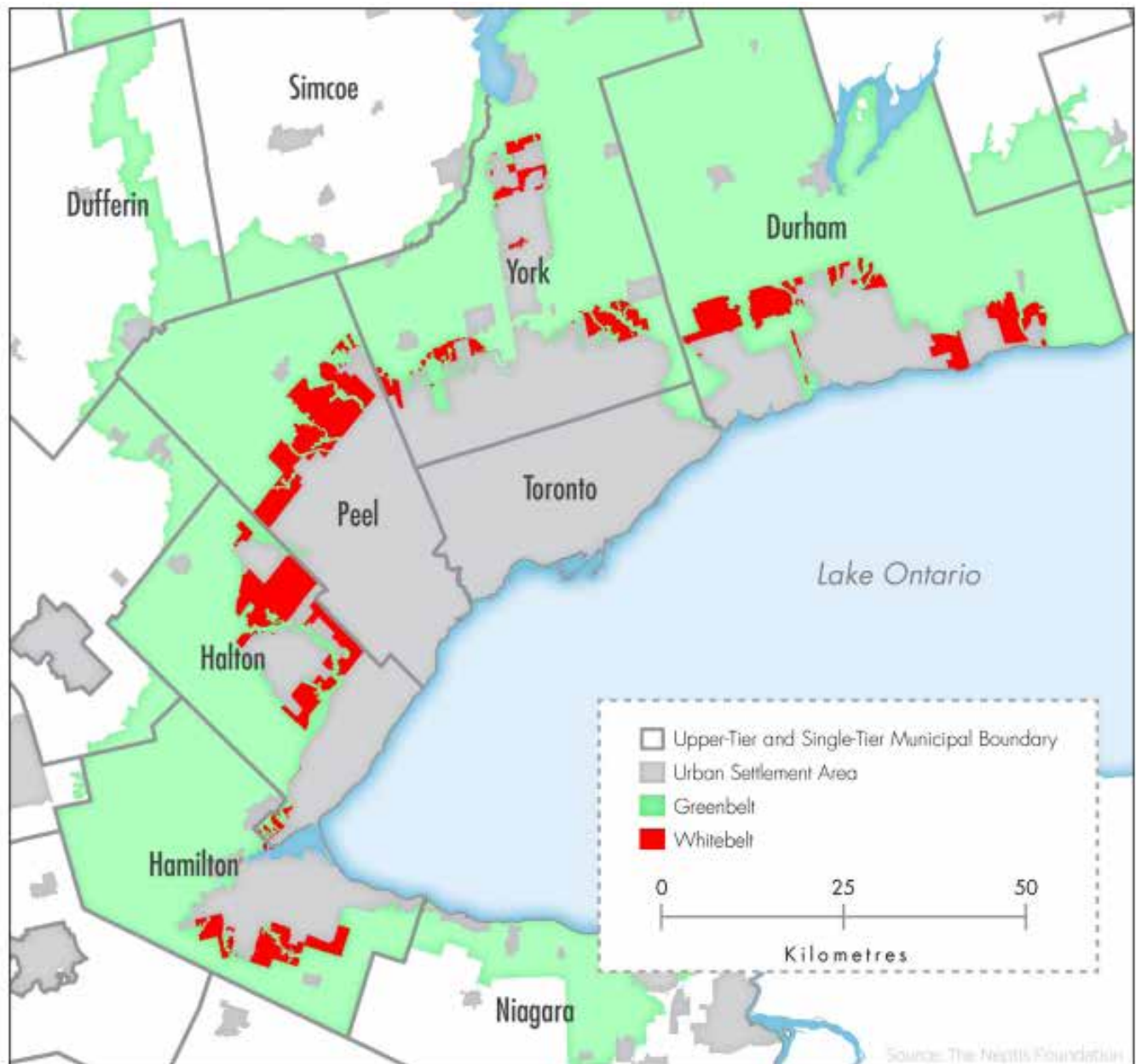


The Source of Half of Southern Ontario Smog in 2013:
The US Midwest³⁸⁹

How should Toronto respond to the continued loss of farmland on its borders?

The housing industry is stepping up efforts to turn more farmland into development-ready land, claiming it necessary to meet demographic demand:

- An RBC-Pembina [report](#) on Toronto's housing affordability problem concluded that there is plenty of land available for single-family housing development in the GTA—so much, in fact, that 81% of it will still be unused by 2031 based on municipalities' projected future growth. However, it includes 18.4% of the Whitebelt lands in its calculation, while acknowledging that there are also significant opportunities for infill development in already built-up areas to meet the increased demand for housing and employment lands in the future.³⁹⁰
- The Neptis Foundation [argues](#) that given the large quantity of land already designated for development, there is no immediate need for Whitebelt lands to be added.
 - o If all of the remaining Whitebelt lands were designated for development, the combined area of the Whitebelt and greenfields that would be urbanized is 1,500 square km—an area more than twice the size of the city of Toronto. This would represent a 46% increase from 2006 in the size of the built-up urban footprint.³⁹¹



The “Whitebelt” Buffer Between Current Urban Development & the Greenbelt³⁹²

We are not just losing farms. We are losing farmers:

- Cities need access to food. If a city cannot provide food for itself, its population is highly vulnerable.
- Although 50% of Canada’s best farmland (“Class 1” farmland) is in southern Ontario, much of it in “near-urban” areas such as surrounding Toronto. A border closure or key failure in US agriculture

would leave Toronto and other urban areas in the area unable to feed their populations. Toronto has about three days’ worth of food available.

- New [research](#) from the Metcalf Foundation investigates access to farmland and ways to get new farmers onto farmland to grow our food.
 - We are losing farmland to development, i.e., to subdivisions. The highest value for farmland

is as developed industrial or residential land, prompting increasingly debt-ridden farmers to cash out as they approach retirement.

- o Younger generations of farmers cannot afford the capital costs of farm accession. The 100-acre parcels of land that are the minimum severance in Ontario according to planning rules prevent farmers interested in small-scale, intensive production from entering the market.
- The research looked at solutions with respect to policy, law, planning, financing, and new models of farming in which we should invest, such as:



- o incubation, e.g., the [FarmStart](#) program, which uses near-urban land to train future farmers who, starting with a quarter acre, train for 4 to 5 years while establishing their brand;
- o informal mentoring, in which farmers give or rent small pieces of land to younger farmers (e.g., [ReRoot Farm's](#) borrowing of land at [Mapleton's Organic Dairy](#)) while they develop their Community Supported Agriculture marketing (arrangements in which members subscribe at the beginning of the farming season, when farmers are short on cash, and then receive regular portions of the harvest);
- o farming on public land in exchange for education, farming and promotion, such as at [The Living City Farm](#) in York Region;
- o [land trusts](#), where farmers are paid to keep their land as farmland (although such arrangements could be challenging in Ontario because farmers want the best price for their land when they retire), and
- o community or co-operative farms, where production and marketing efforts are shared among new farmers (also challenging in Ontario, because land use regulations permit only one household per 100-acre parcel).
- When farms begin to disappear to development, farming infrastructure breaks down (e.g., agricultural suppliers and processors leave), conflicts begin with residents who complain

about noise, dust and smell, and more farmers are tempted by high prices for their land. As an agricultural community breaks down, farmers leave.

- Farmers have long-term, "stewardship" relationships to their land, and they struggle with short-term capitalization. To catalyze the development of strong regional food systems in southern Ontario, long-term, ecological thinking for planning and transfer financing solutions for farmers must be adopted.³⁹³



In November 2013, Council approved a Toronto Agricultural Program and workplan to support growing food within the city and making it available to citizens:

- Headed by a City steering committee, the program will coordinate and support the scaling-up, management and promotion of urban agriculture on City and non-City lands.
- Priorities include improving community access to the City's urban agricultural supports and services, developing land inventories to help connect farmers to public and private land, and exploring funding opportunities.
- A working group will implement a workplan that in the short-term aims to:
 - o address planning and zoning barriers to link farmers to land,
 - o create a guide to growing and selling fresh fruit and vegetables in Toronto,
 - o promote the green infrastructure benefits of urban agriculture,
 - o support the development of new community gardens, and
 - o identify new urban agriculture opportunities and partnerships.
- The [Toronto Food Policy Council](#) has funded [Toronto Urban Growers](#) to plan for how the urban agriculture community can fully participate in the new program.³⁹⁴

The potential for urban agriculture in Toronto is significant. The city could provide 10% of its fresh vegetable needs from within its boundaries if urban agriculture were scaled up.

- A 2012 [study](#) of the potential of urban agriculture in Toronto concludes that 5,725 acres (2,317 ha) would enable the city to meet 10% of current commercial demand for fresh vegetables. Of this, almost half (2,653 acres or 1,073.5 ha) would be available on:
 - o existing farms and lands currently zoned for food production,
 - o areas zoned for industrial uses (some vacant, some in other uses),
 - o over 200 small plots (between 1 and 4.9 acres or 0.4 and 2 ha) dotted throughout the northeastern and western parts of the city (most in use, but some vacant).
- Just 25% of the rooftop area identified as suitable for rooftop greening could provide the remainder of needed space (although changes would be required to the green roof bylaw to support food production, as it is currently focused on reducing the urban heat island effect and storm water management).
- o Scaling up urban agriculture will not just meet increasing demand for locally grown food. It will create jobs and economic opportunity, engage diverse communities, and enhance the urban environment.³⁹⁵

The Toronto Food Strategy team at Toronto Public Health is using the ubiquitous corner store to make affordable, fresh and culturally appropriate food more accessible to more neighbourhoods, while supporting local economic development:

- Many Toronto neighbourhoods are underserved by affordable supermarkets, but GIS mapping shows there is simply not enough commercial space available for more. Corner stores, however, are plentiful. The Healthy Corner Store Project will support them in meeting communities' needs.



- The program is being piloted in East Scarborough, where the Food Strategy Team, the [East Scarborough Storefront](#), and enthusiastic proprietors are collaborating to transform a corner store at the base of two high-rise apartment buildings. The culturally diverse residents of the buildings face multiple barriers to accessing healthy food.

- o Food sold locally is not very affordable, and residents without a vehicle must use inadequate public transit or walk at least 20 minutes (in a not very walkable neighbourhood) to the closest grocery stores. The trip is especially difficult for those with mobility issues and parents with young children.
- o Focus groups with youth and surveys with hundreds of residents have given the community the opportunity to voice what “healthy” food means to them—for example, culturally appropriate foods suitable for making meals from scratch.
- The pilot will inform a “toolkit” to guide the profitable transformation of convenience stores across the city (there are about 2,000) to improve the access of all Torontonians to healthier and affordable food.³⁹⁶



What innovative projects are enhancing the urban environment?

Toronto is adding “Green Streets” and “Green Infrastructure” to its guidelines for complete streets:

- A [report](#) on an approach to developing Complete Streets Guidelines for the City was [adopted](#) by Toronto City Council in May 2014. Council also adopted a motion to integrate the principles of green streets and green infrastructure as planning priorities in its guidelines for complete streets.
 - o The terms are used to describe opportunities for absorbing storm water and snow within the street, rather than flushing it away in sewers. Techniques—including pervious pavement, bio-swales, infiltration trenches, and exfiltration—have different requirements for space, construction, cost and maintenance.
 - o The idea of this integration of green streets and infrastructure in planning was first proposed with the adoption of the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan and Policy in 2003, yet Toronto currently has no specific technical design standards for green infrastructure. Installations underway are treated as pilot or demonstration projects and design specifications are worked out on an ad-hoc basis.
 - o The Complete Streets Guidelines will integrate green infrastructure as part of the design process, with technical standards for construction developed by Toronto Water, Engineering and Construction Services, City Planning and Transportation Services, based on the pilot projects and international best practices for storm water management.³⁹⁷



An Example of Green Infrastructure, New York City, Where Rain is Diverted to Flowerbeds Rather than Sewers.



Playground at Toronto's Corktown Common. Photo by Hudson Hayden.

The 2015 [Pan Am/Parapan Am Games](#) are accelerating an already planned revitalization of 800 hectares (2,000 acres) of brownfield lands on the waterfront:

- [Waterfront Toronto](#), established in 2001 by the three levels of government to oversee and lead the renewal of Toronto's waterfront, was given a 20-year mandate to transform the formerly industrial port lands in the West Don Lands into sustainable, mixed-use communities and dynamic public spaces. Being chosen as the location for the Athletes Village has accelerated the development timeline by at least five years. More than half of the area will be complete by 2015.
 - o Village components are each designed to meet Waterfront Toronto's triple-bottom line—quantifying success not by economic results alone, but also through measurable environmental and social improvements.
 - o Features include new transit close to residences and businesses, and street designs that encourage walking, transit use and cycling.³⁹⁸

Toronto's Corktown Common
was named top Neighbourhood
Development Project in Canada in
2014 by the Federation of Canadian
Municipalities, earning it the
Sustainable Communities Award.



Green projects green communities while bringing them together:

- The [David Suzuki Foundation's Homegrown National Park Project](#) is an effort to "bring nature home" to Toronto. Volunteer Neighbourhood Park Rangers who live, work or play within the project area are offered training and introduced to relevant local groups and partners. Rangers then reach out to their communities and develop individual green projects. Tapping local creativity and ingenuity, the project empowers residents to self-organize and create fun, inexpensive green interventions on public and private lands to help shape their community over the long term.
 - Homegrown's first year in 2013 centred on Toronto's historic [Garrison Creek](#) corridor, resulting in more than a dozen green interventions. They ranged from [moss graffiti](#) in alleyways to new gardens in yards, schoolyards, parks and institutions, with over 1,000 native species planted throughout the corridor.⁴⁰¹

- In its first year, Corktown Common, the newest and largest (7.3 hectares/18 acres) park in the West Don Lands, already garnered an [award](#) for the City and Waterfront Toronto: the 2014 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Awards named it the top Neighbourhood Development Project in Canada.
 - The award recognizes the \$26M project's complicated undertaking: developing a world-class urban green space without compromising a key piece of [flood protection infrastructure](#) for a much larger area (the park eliminates the flood risk for 210 hectares, or 518 acres, of Toronto's downtown, including part of the financial district).³⁹⁹



A unique nature program is helping youth become leaders in their own backyard:

- The Wildlands League's Get Outside program provides a diverse cross-section of Toronto youth with robust experiential learning centred on nature and the basics of civic and community engagement, all with an eye to help them plan and deliver their own community events to connect people to nature, and to each other. The programming commences with wilderness expeditions minutes from their own home in Rouge Park, a natural treasure situated within the boundaries of Toronto which is set to become Canada's first urban national park.⁴⁰⁰

The following groups are addressing issues relating to the environment through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Bird Studies Canada](#) – Conserving wild birds of Canada through public engagement and advocacy

[Clean Air Partnership](#) – Runs the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation, working for a better cycling and pedestrian environment

[Community Bicycle Network](#) - Providing access, training, and support for all cyclists

[David Suzuki Foundation](#) - Environmental education and conservation

[Earthroots Fund](#) - Dedicated to the preservation of Ontario's wilderness, wildlife, and watersheds

[Ecologos](#) - A network of volunteers inspiring others for a more sustainable society

[EcoSpark Environmental Organization](#) – Giving communities the tools for influencing positive environmental change

[Environmental Defence](#) - Challenging and inspiring change in all sectors to ensure a greener life for all

[Evergreen](#) – Solving the most pressing urban environmental issues

[First Work](#) - Helping youth find and keep meaningful employment

[Fatal Light Awareness Program \(FLAP\) Canada](#) - Safeguarding migratory birds in the urban environment

[FoodShare](#) - Working towards a sustainable and accessible food system

[FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners](#) - Fostering the creation of sustainable communities

[Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance](#) - Bringing people together to tackle our region's toughest challenges

[Greenest City](#) - Building healthy neighbourhoods through gardening and the celebration of food

[Jane's Walk](#) – Creating walkable neighbourhoods and cities planned for and by people

[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - A gathering place focused on social justice and collaboration

[Lake Ontario Waterkeeper](#) - Working to restore swimmability, drinkability and fishability to Lake Ontario

[LEAF \(Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests\)](#) - Protects and enhances our urban forest

[Learning for a Sustainable Future \(LSF\)](#) - Promoting, through edu-

cation, the practices essential to sustainability

[Local Food Plus/Land Food People Foundation](#) – Nurturing regional food economies

[Moorelands Community Services](#) - Provides youth affected by poverty fun experiences to strengthen their confidence

[No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment](#) - Uses art and design to bring awareness to environmental concerns

[Not Far From The Tree](#) - Putting Toronto's fruit to good use by picking and sharing the bounty

[Outward Bound Canada](#) - Cultivating resilience and compassion through challenging journeys in nature

[Project Canoe](#) - Uses the outdoors and wilderness canoe trips to create an environment in which youth

[The Pollution Probe Foundation](#) - Improving the well-being of Canadians by advancing environmental change

[Scadding Court Community Centre](#) - Providing opportunities for inclusive recreation, education, and community participation

[Scarborough Arts](#) - Developing programming and cultural initiatives in collaboration with the community

[Second Harvest](#) - Feeding hungry people by picking up, preparing and delivering excess fresh food to social agencies

[Seed to Table](#) - Cultivating the conditions for community change by building local capacity

[Small Change Fund](#) - Supporting grassroots projects that contribute to social and environmental change

[Sustainability Network](#) - Enriching Canadian environmental leaders and organizations by supporting them to increase capacity

[The Stop Community Food Centre](#) - Increasing access to healthy food by building community and challenging inequality

[Toronto ACORN](#) - Building community groups in low income areas to establish community campaigns

[Toronto Atmospheric Fund](#) - Helps the City achieve the targets set out in the Council-approved climate plan

[Toronto Environmental Alliance](#) - Promoting a greener Toronto

[Toronto Park People](#) - The catalyst for better parks across Toronto

[Toronto Wildlife Centre](#) – Building a healthy community for people and wildlife by raising awareness about urban wildlife

[Words In Motion](#) - Using the arts to help children and their families achieve their full potential

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Learning

Why is this important?

An educated labour force is more critical than ever as the labour market shifts to a focus on knowledge work.

But learning is impacted by many factors (poverty, mental and physical health, safety and the presence of necessary supports). Schools with librarians and day cares, arts programs and robust physical education give children lifelong advantages. Providing equal access to these opportunities needs to be a priority for the city.

What are the trends?

Toronto's schools have an enviable and improving teacher/student ratio (ranking #3 out of 24 global metros on the Toronto Region Board of Trade's 2014 Scorecard on Prosperity). There was significant improvement in 2013, in the percentage of schools with full-time health and physical education teachers at the elementary level. And improved access to childcare fee subsidies meant that the number of low-income children on the waiting list dropped by about 10%.

What's news?

More Toronto students are graduating from high school than ever before (the rate for TDSB students was 83% in 2013). But enrolment in post-secondary education eludes many, as tuition fees in Ontario are reportedly close to the highest among the OECD countries. And new reports confirm that forcing children to choose between academic and applied courses at an early age may contribute to poorer educational outcomes and reinforce disadvantage.

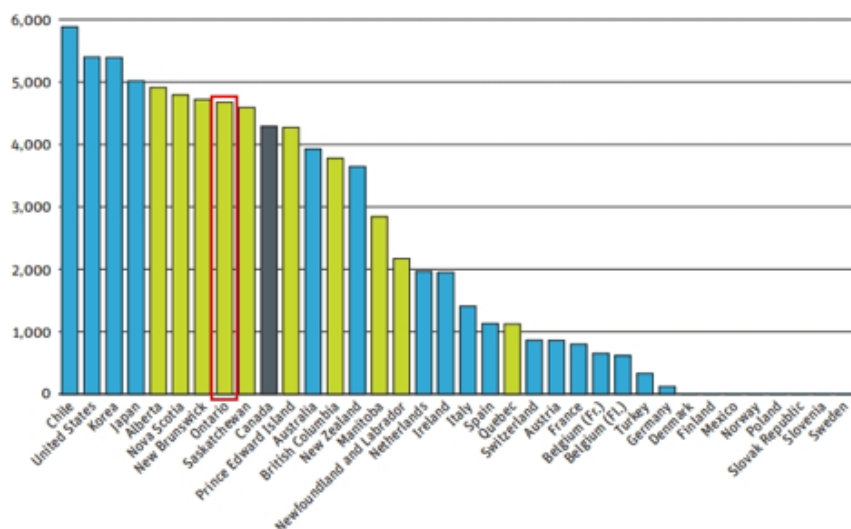
Some Key Learning Trends ⁴⁰⁷	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Percentage of Toronto Region population with a post-secondary credential	56.5%	56.7%	57.1%
2. Percentage of Toronto labour force with post-secondary education	68.26%	68.3%	67.71%
3. Teacher/student ratio in public schools (Toronto Region)	67.8/1000	87.7/1000	—
4. Percentage of Toronto public elementary schools with a health and physical education teacher; Percentage of those schools that employ these teachers full time	— 51%	80% 46%	86% 57%
5. Children on the waiting list for a childcare subsidy (March of the year)	21,075	18,839	16,873

Is access to educational opportunities available to everyone?

Ontario's tuition fees are among the highest in the country (and the world):

- Tuition and compulsory fees for full-time undergrads in Ontario are estimated at \$8,403 for 2013–2014.
- Ontario tuitions averaged \$2,574 in 1990–1991. A [report](#) by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives projects that the average will reach \$8,756 in 2016–2017—a 240% increase over 26 years.⁴⁰⁸

Tertiary Tuition Fees across Canada and in OECD Countries, 2011:



Source: OECD Education at a Glance 2011. Statistics Canada, Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation and author calculation

Toronto students are graduating at a rate higher than ever before:

- The [mid-year progress report](#) on the [Toronto District School Board \(TDSB\)'s Years of Action Plan](#) reports that in 2013, 83% of students graduated from high school, an increase of 3% from the previous year.
 - Since the TDSB began tracking graduation rates in 2000, they have increased by 20.3% (from 69%).⁴⁰⁹
- Ontario's graduation rates remained stable at 83% between 2014 and 2009, up from 68% in 2004.
 - An increasing number of students now graduate in four, rather than five, years: 75%, up from 74% last year.⁴¹⁰

Almost 60% of the Region's population over the age of 15 has completed post-secondary education, but some Toronto neighbourhoods are falling behind:

- 57.1% of the population in the Toronto Region aged 15 and older have a post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate, up slightly from 2012 (56.7%) and greater than both the national (54.0%) and provincial (54.4%) averages. The Toronto Region figure represents a 24.1% increase (from 46%) since 2000.⁴¹¹
- In Toronto, 67.7% of the labour force has a post-secondary diploma or degree.⁴¹²
 - In one-third (32.9%) of Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods, 61% or fewer residents between 25 and 64 have completed post-secondary education, well below the city-wide average of 69%.⁴¹³



Fostering a love of education in youth should be a priority. Without equal access to all its advantages we leave some youth at a disadvantage. Only by incorporating the interests of youth into their education, making it relevant and interesting, and by removing barriers to their progress, including financial, language, and stereotypes are we able to truly prepare them for their future.”

—Bob Clarke

Director, Toronto Lords Basketball

Enrollment remains steady at the Toronto Region’s colleges:

- The Toronto Regions’ five colleges (Centennial, George Brown, Humber, Seneca and Sheridan) reported (full-time equivalent) enrolment of 90,888 for the 2012-2013 year.

the successful program trains youth with the skills become volunteer tutors for adults in their community, turning the traditional classroom model on its head.⁴¹⁵

Toronto is home to one of the world’s top universities according to Times Higher Education’s World University Rankings:

- The University of Toronto ranks 20th out of 400 global universities based on performance indicators across teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.



University was 300th. Ryerson University did not make the list.⁴¹⁴

- Three other Canadian universities made the top 100: McGill ranked 25th, University of British Columbia 31st, and McMaster 96th. Toronto’s York

Empowering youth to teach newcomer adults in their own communities:



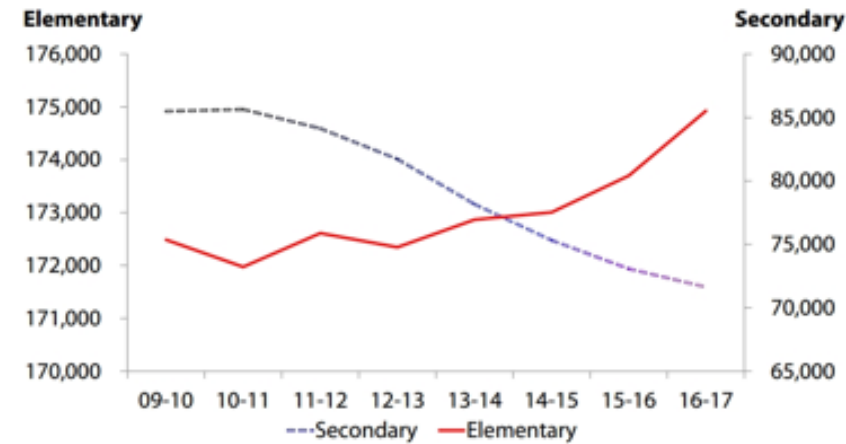
education. The concept is inspired by the natural phenomenon that exists within many newcomer families, where youth and children help their parents integrate into Canadian society, and aims to change people’s perceptions on how to educate adults and engage youth. Founded by a young leader from Toronto’s Regent Park community,

- Youth Empowering Parents provides free, accessible one-on-one tutoring for adults by youth, promoting intergenerational learning while strengthening community relations through

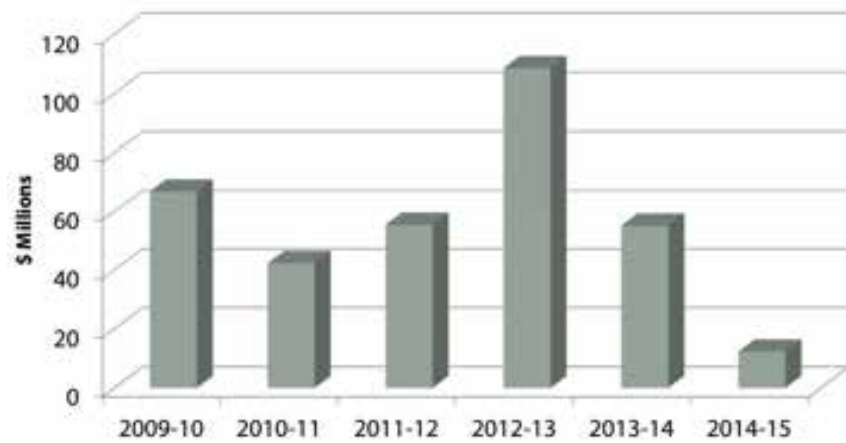
The Toronto District School Board presented a balanced 2014–15 operating budget in March, its first since being created 16 years ago:

- TDSB has an annual operating budget of \$3.0B, \$2.6B of which comes from Provincial grants. The remainder comes from revenues (such as fees from international students and lease revenues). Staff salaries and benefits represent approximately 83% of total expenses. TDSB’s capital budget totals \$200M.⁴¹⁶
- 165 secondary teaching positions were eliminated due to declining secondary enrolment, but growing elementary enrolment was reflected in the addition of 201 elementary teaching positions, 374 lunchroom supervisors and 348 Early Childhood Educators (ECE) for the 2014-15 school year.⁴¹⁷
 - o 138 more elementary students were projected to enroll for the 2014-2015 school year than in 2013-14 (up to 173,007 from 172,869). TDSB has projected enrolment of another 695 in 2015-16 and 1,225 in 2016-17, reaching a total of 174,927 that school year.⁴¹⁸
- In April 2014, the Province announced its funding for the 2014-15 school year, and due to changes to how funding is calculated, TDSB experienced significant cuts to special education (\$7.3M) and school operations funding (\$10M).⁴²⁰
- After having been forced to cut \$300M from the operating budget over the last five years, trustees found themselves wrestling a comparatively small \$12.4M deficit for the 2014–15 budget (less than a quarter of last year’s \$55M deficit).⁴²¹

TDSB Enrollment Trends:⁴¹⁹



TDSB Budget reductions required each year 2009-2010 to 2014-2015:⁴²²



The teacher/student ratio in the Toronto Region's public schools has improved since 2011, and Toronto schools are more likely to have physical education teachers. But full-time librarian numbers have dropped significantly:

- There were 87.7 teachers for every 1,000 students in 2012, compared to 67.8 per 1,000 in 2011.⁴²³
- The percentage of Toronto elementary schools with full-time librarians continues to decline, from 22% in 2012 to just 15% in 2013, a much greater drop than between 2011 (23%) and 2012 (22%).
- In 2013, 86% of Toronto elementary schools had a specialist Health and Physical Education teacher (a substantial improvement over 80% last year), compared to 47% of schools province-wide.⁴²⁴
 - o In 57% of those schools, the Health and Physical

Education teachers are employed full time (again, a substantial improvement from 46% the year previous), compared to 33% province-wide.

Toronto schools are more likely to have special education teachers than schools in the rest of the province, but changes to funding mean Toronto-area school boards may see funding cuts:

- 14% of Toronto's elementary school students and 21% of secondary students receive special education assistance, and these proportions have increased steadily over the last decade.
- Elementary schools have far lower average ratios of students with special education needs per special education teacher than secondary schools, 26:1

in elementary schools versus 77:1 in secondary schools.

- 45% of elementary principals and 29% of secondary principals have had to ask parents to keep a student home for all or part of a school day. While the majority have made the recommendation for safety reasons, one third did so because necessary supports were unavailable.
- 59% of elementary schools and 44% of secondary schools have access to a regularly scheduled psychologist, compared to provincial averages of 39% and 32% respectively.
- In 45% of elementary schools and 33% of secondary schools, not all students have access to the assistive technology recommended in their [Individual Education Plans](#) (IEPs) or psycho-educational assessments.⁴²⁵
- The Province's new funding model, being phased in over four years, is intended to recognize current differences among boards and considers a range of demographic factors that influence a child's learning, including parental education, median income, unemployment, and length of time in Canada.
 - Under the changes, the TDSB lost \$7.3M in special education funding.⁴²⁶
 - Peel District School Board (which serves Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon) championed the funding changes and will benefit from them.
- Previously the Peel Board had to route \$14M from other areas to make up for a shortfall in special education funding caused by demographic changes in the area. About 14% of Peel students have special education needs.⁴²⁷

Learning in the arts builds skills required for success in school and beyond—critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and communication. Toronto's publicly funded schools fare better than those elsewhere in the province:

- Although Ontario has detailed, compulsory arts curriculum for the arts up to grade 8, the Province provides no specific funding for the arts. Principals report that having a music teacher, for example, is part "good luck" and fortunate circumstances.
 - Ontario has the lowest proportion of schools with music teachers of any province in Canada, but in Toronto schools:
- 58% of Toronto elementary schools have a music teacher, compared to a provincial average of 43%.
- 71% of elementary schools have an itinerant music teacher (compared to a provincial average of 40%). This figure has steadily increased, but because these teachers are not based in one school, it is difficult for them to integrate arts into regular classes and curriculum, or build arts into the school community.
- 7% of Toronto schools have neither a music teacher nor an itinerant music teacher.⁴²⁸

There were 81 licenced childcare spaces in Malvern in 2011, compared to an average was 125 across all neighbourhoods (see [Wellbeing Toronto](#) for more detail).

If Plato believed, above all other disciplines, that teaching children the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning, what's keeping our leaders from deeply investing in these young minds and creative spirits? What's changed in 2500 years? Nothing."

—David Visentin
Executive and Artistic Director, Sistema Toronto

What are some of the challenges low-income families have accessing affordable child care?

The City added 668 new subsidized childcare spaces in its 2014 budget:

- Although an allocation of \$20M in provincial funding for child care allowed the City to add the spaces⁴²⁹, there were still almost 17,000 low-income children on the wait list for subsidies in March 2014. The wait list was, however, 10% lower than in March of the previous year, a result of improved access to fee subsidies.⁴³⁰
- Although schools are required to have extended day programs (both before and after school and during school breaks) for students in full-day kindergarten (FDK) if there is sufficient demand, only half of Toronto schools are offering them:
- Only 51% of Toronto's elementary schools offer extended day programs (before and after school) for children in kindergarten.
 - Of those, only 43% offer the programming year round.
- 41% of elementary schools that have no extended day programs report that parents have requested one. Schools are required to offer extended program if there are requests from the parents of 20 or more children.
- Cost is a barrier to many families. Programs are funded by fees typically ranging from \$100–150 per week. Childcare subsidies for low-income families are available, but waitlists are long, and not all schools have subsidized spaces.
 - Extended day programs have been shown to be especially beneficial for disadvantaged families. Yet the families who are most likely to benefit from the programs are the least likely to have access.
 - Provincial data confirm that extended day programs are more likely to be offered in schools where average family incomes are higher.⁴³¹

How equitable and inclusive are Toronto's schools?

All students would benefit from knowledge of Aboriginal history, cultures, perspectives and experiences, but many schools are not offering Aboriginal students and others this learning opportunity:

- The majority of Ontario's Aboriginal students attend publicly funded schools in Ontario school boards. A 2012 report from the Auditor General raised grave concerns as to whether current education policy was giving these students sufficient support.
- The majority of Ontario's Aboriginal students live in urban areas such as Toronto.
- 18% of provincially-funded secondary schools in Toronto report students transfer from on-reserve schools.
- 81% of Toronto's elementary schools and 59% of secondary schools do not offer any Aboriginal education opportunities, despite the fact that most have Aboriginal students.
- Only 13% of Toronto elementary and 25% of secondary schools offer professional development opportunities for teachers to learn more about Aboriginal worldviews.
- Only 5% of elementary schools and 20% of secondary schools offer Native Studies courses.⁴³²

Photo: UNITY



Red Sky captures and ignites imaginations while creating an avenue for children and families to explore, understand, and appreciate Aboriginal culture:



Internationally renowned for its artistry and innovation, Toronto-based [Red Sky Performance](#) is Canada's leading company of contemporary world indigenous performance in dance, theatre and music. Red Sky creates, produces and tours original work for adult and family audiences on stages across Canada and the world. Red Sky has also garnered an international reputation for collaborating on landmark projects with some of the most prestigious artists and companies from around the globe. Since its inception, Red Sky has captured and ignited the imagination of close to 550,000 people from nine countries on four continents.⁴³³

In its first year, 19 Grade 9 students in the first Africentric program at a public Canadian high school enjoyed a curriculum that speaks to black students and promotes a sense of belonging:

- The [Leonard Braithwaite Program](#) at Scarborough's Winston Churchill Collegiate, conceived in response to the high dropout rate among black Toronto students, supplements the regular Ontario curriculum with culturally diverse lesson plans.
- Despite initial worries of segregation, the program is successfully integrating program students with others.
 - Students in the program take core subjects together, but share electives with Winston Churchill students.
 - The program is open to any student. One member of the 2013 cohort, and several teachers, were not black.
- Instead of streaming, which is common in Grade 9 classes, the program has students at every skill level. Assignments are varied according to students' abilities, with appropriate credit (academic or applied) granted at course end.
 - While the variety of abilities initially led to some behavioural problems, students are now more often helping each other.
- The program tries to address the "opportunity gap" facing some students who are not achieving with an education assistant to provide support and

a goal of 16 credits by age 16, a level of academic achievement shown to reduce the chance of a student dropping out.

- The Board is considering more such programs and courses in high schools across the city in order to provide a seamless Africentric learning opportunity for graduates of Toronto's JK to Grade 8 [Africentric Alternative School](#), which has grown to nearly 200 students since opening in 2009.⁴³⁴

Forcing students to choose between academic and applied courses at an early age may contribute to greater achievement gaps and greater inequality:

- Ontario students must choose when they are only in grade 8 whether they want to pursue applied ("hands-on") or academic ("theoretical and abstract") core courses in grade 9. International evidence suggests that these decisions affect students' options for the remainder of their schooling, and after they graduate.
- The decision is made by students and their parents, often based on a recommendation from a teacher or a guidance counselor. But some Toronto families may not be getting that advice.
 - 90% of Toronto elementary schools with grades 7 and 8 have guidance counsellors who could provide individualized recommendations on choosing high school courses (significantly higher than the 29% provincial average).
 - 53% of elementary schools report that information nights are the main source of information for students and parents making this decision. It is unclear, however, how many attend. Parents time-crunched by working one or more jobs, with limited English skills, or facing other barriers are unlikely to have the opportunity.



- Only 9% of schools report that one-on-one counselling is the main source of information.⁴³⁵
- Both the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)) and [People for Education](#) advocate that such decisions should be deferred until the upper secondary years (Finland, Spain, and Poland have already made this move), as international evidence shows that "streaming" students, especially at a young age:
 - can depress achievement in lower-performing students,
 - reinforces disadvantages faced by low-income and racialized students, and

- o contributes to worse educational outcomes for low-income students.⁴³⁶
- Ontario officially ended streaming as policy in 1999. Students are now free to mix and match applied and academic core courses, but evidence suggests that de-streaming exists in name only, as students tend to take the majority of their core classes in one option or the other.
 - o Although course selections in Grades 9 and 10 do not commit a student to a particular path according to Ministry policy, People for Education analysis shows that it is relatively uncommon for Toronto students to transfer from applied to academic courses.
- 47% of principals in secondary schools report that students “never” transfer between academic and applied courses, or transfer “not very often”. None report that students “often” transfer.⁴³⁷

A “Triple Threat to Equity” campaign continues to promote the need for TDSB to make budgetary decisions through an equity lens:

- There are a number of areas across the Board where significant gaps exist between actual costs and funding received from the Province. To help offset these, the Board uses revenues (like fees from International Students and lease revenues) and funding sources (where there is flexibility in how they are spent).⁴³⁸
 - o Analysis by Social Planning Toronto has

- shown that about two-thirds of the Learning Opportunities Grant allocation and one-quarter of the English as a Second Language grant is being diverted away from these programs for low-income students.
- o Thanks to the campaigning of committed parents, students and community members, TDSB passed a motion in September 2013 which saw trustees commit to incrementally putting the money back into the programs.
- The Board’s own student census revealed that 50% of students come from families earning less than \$50,000 a year.
- o The campaign advocated for funding decisions to be made with an equity lens, asking for:
 - the return of the 18 coaches that were cut from the Model Schools for Inner Cities program,
 - the return of 30 of the Learning Opportunities secondary teachers cut last year, and
 - better use of the Board’s Learning Opportunities Index (a measure that ranks schools across the system from greatest to least need) in making funding decisions, from allocating staffing to spending on school computers and library books.⁴³⁹

The following groups are addressing issues relating to learning through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Agingcourt Community Services Association](#) - Multi-service agency addressing needs and empowering under-served
[Applegrove Community Complex](#) - A neighbourhood partnership fostering community
[Art City in St. James Town](#) - Provides free and accessible multidisciplinary arts programming
[Art Gallery of Ontario](#) - Bringing people together with art to experience and understand the world in new ways
[Art Starts](#) - Creating social change through community art projects
[Arthritis Research Foundation](#) - Working to beat arthritis and autoimmune diseases
[ArtReach Toronto](#) - Gives young artists access to resources, mentorship and skill building opportunities
[Arts Etobicoke](#) - A community arts council located in a beautiful storefront gallery
[Arts for Children and Youth](#) - Hands on, community and school based arts education
[Boundless Adventures Association](#) - Improving the lives of underserved youth through outdoor leadership
[Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders](#) - Leadership skills for underserved teens through sailing
[Camp Oochigeas](#) - Providing kids with cancer a unique, enriching and magical experience
[Canadian Diabetes Association](#) - Fighting diabetes by helping people live healthy lives while finding a cure
[Canadian Music Therapy Trust Fund](#) - Improving the mental, physical and emotional health of Canadians
[Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation](#) - Educating young children with developmental challenges
[Child Development Institute](#) - Leading children's mental health programming in Toronto
[The Children's Book Bank](#) - Providing free books and literacy support to children in priority neighbourhoods
[Clean Air Partnership](#) - Runs the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation, working for a better cycling and pedestrian environment
[Common Ground Co-operative](#) - Supporting people with developmental disabilities
[Community Association for Riding for the Disabled \(CARD\)](#) - Improving lives through quality therapeutic riding programs
[Community Bicycle Network](#) - Providing access, training, and support for all cyclists
[Community Matters Toronto](#) - Supporting newcomers living in St. James Town
[Community MicroSkills Development Centre](#) - Assists the unemployed, with priority to women, racial minorities, immigrants and youth
[Connect Legal](#) - Promoting entrepreneurship in immigrant communities
[CultureLink Settlement Services](#) - Developing and delivering settlement services to meet the needs of diverse communities
[Delta Family Resource Centre](#) - Enhancing the potential of families and children
[Dixon Hall](#) - Creating opportunities for people of all ages to dream
[Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club](#) - Providing a safe, supportive place for children and youth
[East Scarborough Storefront](#) - Building community through

collaborations and shared spaces

[East York East Toronto Family Resources Organization](#) - Increasing the well-being of individuals and families
[Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre](#) - Serving a low-income, ethnically and socially diverse community
[Ecologos](#) - A network of volunteers inspiring others for a more sustainable society
[EcoSpark Environmental Organization](#) - Giving communities the tools for influencing positive environmental change
[Environmental Defence](#) - Challenging and inspiring change in all sectors to ensure a greener life for all
[Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth](#) - Works locally and nationally to prevent, reduce, and end youth homelessness
[Findhelp Information Services](#) - Providing information and referral services in Ontario and across Canada
[Fatal Light Awareness Program \(FLAP\) Canada](#) - Safeguarding migratory birds in the urban environment
[FIT Community Services](#) - Friends In Trouble - Bridging the income inequality gap
[FoodShare](#) - Working towards a sustainable and accessible food system
[For Youth Initiative \(FYI\)](#) - creating healthy communities by increasing life-chances of underserved youth
[Framework](#) - Delivers high-quality volunteer engagement events (Timeraiser)
[Frontier College](#) - Providing a wide range of literacy programming
[Future Possibilities Canada Inc.](#) - Empowering children from diverse Canadian communities
[Geneva Centre for Autism](#) - Empowering and supporting individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
[The George Hull Centre for Children and Families](#) - Serving children and youth by providing mental health services
[Harbourfront Centre](#) - Nurturing the growth of new cultural expression and artistic cultural exchange
[Harmony Movement / Harmony Education Foundation](#) - Promotes harmony, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Canada
[Hot Docs](#) - Advancing the creative imprint of documentary film
[imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#) - Celebrating the latest works by Indigenous peoples
[Inner City Angels](#) - Bringing imaginative interdisciplinary arts programs to children in Toronto
[Interval House](#) - Enabling abused women and children to have access to safe shelter and responsive services
[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - A gathering place focused on social justice and collaboration
[JUMP Math](#) - Encouraging an understanding and a love of math in students and educators
[Junior Achievement of Central Ontario](#) - Educating young Canadians to understand business and economics
[Lake Ontario Waterkeeper](#) - Working to restore swimmability, drinkability and fishability to Lake Ontario
[Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project \(LAMP\)](#) - Partnering with the community to address emerging needs
[Law In Action Within Schools](#) - Engaging youth in legal education and the justice system
[Learning Enrichment Foundation \(LEF\)](#) - Providing holistic and integrated services in York Region
[Learning for a Sustainable Future \(LSF\)](#) - Promoting, through education, the practices essential to sustainability
[Licensed to Learn Inc.](#) - Empowering children to reach their potential through peer-led tutoring
[Literature for Life](#) - Helping marginalized young moms develop a practice of reading

[Macaulay Child Development Centre](#) - Helping all children thrive in caring, responsive families

[Manifesto Community Projects](#) - Unites and empowers diverse young people through hip-hop culture

[The Massey Centre for Women](#) - Striving to achieve healthy outcomes for all young mothers and families

[Mentoring Junior Kids Organization \(MJKO\)](#) - Promoting healthy and active lifestyles for youth

[Merry Go Round Children's Foundation](#) - Enabling financially disadvantaged students to achieve their academic pursuits

[Moorelands Community Services](#) - Provides youth affected by poverty fun experiences to strengthen their confidence

[Newcomer Women's Services Toronto](#) - Delivering educational and employment opportunities for immigrant women and their children

[New Circles Community Services](#) - Offering volunteer driven services in Toronto's Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park and Victoria Village

[North York Community House](#) - Enhancing the strength and resilience of their neighbourhood

[North York Women's Centre \(NYWC\)](#) - Supporting and empowering women and effect positive change

[Ontario Justice Education Network](#) - Promoting public understanding to support a responsive and inclusive justice system

[Outward Bound Canada](#) - Cultivating resilience and compassion through challenging journeys in nature

[The PACT Urban Peace Program](#) - Empowering underserved youth and youth already in conflict with the law

[Pathways to Education Canada](#) - Helps underserved youth graduate from high school and transition to further education

[PEACH: Promoting Education and Community Health](#) - Provides transformative, youth-centred, social and educational programs

[Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario](#) - Champions of childhood cancer care

[The Peer Project](#) - Youth Assisting Youth - Promoting the healthy growth and development of young people

[People for Education](#) - Engaging parents to become active participants in their children's education

[The Pollution Probe Foundation](#) - Improving the well-being of Canadians by advancing environmental change

[The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery](#) - Offering professional support to diverse living artists

[Regent Park School of Music](#) - Providing quality, affordable music education to underprivileged youth

[Right To Play](#) - Uses the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing adversity

[Roots of Empathy](#) - Reducing bullying among school children while raising emotional competence

[The Redwood](#) - Supporting women and their children to live free from domestic abuse

[The Remix Project](#) - Levelling the playing field in creative industries for youth from marginalized and under-served communities

[Second Harvest](#) - Feeding hungry people by picking up, preparing and delivering excess fresh food to social agencies

[Seed to Table](#) - Cultivating the conditions for community change by building local capacity

[Shakespeare in Action](#) - Enhancing arts and education through exploring and performing Shakespeare

[Sheena's Place](#) - Supporting individuals, families and friends affected by eating disorders

[SKETCH Working Arts](#) - An arts initiative for young people who are homeless or living on the margins

[Skills for Change of Metro Toronto](#) - Learning and training opportunities for immigrants and refugees

[Social Planning Toronto](#) - Building a civic society by mobilizing community organizations around specific local issues

[Springboard](#) - Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[St. Stephen's Community House](#) - Multi-service programming for newcomer and low-income residents

[Story Planet](#) - A story making centre running workshops that encourage young people to tell their stories

[Success Beyond Limits Education Program](#) - Improving educational outcomes and providing support to youth in Jane and Finch

[Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir](#) - Preserving and performing period music for generations to come

[TIFF](#) - Bringing the power of film to life by providing arts education for all ages and running the world's largest public film festival

[Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development](#) - Creating a strong culture of community engagement

[Toronto City Mission](#) - Creating lasting change through preventative and transformational programs

[Toronto Foundation for Student Success](#) - Initiating innovative anti-poverty programs for students

[Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs](#) - Providing a safe, supportive place for the young people of Regent Park, Cabbagetown, and Trinity-Bellwoods

[Toronto Public Library Foundation](#) - Providing essential resources for the enhancement of the Toronto Public Library

[Toronto Youth Development](#) - Assisting and fostering underprivileged youth in Toronto

[UrbanArts](#) - Engaging youth in community development through the arts

[Variety Village](#) - Promoting appreciation, interaction, empowerment and inclusion

[Vermont Square Parent-Child Mother Goose Program](#) - Fostering parent-child bonding and literacy through a rich oral language experience

[WoodGreen](#) - Enhancing self-sufficiency, promoting well-being and reducing poverty

[Words In Motion](#) - Using the arts to help children and their families achieve their full potential

[Working Skills Centre](#) - Empowering immigrants by providing skills training and orientation to Canada

[Youth Empowering Parents \(YEP\)](#) - Empowering youth to become leaders within their own community

[Family Service Toronto](#) - Strengthening communities through counselling, education, social action and development

[FIT Community Services](#) - Friends In Trouble - Bridging the income inequality gap

Endnotes

407. Index: (1) (1) NVS: Table IV-1-a: Proportion of the Population (15 years and over) with a Post-Secondary Education (University Degree; Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma) for Vital Signs Communities, 2000-2014; (2) City of Toronto, Strategic Growth and Sector Development Economic Research. Special request; (3) Toronto Region Board of Trade. (2014). Toronto as a Global City: Scorecard on Prosperity. Pg. 43. Last accessed on July 21, 2014 from http://bot.com/advocacy/Documents/Scorecard/Scorecard_2014.pdf; (4) People for Education. (2014). Report for 2014 Toronto Vital Signs, results from Annual Survey of Ontario Schools 2013/14. Special request; (5) City of Toronto, Children's Services. (2014). Early Learning and Care in Toronto—May 2014. Last accessed on July 21, 2014 from http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20Of%20Toronto/Children%27s%20Services/Files/pdf/C/child-care_factsheet_may2014.pdf; and City of Toronto, Children's Services. (2013). Early Learning and Care in Toronto—Winter 2013. Last accessed on September 12, 2014 from http://www.toronto.ca/children/pdf/factsheet_winter2013.pdf; Toronto Foundation. (2013). Toronto's Vital Signs Report 2013. Last accessed October 1, 2014 from <https://torontofoundation.ca/torontos-vital-signs-report>
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Arts & Culture

Why is this important?

A thriving arts and cultural community is a sign of a city's ability to innovate, to solve problems, to attract visitors, and to entice talented new residents from around the world.

Toronto's burgeoning arts environment helps to welcome and integrate newcomers, celebrate our heritage and imagine a better city.


What are the trends?

The City increased its cultural spending by 1.1% in the 2014 budget, bringing the per capita municipal investment in culture to slightly over \$22 (the goal was \$25 per capita in direct arts funding by 2016).⁴⁴⁰ Professional employment in arts and culture is rising (increasing more than 16% since 2011), and film, television and other screen-based media production spending exceeded \$1B for the third year in a row.

What's new?

In addition to the celebrated Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), which attracted 1.8 million people and injected \$189M into the local economy in 2013, Toronto now plays host to more than 80 film festivals each year, including Hot Docs, the largest documentary film festival in North America. Torontonians also have access to one of the world's largest urban library systems. New research indicates that every \$1 invested in the library generates an almost six-fold return in direct and indirect benefits to the city.

Some Key Arts and Culture Trends	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i> ⁴⁴¹			
1. City budget for culture	\$48,790,000 (2012)	\$54,790,000 (2013)	\$55,420,000 (2014)
2. Per capita municipal cultural investment	\$19.00 (2012)	\$19.62 (2013)	\$22.07 (2014)
3. Professional employment in arts and culture (excluding self-employed)	31,270	34,750	36,510
4. Film, television and other screen-based media production spending	\$1.13B	\$1.2B	\$1.19B
5. Attendance at City-funded or City-programmed cultural events	18.2 million	19 million	19 million+

 **Arts and culture are key aspects of an endless project to make sense of the places where we find ourselves – places we are longing to call home.”**

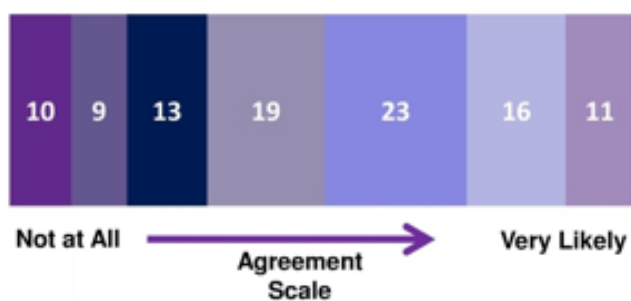
—Leah Houston
Artistic Director, MABELLEarts

Are Torontonians interested in the arts?

Studies continue to show that GTA residents are highly engaged in and are strong supporters of the arts in Toronto:

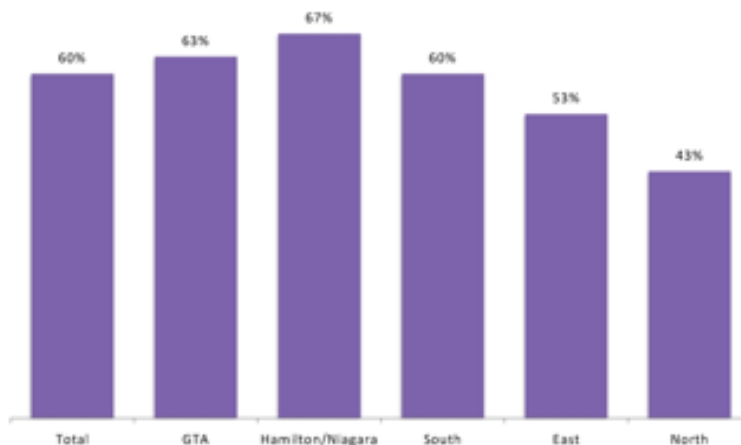
- Bringing the City Alive: A Survey of Arts in the GTA was completed on behalf of Toronto Arts Foundation in January 2014. The online [survey](#) of GTA residents found that:
 - o Three-quarters (74%) agree that the arts provide benefits to the city including:
 - attracting tourists (79%);
 - showcasing Toronto (75%);
 - o highlighting our diversity (73%);
 - improving the economy (69%); and
 - providing employment (64%).
 - o 71% feel that the arts improve the quality of life of individuals.
 - o A majority (70%) attend events, volunteer or donate to the arts.
 - o Roughly 40% see the arts as a way to engage in their own heritage (44%) and to explore cultures they are unfamiliar with (42%).
 - o Half see the arts as an activity of choice for out-of-town guests.

Likelihood of Taking an Out-of-Town Visitor to an Arts Activity (%):



- A 2013 survey a year earlier (documented in the same [report](#)) found that 73% of Torontonians supported the direct arts investment motion. Of those who lived in Toronto, 73% supported it, as did 82% of those considering purchasing a condo in the city within the next five years.
 - o Six in ten Ontarians who lived, worked in, or visited Toronto said that the city's arts and cultural activities were important in their decision to do so. 69% of those who lived in Toronto agreed, as did 78% of people who owned a condo in the city.

How strongly do you agree or disagree: "Toronto's arts and cultural activities are important in my decision to live, work in or visit Toronto"?



Despite these high levels of interest and engagement, a significant majority (83%) of GTA residents face barriers to attending arts programming:

- Cost (56%) and lack of time (35%) are the biggest factors that make it difficult for people to attend arts events, visit arts locations, or participate in arts activities. Others include:
 - distance from home, 27%;
 - unawareness of what's going on, 20%; and
 - inaccessibility of venues to those with mobility issues, 6%.
- Encouragingly, only 5% of respondents say they "don't feel welcome," but the feeling is higher among those under 34.⁴⁴²

Newer research from the Toronto Arts Foundation shows that not only do the arts matter to Torontonians, but they also positively impact the economy and our communities:

- The Toronto Arts Foundation brought together researchers and arts leaders to [understand Toronto Arts Facts](#), the most recent available data about the arts in Toronto from a variety of studies and statistical resources.
- The publication tells a compelling story about the arts in Toronto. Amongst other benefits, they:
 - boost our economy - arts and culture contribute \$11.3 billion annually to the city's GDP;
 - create employment - Toronto's creative workforce has grown by 34% since 2001, more than twice the rate of growth of the overall labour force;
 - attract visitors - [Scotiabank Nuit Blanche](#) attracted more than 1 million people in 2013, including over 190,000 out-of-town visitors, for an economic impact of \$39.5M;
 - increase spending - Torontonians spent over \$132 million on tickets to [Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts](#) (TAPA) members' performances in 2009/10;
 - build bridges between cultures -42% of Torontonians say the top impacts of the arts on communities are sharing experiences, building connections (39%), bridging differences (36%), increasing understanding between people (31%), increasing local participation (29%), and building local pride (15%);

- help neighbourhoods grow stronger - 40% of Toronto's performing arts organizations offer community programs, for youth, artists, adults, and at-risk or equity groups;
- allow people to give back to their communities -11% of Torontonians regularly volunteer for an arts organization.⁴⁴³

Toronto's culture animates the city, creating a sense of place, making the city economically vibrant, and attracting visitors, citizens and the businesses that employ them:

- Toronto's cultural economy contributed \$11.3B in 2011 to the city's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
 - Toronto is home to 66% more artists than any other Canadian city, one in four of the country's creative industry jobs, and one in three of the province's cultural workers.
 - Two of the fastest-growing creative industries in Toronto, screen-based production and digital media industries, contribute more than \$1B annually to the local economy and directly employ approximately 25,000 people, or one in four of the industry nationally.
- Toronto's cultural assets include:
 - more than 80 film festivals;
 - 200 professional performing arts organizations;
 - internationally recognized symphony, ballet and opera companies;
 - many commercial and not-for-profit galleries and museums;
 - 10 city-owned [museums](#) housing 147,000 artifacts and 1 million archaeological specimens; and
 - more than 200 City-owned public artworks and historic monuments.
- Each year, the City produces and promotes numerous annual events, including:
 - [Doors Open Toronto](#), the largest Doors Open event in Canada and one of the three largest in the world, has seen more than two million visits to nearly 600 locations across the city since it began in 2000; and
 - [Winterlicious](#) and [Summerlicious](#), which in 2013 saw 580,000 prix fixe meals contribute \$25M in direct spending to the restaurant industry.⁴⁴⁴
- Over 19 million people attended City-funded or City-programmed cultural events in 2013.⁴⁴⁵

Arts and culture provide employment and professional development, marketing and advocacy opportunities for creatives:

- Professional employment in arts and culture in Toronto continued its growth in 2013 to 36,500 people (excluding the self-employed).⁴⁴⁶
- Employment in cultural industries in the Region is declining, however, dropping 10.8% since 2011 to 83,800 people in 2013.⁴⁴⁷
- At the end of its last fiscal year, the [Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts](#) (TAPA) had 190 individual and company members from the disciplines of theatre, dance, and opera.⁴⁴⁸



Photo: Dahlia Katz

An award-winning theatre company shares its assets and builds sector capacity for the Toronto theatre community:



- Founded in 1986, [Cahoots Theatre](#) is an award winning organization presenting work that reflects the diverse multicultural landscape of Toronto while working to enrich the sector by nurturing the skills and experiences of emerging and established theatre practitioners from Toronto's diverse communities.
 - o In 2013, Cahoots re-opened its doors after completing a major capital renovation to its office and rehearsal space. The renovation transformed its space into a cutting-edge creation studio, equipped with the latest technology, in which theatre artists across the sector can develop and rehearse visionary new works. Building on Cahoots' reputation as an open and welcoming community space, it now shares with both artists and the community one of the only affordable state-of-the-art barrier-free facilities in Toronto to rehearse and create interdisciplinary art.

How well is the City supporting arts and culture?

The City increased culture spending by 1.1% in its 2014 budget:

- The City budget for culture in 2013 was \$55.4M⁴⁴⁹, an increase from \$54.8M the previous year and 48.8M in 2011.⁴⁵⁰

A major milestone has been reached in the 13-year push to create a tax on billboards and invest funds in arts:

- The relentless advocacy of [BeautifulCity](#), a coalition of young, diverse Toronto artists, has achieved a landmark victory, with \$22.5M in retroactive proceeds from a new tax on billboards committed by Council to fund the arts in Toronto over the next four years.

- BeautifulCity first proposed the billboard tax in 2001 as a way to:
 - o celebrate diverse voices and activate art programs across Toronto;
 - o create and build ownership of vibrant and healthy public spaces;
 - o support Toronto's living and practicing artists; and
 - o build the capacity of young adults, youth and children.
- The tax was finally created in 2009. The advertising industry argued that the City had no jurisdiction to implement the levy, but lost their case in 2012, and \$22.5M in retroactive payments created a reserve fund, which Council agreed to designate for arts funding to 2017. There is still no plan to use any future annual proceeds of the billboard tax for the

arts, which was its original intention. The tax is expected to bring in \$10.7M in 2014.

- The commitment means that Toronto will reach the \$25 per-capita commitment towards arts funding agreed to by Council by 2017. In 2003, Council set 2008 as the target and in 2010, it set 2013 as its deadline⁴⁵¹ and in 2013, it agreed to allocate funds to meet the target by 2016⁴⁵²; this is the third time the City has missed a target to increase arts funding to \$25 per capita.⁴⁵³
- o Per capital municipal cultural investment in 2013 was \$22.07.⁴⁵⁴
- \$25 per capita has been seen as the standard since being reached in Montréal a decade ago. Montréal has since increased its arts funding to \$55 per capita.⁴⁵⁵

Arts Funding from the City of Toronto, 2013 to 2017:⁴⁵⁶

Year	Total increased culture spending	Retroactive billboard tax	Property tax base	Tax-base pressure
2013	6 M	6 M	0	0
2014	10.5 M	7.5 M	3 M	3M
2015	12.6 M	5.5 M	7 M	4 M
2016	15.5 M	3.5 M	12 M	5 M
2017	17.5 M	0	17.5 M	5.5 M

(22.5 M total)

A funding increase of \$1.8M for Toronto Arts Council brings its 2014 grants budget to just over \$16M:

- The new funding will allow the Toronto Arts Council to:
 - o partner with City Museums to [animate historic sites](#);
 - o support, in partnership with [ArtReach](#), 30 youth-led projects in underserved neighbourhoods;
 - o create connections between arts outside the core and established arts organizations through [Platform A](#);
 - o offer micro-grant programs to artists working outside the core;
 - o partner with the Toronto Public Library to put [artists in the library](#);
 - o partner with the Toronto District School Board on [Dare to Create](#);
 - o partner with [Business for the Arts](#) on [ArtsVest](#).⁴⁵⁷

How do Toronto's screen-based industries showcase Toronto and attract Investment?

On-location filming in Toronto in 2013 exceeded \$1B for the third straight year:

- The ongoing success of the city's screen-based industry—film, television, commercials and animation—keeps more than 25,000 people directly employed in film and television. In 2013:
 - o Screen-based production companies invested \$1.19B in on-location filming in Toronto, close to the \$1.2B reached in 2012⁴⁵⁸ and up from \$1.13B in 2011.⁴⁵⁹
 - o Major production spending was down overall (to \$948.1M from \$1.014B in 2011), but major domestic productions reached \$515M (up from \$499.4M in 2012), exceeding the \$500-million level for the first time.
 - o Animation spending exceeded \$100M for the first time, increasing by \$15M.
 - o The television series industry continued to dominate production investment in Toronto with almost two-thirds (62% or \$730M) of total investment.
 - o Production investment also increased significantly for commercials (more than \$32M) and music videos (more than \$4.6M).⁴⁶⁰

In addition to its impressive film, television and digital media production, Toronto is now home to over 80 film festivals:

- The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) has grown from a small 10-day event with an audience of 35,000 in 1976 into a cultural institution that contributes significantly to Toronto's international reputation.
 - The third largest film festival in the world, and the largest public film festival in the world, TIFF annually attracts well over a million attendees (including more than 1,100 media) from over 130 countries across all its activities.
 - TIFF drew 1.8 million people for all its annual activities (including its 38th annual festival in 2013), with an audience comprised of more than 432,000 for screenings of 288 features and 78 shorts from 70 countries.
 - TIFF's impact on the local economy has increased by \$50M over the past four years, reaching \$189M in 2013.⁴⁶¹
- [Hot Docs](#) Canadian International Documentary Festival is the largest documentary film festival in North America, presenting more than 200 films annually from Canada and around the world to a total audience of about 180,000.
 - The 21st annual festival in 2014 featured 197 documentaries from 43 countries of production.
 - During the festival, Hot Docs mounts a full roster of conference sessions, market events and services for filmmakers, including the renowned [Hot Docs Forum](#), [Hot Docs Deal Maker](#) and [The Doc Shop](#).
 - Hot Docs' [Docs for Schools Festival](#) offers

free in-theatre (Toronto) screenings and DVD selections for screening in middle and secondary schools across Ontario, all linked to the Ontario curriculum. The program has expanded to include over 300 schools and reach more than 78,000 students.⁴⁶²

Toronto played host in 2013 to two new events celebrating the Canadian screen industry:

- The inaugural [Canadian Screen Awards](#) (established by merging the Gemini Awards for television and Genie Awards for film) showcased Canada's talent in film, television and digital media.
 - The week-long series of events attracted about 5,000 industry leaders and participants and brought international attention to the industry and to Toronto.
 - The gala awards ceremony was watched by 800,000 people and generated over 52 million social media impressions, trending on Twitter in Canada and Los Angeles.⁴⁶³
- The inaugural [Canadian International Television Festival](#) is the country's first and only television showcase aimed at the public. Its mission is to develop and inspire audiences for Canadian-made television.
 - The festival also promoted Canadian talent and launched new projects through a program including professional development and networking opportunities for broadcasting students, advertisers, and the TV industry.⁴⁶⁴

How does our world-class library system benefit the whole city? Investment?

Every dollar invested in the library generates a significant return for the city:

- A new [report](#) from the [Martin Prosperity Institute](#) (at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto) puts dollar values on the library's economic benefit to the city.
- The economic impact study, the first of its kind in Canada and requested by the Toronto Public Library (TPL) Board and City Council, clearly demonstrates that Toronto Public Library delivers a strong Return on Investment (ROI).
 - For every \$1 invested in the library, Torontonians receive almost six times the value: \$5.63.
 - The direct benefits of a library membership make it worth \$502 for the 72% of Torontonians who use it.
- 44% of the adult population are frequent or heavy users of library branches (defined by 11 or more visits in the last year).
 - The average value of each open hour at a branch is almost four times its average cost: the average open hour generates \$2,515 in direct benefits while costing approximately \$653.

- In its calculations the Institute considered:
 - direct spending (money allocated to the institution and then spent on operations, capital, material, wages, and other expenses),
 - direct tangible benefits (benefits that accrue to an individual or organization and can be reliably estimated), and
 - indirect tangible benefits that deliver value (the result of multiplier effects on direct spending).
- This value includes opportunities for residents to improve their literacy skills or enhance their educational and employment opportunities—thus enhancing Toronto’s competitiveness and prosperity—and improve their quality of life through accessing library collections, services and programs.⁴⁶⁵

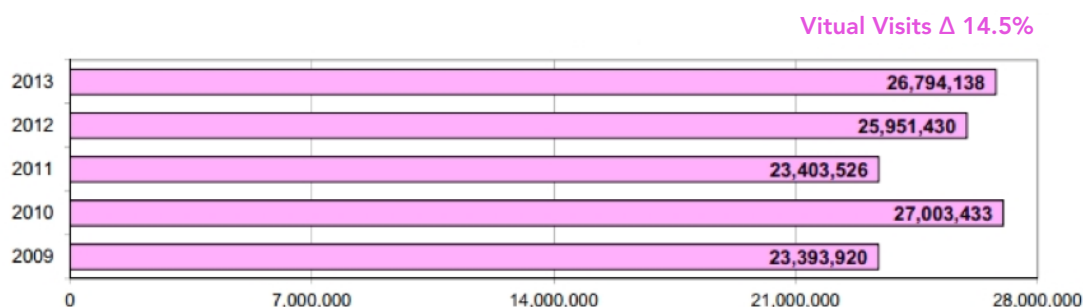
The Toronto Public Library continues to be among the world’s largest and busiest urban public library systems:

- 2013 was the third busiest of the last ten years, despite the closure of the Fairview branch for the full year, a number of short-term branch closures for renovations, and severe weather events that impacted branch visits and total circulation.
- While browsing and borrowing books continue to be key drivers of library activity, Torontonians also visit branches to use computers and access wireless internet, to study and to work, to network and to attend programs and community events. Notable increases in library usage in 2013 include:
 - 96.2% increase in e-circulation to 2.1 million, representing 6.6% of total circulation compared

to 3.4% in 2012;

- 3.2% increase in website visits and 29.8% increase in website searches, reflecting the importance of online access to information, services and collections;
- 21.0% increase in wireless sessions, reinforcing the library’s vital role in bridging the digital divide, as participating in school, work, and lifelong learning or accessing government information and services increasingly requires a computer with access to large bandwidth;
- 5.0% increase in program attendance, with a 2.8% increase for the [Ready for Reading](#) program, a 5.8% increase for programs for school-age children, and a 10.2% increase for seniors’ programs;
- increases of 10.7% in visits at research and reference branches, 10.1% in programs offered, and 4.3% in electronic reference requests.
- New and emerging technologies were added to virtual library services and branches to catalyze and connect innovators and creators.
 - A fiber wireless network was introduced at the Toronto Reference and North York Central libraries, with expansion to 45 additional branches planned for 2014.
 - Digital Innovation Hubs featuring 3D printers, design software and classes were developed for the Toronto Reference Library and the new Fort York branch.
 - Total virtual visits—visits to TPL’s main site and specialized sites (e.g., [Kids Space](#)), e-content sites (including e-books and e-magazines), licensed databases, and the library’s online and social media channels—have increased 14.5% over the last five years.⁴⁶⁶

TPL Virtual Visits: 5-year trend, 2009-2013:⁴⁶⁷



Note: The catalogue merged with the TPL website in 2011, creating a more efficient search and change in counting.

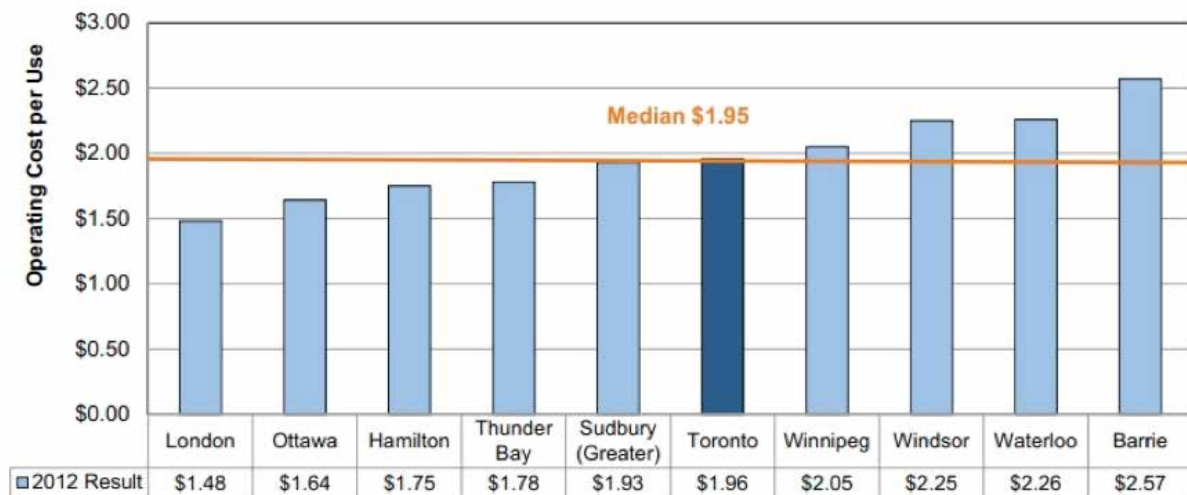
- o In 2012 (the latest year for which comparative data is available) TPL again ranked 1st in North America in circulation and visits per capita among libraries serving populations of 2 million or more.
- o TPL had the greatest number of branches (98) and highest square footage of library space per capita among these large urban systems in 2012.⁴⁶⁸ In fall 2014, TPL had 99 branches.⁴⁶⁹
- o TPL had the highest overall circulation and

visits in Canada, and per capita ranked sixth in circulation and third in visits.

- o Of the 10 Ontario municipal libraries participating in the [Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative](#), TPL's cost per use in 2012 was at the median at \$1.96.⁴⁷⁰

Note: Information on library usage and programming in all of Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods is available at [Wellbeing Toronto](#).

Total TPL Operating Cost per Use (2012):⁴⁷¹



What lasting legacy will the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games leave to the arts and culture sector?

In July thousands of enthusiastic Torontonians crowded outside City Hall to kick off the official one-year countdown to the 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games in 2014. As Toronto welcomes the world in Summer 2015 for its first major international sporting event, more than sport will be showcased:

- [PANAMANIA](#), the [TORONTO 2015](#) Arts and Culture Festival, hopes to engage new audiences with the arts and increase the international profile of our culture and artists.
- The five-week, multidisciplinary cultural celebration will showcase Pan-American (the Americas and Caribbean) and Canadian talent, diversity and culture.
- The festival is supporting the creation of more than 25 [original works](#) by both established and emerging Canadian artists in theatre, photography, dance, music, spoken word, fashion and visual arts.
- o Projects will touch on the themes of water, immigration and Canadian identity, and have a special focus on artists connected to the 41 nations participating in the multi-sport Games.
- o The projects share \$1.5M in seed funding from a TO2015 legacy fund.
- The commissioned works will be staged throughout the Games as a mix of free and ticketed events in venues throughout Toronto and will be exhibited, performed and displayed for years to come.
- The festival is the culmination of a series of public cultural events in support of the Games, including 2012's "[Play Me, I'm Yours](#)" street piano project across downtown Toronto, and 2013's mobile music festival [STREETSIDE](#), which brought the music of the Caribbean and Americas to the streets of Toronto, Hamilton and Markham.⁴⁷²

The following groups are addressing issues relating to learning through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Art City in St. James Town](#) – Provides free and accessible multidisciplinary arts programming
[Art Gallery of Ontario](#) - Bringing people together with art to experience and understand the world in new ways
[Art Starts](#) – Creating social change through community art projects
[Arthritis Research Foundation](#) – Working to beat arthritis and autoimmune diseases
[ArtReach Toronto](#) – Gives young artists access to resources, mentorship and skill building opportunities
[Arts Etobicoke](#) - A community arts council located in a beautiful storefront gallery
[Arts for Children and Youth](#) – Hands on, community and school based arts education
[Artscape](#) – Urban development organization providing shared space for non-profit and arts based orgs
[Buddies in Bad Times Theatre](#) – Developing and presenting artists' voices in the LGBTQ* community
[Cahoots Theatre Projects](#) - Interdisciplinary arts investigating the intersections of Canada's diversity.
[Canadian Journalists for Free Expression](#) - Champions the rights of journalists and media professionals
[Canadian Stage](#) - One of the country's leading not-for-profit contemporary theatre companies
[Children's Peace Theatre](#) - Creating a culture of peace and transformative justice by engaging children
[Clay & Paper Theatre](#) - Community driven theatrical works using large-scale puppetry
[Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie](#) - Professional dance organization that presents locally and globally
[Creative Trust](#) - Builds the financial health and resilience of Toronto's creative performing arts
[CUE](#) - A radical, arts initiative enabling young marginalized artists to develop art exhibitions
[Diaspora Dialogues Charitable Society](#) - Supports creative writing that reflects our city's diversity
[Drum Artz Canada](#) – Mentorship and creative expression through percussion and music
[Dusk Dances](#) - Curates high quality contemporary and traditional dance events in public parks.
[Framework](#) – Delivers high-quality volunteer engagement events (Timeraiser)
[Harbourfront Centre](#) - Nurturing the growth of new cultural expression and artistic cultural exchange
[Hot Docs](#) – Advancing the creative imprint of documentary film
[imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#) – Celebrating the latest works by Indigenous peoples
[Inner City Angels](#) - Bringing imaginative interdisciplinary arts programs to children in Toronto
[Jumbies Theatre](#) – Makes art in everyday places with and about the people and stories found there
[Luminato Festival](#) - An annual, multi-disciplinary arts Festival, reflecting the diverse character of Toronto
[Mammalian Diving Reflex](#) - Interactive performances that occur beyond the walls of the theatre
[Manifesto Community Projects](#) - Unites and empowers diverse young people through hip-hop culture

[National Ballet of Canada](#) - Performs the masterworks of classical and contemporary
[Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto](#) – Building the collective capacity of Aboriginal women
[Newcomer Women's Services Toronto](#) – Delivering educational and employment opportunities for immigrant women and their children
[Nightwood Theatre](#) – Propelling women to the top of their craft in Canadian Theatre
[No. 9: Contemporary Art & the Environment](#) - Uses art and design to bring awareness to environmental concerns
[The Remix Project](#) - Levelling the playing field in creative industries for youth from marginalized and underserved communities
[San Romanoway Revitalization](#) – Fostering a sense of belonging in residents of all ages and backgrounds
[Scarborough Arts](#) - Develops programming and cultural initiatives in collaboration with the community
[Shakespeare in Action](#) - Enhancing arts and education through exploring and performing Shakespeare
[Sistema Toronto](#) - Free, ensemble-based music lessons to inspire children to realize their full potential
[SKETCH Working Arts](#) - An arts initiative for young people who are homeless or living on the margins
[Soulpepper Theatre Company](#) - Creating a home in Toronto for the great dramatic works of our collective cultural inheritance
[Story Planet](#) - A story making centre running workshops that encourage young people to tell their stories
[Toronto Public Library Foundation](#) - Providing essential resources for the enhancement of the Toronto Public Library
[UNITY Charity](#) - Empowering youth to use artistic self-expression to make positive life
[UrbanArts](#) - Engaging youth in community development through the arts
[UforChange](#) - Inspiring newcomer and Canadian youth through arts-based community-building
[Vermont Square Parent-Child Mother Goose Program](#) - Fostering parent-child bonding and literacy through a rich oral language experience
[Words In Motion](#) - Using the arts to help children and their families achieve their full potential
[Workman Arts Project of Ontario](#) - Developing and supporting artists with mental illness and addiction issues

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Leadership, Civic Engagement, & Belonging

Why is this important?

Vibrant cities are those where residents are engaged and feel that they belong, where civic institutions fully reflect the diversity of the population, and where strong social connections unite people to each other and to their neighbourhoods (research consistently links a sense of belonging with good physical and mental health). Tracking these indicators helps us to see how well we are doing at building an inclusive city, and where some residents may be left on the margins.

What are the trends?

Almost 7 in 10 Torontonians feel a strong sense of belonging to their community (the percentage is generally higher for young people) and has been rising slightly since 2009, when it was about 62%.⁴⁵⁹ The number of people who make charitable donations in the Toronto Region, however, has been slowly declining for a number of years, and dropped to just over 22% in 2013.

What's new?

Visible minorities are best represented at the federal and provincial levels and least represented at the municipal level. Despite reflecting more than 40% of Toronto's population, visible minorities made up just over 13% of Toronto City Council in 2013. They are also not well represented in leadership in the region's health care sector. A new report finds that only 16% of senior management and 14% of board members are visible minorities.

Some Key Trends in Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging ⁴⁶⁰	2011	2012	2013
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Percentage of women on Toronto City council	22.7% (2006)	34% (2010)	34%
2. Charitable donors as a proportion of tax filers (in the Region)	23.0% (2010)	22.7% (2011)	22.1% (2012)
3. Median annual charitable donation (Toronto Region)	\$360 (2010)	\$350 (2011)	\$360 (2012)
4. Percentage who report a strong sense of belonging to their local community	67.5%	69.1%	66.8%
5. Percentage of youth (12 -19 years old) who report a strong sense of belonging to their local community	79.1%	85.5%	78.7%

Being involved in the place you live is not an obligation—it's an investment. From boardrooms to community gardens, leaders are people who envision a better way of doing things and inspire others to act. They recognize that connection—to ourselves and to each other—is key to making change. Imagine what this city could be if every person took a moment to converse with their heart, named what spoke to it and acted.

—Tina Edan
Narrative Strategist and Poet and Vital People Award recipient, 2013

Almost seven in 10 Torontonians—and almost 8 in 10 young people—reported a strong sense of belonging to their local community in 2013:

- The percentage of city youth (12–19) who report a strong sense of belonging on the Statistics Canada [Canadian Community Health Survey](#) has been growing in recent years, although it decreased by 8% from 2012 to 2013 (from 85.5% to 78.7%).
- 66.8% of adults in Toronto reported that they feel they belong to their local community in 2013, down from 69.1% in 2012.⁴⁶¹ Overall, it has been rising slightly since 2009, when it was about 62%.⁴⁶²
- Research shows a high correlation of sense of community belonging with physical and mental health.⁴⁶³

Almost two of every 10 Toronto neighbourhoods are in dire need of community meeting places:

- A new tool from the [Centre for Research on Inner City Health](#) (CRICH) at St. Michael's Hospital shows that of Toronto's 140 social planning neighbourhoods, 28 (18.8%) receive a "red" (or risk) diagnosis for the prevalence of community meeting places such as community centres and places of worship within a 10-minute walk.
 - Guildwood and Rouge fared worst on the indicator; Moss Park scored highest.
 - Another 79 neighbourhoods fell below target.⁴⁶⁴

Moss Park has the most community meeting places within a 10-minute walk, such as community centres and places of worship, out of all 140 neighbourhoods in the city.

Like all Canadians, immigrants and refugees have hopes and aspirations for themselves and their families. Successful integration means newcomers have overcome many of the hurdles and obstacles facing them and are participating actively in society. Everybody benefits!

—Axelle Janczur
Executive Director Access Alliance
Multicultural Health and Community Services

Despite the City's 2013 declaration of itself as Canada's first "[Sanctuary City](#)," accessibility to municipal services continued to be a problem for those with no immigration status. But advocates and the City have a plan:

- The February 2013 declaration allows undocumented migrants to access City services regardless of immigration status, yet a June/July 2013 [audit](#) found confusion about the policy among City-funded service providers.
- The Solidarity City Network called 185 City providers across four sectors identified by its undocumented members as key emergency services (childcare, healthcare clinics, emergency shelters and food banks) to see how many turned away undocumented residents or required documents that presented a barrier to access.
 - Surveyed staff at 25% of these organizations said undocumented residents could not receive services, or they were unsure of the rules. Some sectors were more accessible than others: 38% of childcare centre staff gave this response. Of the 25 childcare centres that would provide service, 80% required immunization records. All undocumented parents were required to pay full fees as they are ineligible for the City's fee subsidy program.

- o Accessibility across the city ranges: 18% of municipal services located in neighbourhoods with low poverty rates said they would not accept undocumented residents, while 10% of services in neighbourhoods with high poverty rates said the same. In neighbourhoods with average poverty rates, only 4% of services said they would turn undocumented residents away.
- o While three-quarters of the organizations said they served undocumented residents, only 39% of these required no form of personal ID or documentation. Requiring ID or documentation can be a barrier to accessing services, as those without status fear presenting ID or documentation will get them reported to immigration authorities. Even food banks, the most accessible service, often require some form of documentation: 83% of food banks interviewed said they would not turn undocumented residents away, while just 17% of them required no documentation.
- o The majority of health clinics charged fees for services to those without proof of health insurance.⁴⁶⁵
- There may be as many as 250,000 **undocumented** migrants living in the Toronto Region and contributing to their communities. Many are working (mostly in cleaning, janitorial and food services jobs) and paying various forms of taxation.⁴⁶⁶
 - o A person may become undocumented for many reasons. Temporary workers, for example, may not be eligible for permanent status, or the process may be prohibitively long and costly. If an employment contract breaks down, they may determine that they have no other choice than to stay without status.⁴⁶⁷
- that they were not interested (27.7%). Another 22.9% said that they were too busy.
- 3.8% of Canadians said that did not vote because they forgot.
- Only one-third of first-time eligible voters in Canada actually voted—half as many as a generation ago.⁴⁶⁸
 - o A 2011 study for Elections Canada found that each new cohort of first-time voters participates in fewer numbers than the one before.⁴⁶⁹

Voter turnout was up for the first time in almost two-and-a-half decades in the Ontario 2014 election, but a record number of people chose to decline their ballots:

- 52.1% of voters cast a ballot (unofficial count), up a bit from the province's 2011 historic low of 48.2%.
- Many other provinces' voter turnout rates are falling, but still put Ontario's to shame:
 - o 76.4% of P.E.I. voters in 2011
 - o 71.4% of Québec voters in April 2014
 - o 59% of Nova Scotians in 2013
 - o 57% of Albertans in 2012
 - o 52% of British Columbians in 2013)
- Voter turnout in Ontario elections has gone down steadily since 1990, when 64% of voters went to the polls.⁴⁷⁰
- 2014 saw the highest total ever of declined ballots, up from 2,335 in 2011 to 31,399 (or 0.64% of total ballots cast)—an increase of 1,345%.⁴⁷¹

Who is voting in elections in Toronto?

Recent federal, provincial and territorial elections have shown that voter turnout rates throughout the country are falling:

- Voter turnout in the 2011 federal election was a near-record low of 61%. The most common reason Canadians gave for not voting in the election was

City of Toronto voter turnout has been low in Toronto's municipal elections over the past several years, although it has been increasing over time:

- In the 2000 municipal elections, approximately 36% of eligible voters cast a ballot. In 2006, the voter turnout was 39.3%, and in 2010, it was 50.55% of eligible voters.⁴⁷²

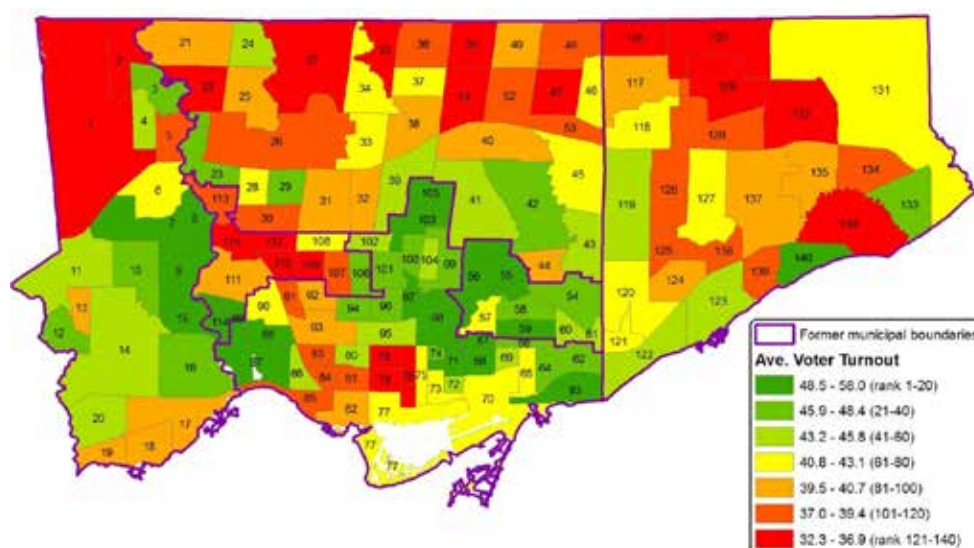
Research has identified notable spatial variations—that wards with higher concentrations of immigrants and visible minorities have consistently lower turnout rates:

- **Research** conducted by Ryerson University on behalf of the Maytree Foundation analyzed voter turnout for the last three municipal elections (2003, 2006, and 2010) at ward and neighbourhood levels against demographic characteristics.

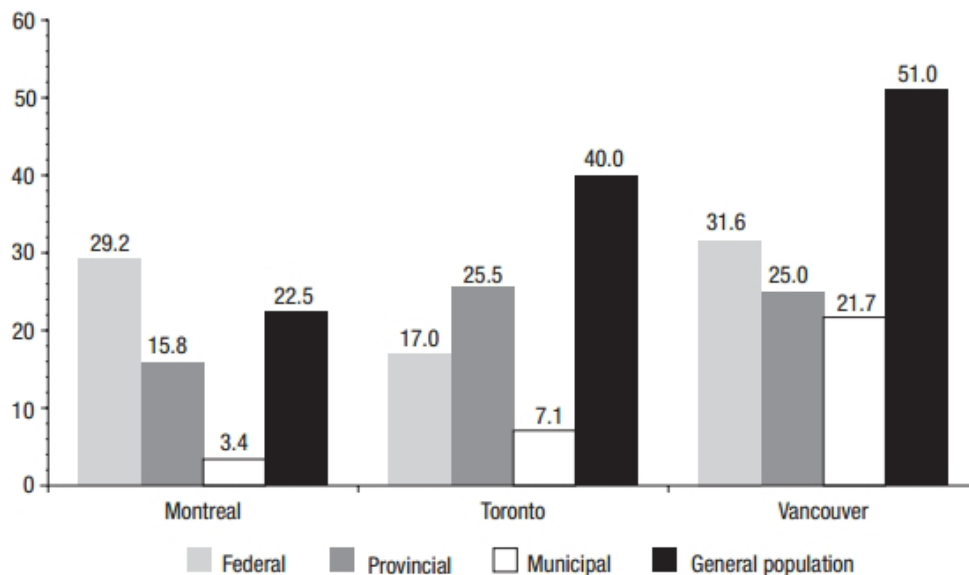
Ward 1 (Etobicoke North) had the lowest average voter turnout in Toronto's last three municipal elections (2003, 2006, and 2010) at 35.6%.

- The strongest predictor of low voter turnout is a high concentration of immigrants and visible minorities.
- Turnouts were lowest in the inner-suburb, former municipalities of Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough and York ("City 3" of the three increasingly unequal "cities" in Toronto identified by researchers at the University of Toronto's Cities Centre).

- Ward 1 (Etobicoke North), where immigrants make up 64.2% of the population and minorities 79.5%, had the lowest average in the three elections: 35.6%.
- The next lowest turnouts were in Scarborough wards where the proportion of immigrants and minorities were respectively 64% and 80% or greater: Wards 41 (Rouge River), 39 (Agincourt) and 42 (Rouge River).
- In the 2010 election, the 10 wards with the lowest turnouts averaged 44.6%, while their populations averaged 63% immigrants and 62.7% minorities. By comparison, the top 10 wards in 2010 had average voter turnout of 56.8%, with 36.3% of their population immigrants and 27.3% minorities.
- The results may point to a systemic problem: that people are less likely to vote if they do not see themselves in the candidates.⁴⁷³
 - In the 2010 election, visible minorities were elected to six of the 45 City Councillor and Mayoral positions, only 13.3% of Toronto's elected officials.⁴⁷⁴
 - Despite a high proportion of immigrants (54%) and minorities (56.7%), Ward 26 (Don Valley West) had one of the highest voter turnouts in 2006 and 2010, a result of a surge of local South Asian candidates.



Voter Turnout by Neighbourhood, Average of 2003, 2006 & 2010 Elections:
Source: Ryerson University professor Myer Siemiatycki and geographic analyst Sean Marshall



Proportion of Visible Minority Elected Representatives and their Share of the General Population in areas of Greater Toronto, Greater Montréal and Greater Vancouver (October 2013)⁴⁷⁵

- Bucking one of the presumed truths of urban politics—that tenants do not vote and homeowners do—no correlation was found between voter turnout and an area’s proportion of either.⁴⁷⁶



Scotland has come up with a novel way to encourage civic engagement amongst young people—letting them vote:



In general, visible minorities are best represented at the federal and provincial levels and least represented on municipal councils:

- An October 2013 Institute for Research on Public Policy [report](#) shows that in the GTA, visible minorities made up 17% of the area’s MPs, 26% of MPPs but only 7% of municipal councillors at the time.⁴⁷⁷ In Toronto City Council as of February 2013, it was 13.3%.⁴⁷⁸
- Diversity in elected representatives not only sends a powerful message of inclusion to minority groups, but it may also lead to different policy outcomes, as minority group representatives bring unique perspectives.⁴⁷⁹

- In September 2014, 16 and 17 year olds were allowed to vote in a historic referendum on Scotland’s independence. While they make up just 3% of the electorate, this new voting franchise altered the shape of the campaign - and the way young people encounter politics. Politicians were compelled to show up at places frequented by youth, such as high schools and music festivals, and the issue was suddenly an important part of school curricula, with many students now eligible to cast a ballot. Scotland has previously allowed under-18s to vote in some health board and other local elections. As of July 2014, 80% of Scotland’s 16- and 17-year-olds (100,000 people) registered to vote.⁴⁸⁰

Although they make up more than half (51%) of the GTA's population, women, too, are not adequately represented in Toronto politics. Only one in three elected city councillors are women:

- A record 15 women were elected to Council in 2010, but as of September 2014, none of them sat on Council's 13-member executive committee.⁴⁸¹

How diverse is leadership in the region's healthcare sector?

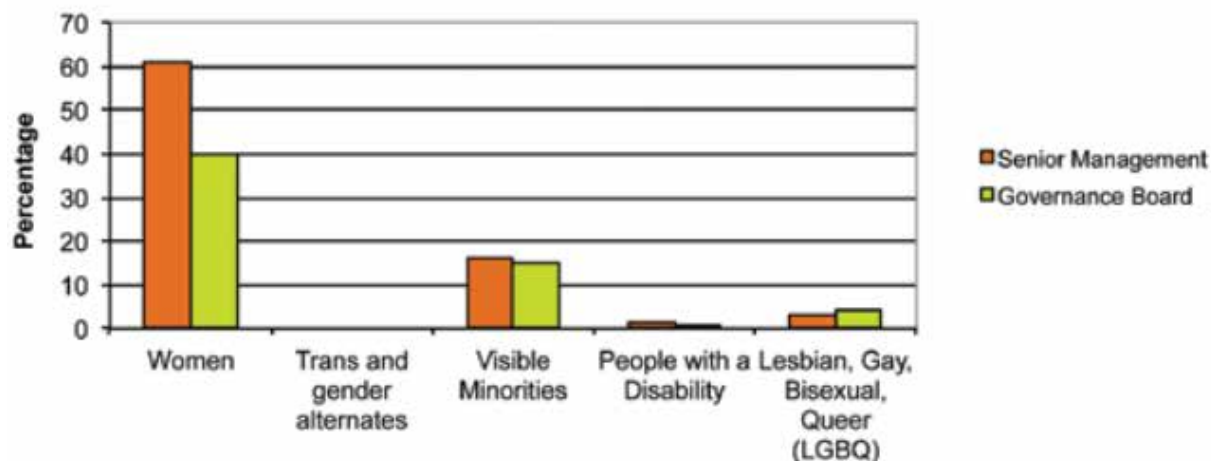
Women are well represented in leaderships in the GTA's healthcare sector, but other groups are not faring so well:

- Since 2009, [DiverseCity Counts](#) has looked at visible minority representation in leadership across a variety of sectors in the GTA. While some sectors have made progress over the years, as a whole, visible minorities remain under-represented in leadership.
 - In 2011, 47% of the GTA's population were visible minorities and 46% were born outside of Canada. In some parts of the GTA, these numbers are even higher. For example, visible minorities make up 66% of Brampton's population, and 72% of Markham's.
- The eighth [DiverseCity Counts report](#) examines diversity on boards and in senior management of healthcare institutions in the GTA—specifically

local health integration networks (LHINs), hospitals, and community care access centres (CCACs).

- This report broadens its scope beyond visible minorities to also include sex/gender identity, disability, and sexual orientation.
 - Women make up the majority (61%) of senior management teams, and 40% of governance board members. But no gender alternates (transgender, transsexual, intersex) were reported in these positions.
 - Only 16% of senior management and 14% of board members were visible minorities. Although under-representation varies widely between institutions, four in ten reported no visible minorities in senior management, as did nearly one-fifth of boards.
 - Across the sector, in senior management and on boards, only 1% of leadership was reported to be people living with disabilities.
 - Only about 3-4% of leadership were LGBTQ* individuals, although a few institutions reported many, and a majority reported none.
- The report recommends that institutions take practical steps to benefit from diversity, such as working with the broader community to grow the pool of potential board members and making a public commitment to diversity in leadership with set targets and follow-up progress reports.⁴⁸²

Diverse Leadership in Health Care Institutions in the GTA, 2013⁴⁸³



How healthy, and how trusted, is Toronto's charitable sector?

Both the total amount donated to charities by tax filers and the number of people reporting charitable donations fell nationally and in Ontario between 2011 and 2012:

- Statistics Canada's charitable donation data (including only amounts given to charities and approved organizations for which official tax receipts were provided) show that:
- The number of Canadians claiming charitable donations on their 2012 income tax return decreased by 1.4% to 5.6 million.
 - The number of Ontarians reporting charitable donations (2,223,740) was down 1.5% from 2011. Only Nunavut and Alberta saw increases.
 - 907,290 Toronto Region residents made a charitable donation in 2012. (Comparisons between 2011 and 2012 tax filer data at the CMA level are not available as the boundaries of geographic areas were updated between reporting years.)
- 22.4% of Canadian tax filers claimed charitable donations in 2012, down from 23.0% in 2011.
 - Manitoba (25.4%), Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan (both at 24.3%), had the highest percentages of tax filers declaring a donation in 2012. Ontario was fourth with 23.5%.
 - 22.1% of Toronto Region tax filers claimed a donation in 2012.
- Donations reported by Canadian tax filers declined 1.9% to \$8.3B in 2012.
 - Donations by Ontario tax filers declined 2% to \$3.7B.
- While overall donations were lower, the median charitable donation was up slightly nationally, to \$270 in 2012 from \$260 in 2011.
 - Donors in Ontario and the Northwest Territories shared the fourth-lowest median donation of the provinces and territories at \$320. Only Nova Scotia (\$310), New Brunswick (\$300), and Quebec (\$130) were lower.

- Among CMAs, donors in the Toronto Region had the ninth-highest median charitable donation of \$360, behind Abbotsford–Mission, BC (\$650), Calgary and Vancouver (\$400), Victoria, Kelowna, and Saskatoon (\$390), and Edmonton and Winnipeg (\$370).⁴⁸⁴

About 22% of tax filers in the Toronto Region made charitable donations in 2012:

- The percentage of charitable givers in the Region has remained about stable since 2009.⁴⁸⁵
- The median donation was \$360.
 - Donations by Toronto Region tax filers totalled \$1.9B.⁴⁸⁶

Canadians' views about charities and charity leaders remain generally positive, even as their trust in other societal institutions and leadership is declining:

- The fifth edition of "[Talking About Charities](#)" surveyed almost 4,000 Canadian adults in 2013. Previous public opinion polls were conducted in 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2008.
 - A significant majority of Canadians (79%) believe that charities are important and trustworthy. This number that has remained relatively constant over the last 13 years.
 - Compared to previous years' surveys, the trust in certain types of charities—including international aid charities (50%) and religious organizations other than churches and places of worship (41%)—has declined.
 - Hospitals, on the other hand, have the trust of 86% and charities that focus on children have the trust of 82%.
 - There have also been negative changes in the extent to which Canadians believe charities adequately explain how they use donations—still high at 70%, but down from 84% in 2000—or whether charities only ask for money when they really need it—only 34% felt that way in 2013, compared to 47% in 2000.

- o Although trust in charity leaders decreased to 71% compared to 77% in 2000 and 80% in 2004, trust in all kinds of leaders—other than doctors and nurses—has decreased over the span of 13 years, especially since 2008.
 - Decreases were greatest for religious leaders (down 14 percentage points to 63%), lawyers (down 10 percentage points to 62%), and provincial politicians (down 9 percentage points to 36%). Federal politicians are the least trusted leaders, at 33% (down 8 percentage points).
- o Only small businesses (81%) enjoy a higher level of trust than charities, while governments are trusted by fewer than half of Canadians, and major corporations by only 41%.⁴⁸⁷
- Late-2013 results from an ongoing [survey](#) of charities found that overall, levels of stress on charitable organizations are on par with those of the previous year, although instead of predicting financial difficulties, leaders are more likely to say an increase in demand will test their capabilities.
 - o The number predicting their organization will be better able to carry out its mission in a year's time is up noticeably, to 37% (from a low of 30% in mid-2012).
 - o 22% are predicting increased revenues (up from 17% in mid-2012).
 - o Predictions for staff and volunteer numbers remained flat, however, suggesting that charities will increasingly face a resource pressure, as available resources are outstripped by increasing demand—53% are seeing increased demand this year, up from 50% two-and-a-half years previously.⁴⁸⁸

Charity leaders are more confident in their organizations' ability to deliver on mission, and higher numbers believe they will have no immediate difficulty covering expenses, but increasing demand for products and services may stress charities:

The Health of Canada's Charitable Sector, 2011–2013	Late 2012	Late 2013
Experiencing an increase in demand for products and services	51%	53%
Difficulty fulfilling mission	50%	49%
Existence is at risk	27%	26%
Difficulty covering expenses		
The rest of this year	21%	19%
Next year	22%	23%
No difficulty	41%	45%
Confidence in performing mission in 12 months		
Will be weaker	16%	15%
Will be about the same	51%	48%
Will be stronger	33%	37%
Stress (among Ontario organizations)		
High Stress	14%	13%
Some stress	34%	35%
No stress	52%	51%

How is volunteering in Toronto building healthier, more connected communities?

Volunteering in the arts allows people to give back to their communities:

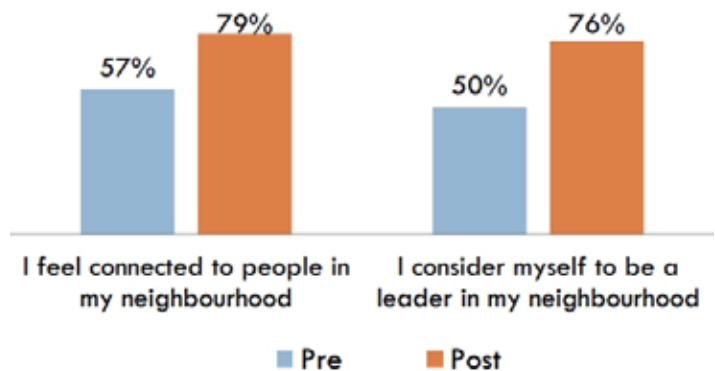
- [Toronto Arts Facts](#), a compilation from the Toronto Arts Foundation of the most recent available data about the arts, finds that volunteering for the arts encourages community-building:
 - A Toronto Arts Foundation survey [research](#) conducted earlier in 2014 found that 11% of Torontonians regularly volunteer for an arts organization.
 - In 2010 Hamilton's [Hill Strategies Research](#) found that volunteering helps build stronger and safer communities, forms strong community bonds, and creates relationships between people who might not otherwise find each other.
 - 2009 American [research](#) found that people who attended art galleries or live performances, or read literature, were more likely to vote, volunteer and take part in community events, and that 58% of adults who visited an art museum or gallery volunteered in their communities, compared to only 24% of those who did not.⁴⁸⁹

Seniors' physical and mental health benefits from volunteer work:

- Analysis of 73 studies by the [Rotman Research Institute](#) at Toronto's [Baycrest Health Sciences](#) found that people aged 50 and over who participate in formal volunteer work for 2 to 3 hours a week are happier and healthier. Volunteering's benefits include:
 - better overall health;
 - increased longevity;
 - reduced symptoms of depression;
 - feelings of being appreciated or needed;
 - reduced hypertension; and
 - fewer hip fractures.

- The analysis found that volunteering is most beneficial to seniors who have health conditions or are otherwise vulnerable.
- The benefits of volunteering are no greater, however, if volunteer hours exceed 100 annually.
- The researchers note that more studies are needed to see whether volunteering can positively impact dementia.⁴⁹⁰

Since 2012, over 650 key community leaders in Toronto have volunteered to use "play" to build stronger, healthier and better connected communities:

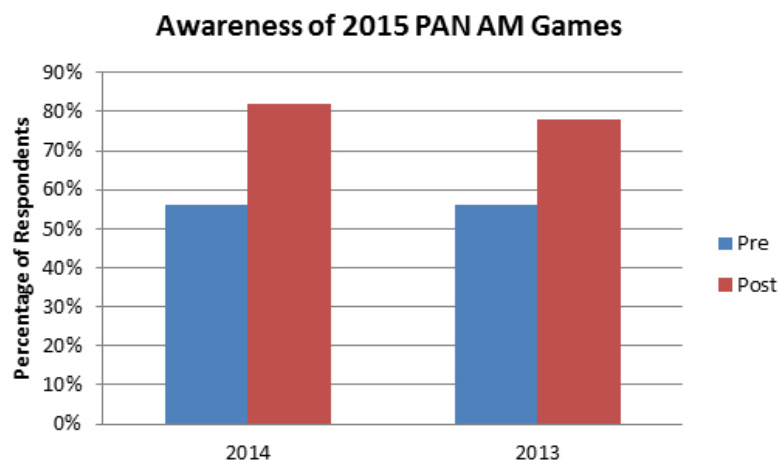
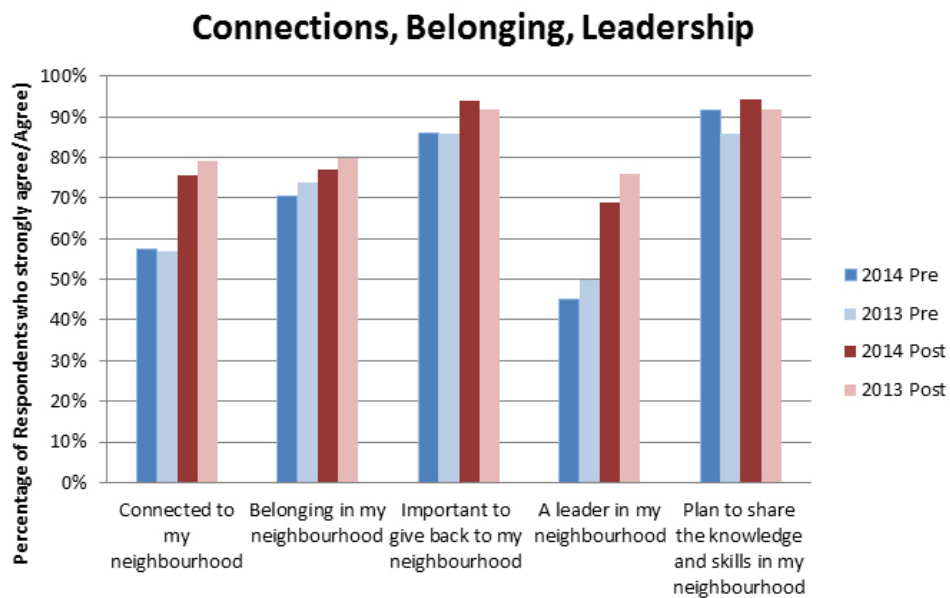
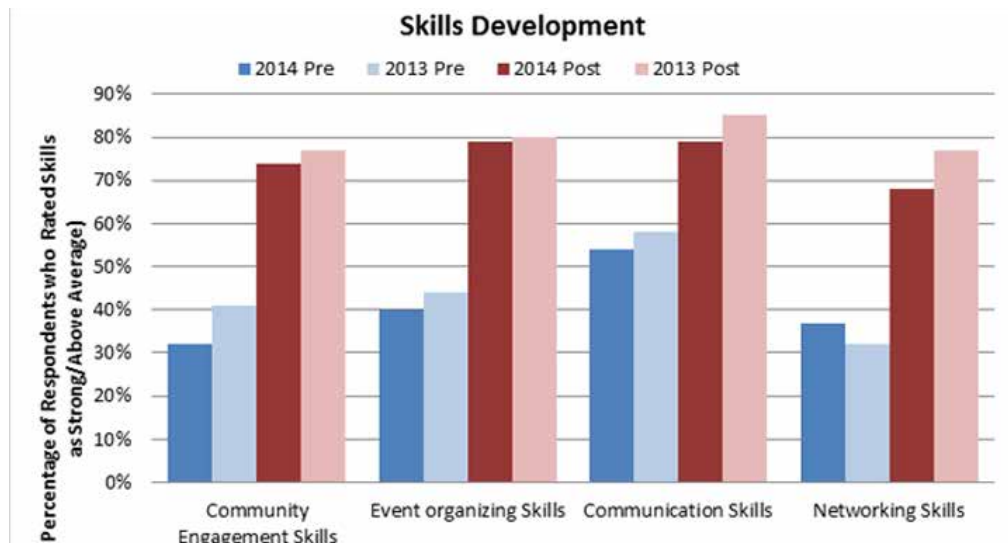


- [Playing for Keeps](#) (P4K) is a social legacy initiative, led by the Toronto Foundation that is developing healthier, more active, and better connected communities – through play – towards the Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games and beyond.
- Playing for Keeps builds the capacity of individuals to strengthen community organizations through their participation as volunteers, which will build the capacity and vitality of the community.
- The goals of Playing for Keeps are to:
 - Build awareness about the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games and continue the legacy of the 2012 Ontario Summer Games
 - Provide opportunities for developing social legacies
 - Provide pathways and opportunities for residents to become more active, better connected, and leaders in their communities

- o Provide skills training and build capacity of newcomers, youth and long-time residents.
- Volunteers see themselves as hosts of a city they love. Since mid-2010, multi-sector (sports, arts, culture, environment, civics, health) collaboration across communities in Southern Ontario has turned an idea to build social capital through large, multi-sport games into a program that promotes active living, community development, and connection.
- Piloted during the Ontario Summer Games of 2012, Playing for Keeps (P4K), a collaborative social legacy initiative led by more than 35 organizations including Toronto Foundation, Toronto Pearson, and George Brown College, supports the development of Volunteer Ambassadors into community leaders.
- 650 newcomers, youth, and long-time residents have been trained in leadership, civic engagement, event planning, communications, and citizenship skills, and then organize “Neighbourhood Games”—anything from soccer to a chess tournament—to bring newcomers, long-time residents, young and old together. Over 600 Neighborhood Games have taken place across Toronto, engaging almost 20,000 participants.
- An evaluation of the P4K Volunteer Ambassador experience shows that the volunteers come from diverse backgrounds, ages and experiences:
 - o more than half are under 25 76% are under 45;
 - o they range in age from 16 to over 70;
 - o 25% are newcomers;
 - o 71 ethnic/cultural backgrounds and 100 different neighbourhoods are represented;
- Before training, the majority (74%) felt like they belonged, but many did not feel strongly connected to, or a leader in their community. After the training,
 - o almost 8 in 10 (79%) felt connected, compared to 57% previously;
 - o three-quarters (76%) considered themselves a leader, compared to just half before the training.
- The training built skills and interest in future training—almost all (94%) would recommend training to others and are interested in more training in future (92%).
- Playing for Keeps has provided Volunteer Ambassadors with a greater understanding and awareness of the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games taking place in Toronto and the surrounding Region in the summer of 2015.
- P4K plans to train 1000 Torontonians by the end of 2015 to organize these community-based play initiatives and, in so doing, foster volunteer leadership, community engagement, trust, and pride.⁴⁹¹



Photo: RAW Media Collective



Sports are an effective means to help new Canadians feel at home. Outreach activities are helping to get them participating:

- The [Institute for Canadian Citizenship](#) released Canada's first national report exploring newcomer participation in Canada's sporting culture, using a national online survey and cross-country focus groups. The report found that:
 - o The top five sports regularly participated in were running (39%), swimming (32%), cycling (26%), soccer (18%), badminton (12%) and tennis (11%).
 - o 68% said that playing sports in the first three years that they lived in Canada helped them learn about Canadian culture.
 - o 88% said that watching their children play sports or volunteering for their children's sports teams makes them feel more connected to the community they live in (note that only 15% say that they have ever volunteered).
- Professional sports teams, recognizing the importance of drawing new Canadian fans, have implemented outreach initiatives aimed at getting new Canadians excited about their sports:



o The [Toronto Raptors](#), for example, have hosted pre-game citizenship ceremonies, inviting the new citizens to stay and watch the games. The Toronto Argonauts hosted [Football 101](#) sessions with new Canadians in Scarborough to teach them the basics of the Canadian football game.⁴⁹²

A hydro corridor is at the heart of a movement to link up some of Toronto's underused green spaces and connect neighbourhoods across the city:



•The [Pan Am Path](#) is a multi-use path being developed that will connect Toronto's trails and create an active-living legacy for the [Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games](#). Made up of over 80km of trails across Toronto, the Path will connect the city's residents, local organizations, artists and businesses to create truly vibrant public spaces that reflect the communities along the route.⁴⁹³

FIG. 1 PROPOSED PAN AM PATH



FINAL PATH. Please note: solid blue line = existing off-road paths.

Note: Solid blue line represents existing off-road paths

The global movement **100 in Day** came to Toronto in June 2014, uniting people across the city to make Toronto a better place by creating acts of urban change all on the same day.

- On June 7, 2014, the people of Toronto created 174 interventions. From school weed-a-thons, to community art projects to various random acts of kindness, hundreds of residents across the city seized the opportunity to bring their own ideas to life or introduce Toronto to neat ideas that have been implemented in other cities. These acts, or interventions, helped to raise awareness of urban and social issues, motivate new approaches to old problems, and inspire the city. This festival of civic engagement reached nearly 10,000 people in its inaugural year, exceeding all expectations.⁴⁹⁴



The “At Home in the Park” intervention near Danforth and Pape connected neighbours, who enjoyed the comforts of home in public space.
(Photo by topaddler at [Flickr](#).)

The following groups are addressing issues relating to the environment through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services](#)

- Improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable and their communities

[ACCESS Community Capital Fund](#) - Enables individuals with economic barriers to realize sustainable self-employment

[Agincourt Community Services Association](#) - Multi-service agency addressing needs and empowering under-served

[Applegrove Community Complex](#) - A neighbourhood partnership fostering community

[Art Starts](#) – Creating social change through community art projects

[ArtReach Toronto](#) – Gives young artists access to resources, mentorship and skill building opportunities

[Artscape](#) – Urban development organization providing shared space for non-profit and arts based orgs

[Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic](#) - Services for women who have experienced violence

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto](#) - Canada's leading mentoring charity

[Birchmount Bluffs Neighbourhood Centre](#) - Offering recreational, social and capacity building programs

[Bird Studies Canada](#) – Conserving wild birds of Canada through public engagement and advocacy

[Boundless Adventures Association](#) - Improving the lives of underserved youth through outdoor leadership

[Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders](#) – Leadership skills for underserved teens through sailing

[Buddies in Bad Times Theatre](#) – Developing and presenting artists' voices in the LGBTQ* community

[Canadian Journalists for Free Expression](#) - Champions the rights of journalists and media professionals

[Canadian Stage](#) - One of the country's leading not-for-profit contemporary theatre companies

[CANES Community Care](#) – Assisting seniors to take part in the life of their community

[Casey House](#) - A specialty hospital with community programming for those affected by HIV or Aids

[Central Toronto Youth Services](#) - Serving youth who have a range of mental health needs.

[Centre for City Ecology](#) - Generates constructive conversations on Toronto's architecture and planning

[Centre for Spanish Speaking People](#) - Serving new immigrants from 22 Spanish-speaking countries

[Children's Peace Theatre](#) - Creating a culture of peace and transformative justice by engaging children

[Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre](#) - Improving the quality of life in the Christie Ossington community.

[Clay & Paper Theatre](#) - Community driven theatrical works using large-scale puppetry

[Common Ground Co-operative](#) - Supporting people with developmental disabilities

[Community Living Toronto](#) – Provides meaningful ways for those with an intellectual disability to participate in their community

[Community Matters Toronto](#) - Supports newcomers living in St. James Town

[Community MicroSkills Development Centre](#) – Assists the unemployed, with priority to women, racial minorities, immigrants and youth

[Creative Trust](#) - Builds the financial health and resilience of Toronto's creative performing arts

[CTI Canadian Training Institute](#) - Enhancing the effectiveness of client services delivered by criminal justice and behavioural health services

[CUE](#) - A radical, arts initiative enabling young marginalized artists to develop art exhibitions

[CultureLink Settlement Services](#) - Developing and delivering settlement services to meet the needs of diverse communities

[David Suzuki Foundation](#) - Environmental education and conservation

[Delta Family Resource Centre](#) - Enhancing the potential of families and children

[Diaspora Dialogues Charitable Society](#) - Supports creative writing that reflects our city's diversity

[Distress Centres](#) – Creating an emotional safety net for the vulnerable and at risk in our community

[Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club](#) - Providing a safe, supportive place for children and youth

[Drum Artz Canada](#) – Mentorship and creative expression through percussion and music

[Earthroots Fund](#) - Dedicated to the preservation of Ontario's wilderness, wildlife, and watersheds

[East Scarborough Storefront](#) - Building community through collaborations and shared spaces

[Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth](#) - Works locally and nationally to prevent, reduce, and end youth homelessness

[Findhelp Information Services](#) – Providing information and referral services in Ontario and across Canada

[FIT Community Services](#) - Friends In Trouble - Bridging the income inequality gap

[FoodShare](#) - Working towards a sustainable and accessible food system

[For Youth Initiative \(FYI\)](#) - creating healthy communities by increasing life-chances of underserved youth

[Framework](#) – Delivers high-quality volunteer engagement events (Timeraiser)

[Frontier College](#) – Provides a wide range of literacy programming

[Future Possibilities Canada Inc.](#) – Empowering children from diverse Canadian communities

[FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners](#) - Fostering the creation of sustainable communities

[Geneva Centre for Autism](#) – Empowering and supporting individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

[Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance](#) - Bringing people together to tackle our region's toughest challenges

[Greenest City](#) - Building healthy neighbourhoods through gardening and the celebration of food

[The Good Neighbours' Club](#) – A safe and welcoming drop-in centre for homeless men aged 50 and over

[Habitat for Humanity Toronto](#) - Mobilizes volunteers to build affordable housing

[Harbourfront Centre](#) - Nurturing the growth of new cultural expression and artistic cultural exchange.

[Harmony Movement / Harmony Education Foundation](#) - Promotes harmony, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Canada

[Hospice Toronto](#) - Facilitating access to compassionate care

[imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#) – Celebrating the latest works by Indigenous peoples

[Inner City Angels](#) - brings imaginative interdisciplinary arts programs to children in Toronto

[Jane's Walk](#) – Creating walkable neighbourhoods and cities planned for and by people

[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - A gathering place focused on social justice and collaboration

[Lake Ontario Waterkeeper](#) - Working to restore swimmability, drinkability and fishability to Lake Ontario

[Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project \(LAMP\)](#) - Partners with their community to address emerging needs

[Law In Action Within Schools](#) – Engaging youth in legal education and the justice system

[LEAF \(Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests\)](#) - Protects and enhances our urban forest

[Learning for a Sustainable Future \(LSF\)](#) - Promoting, through education, the practices essential to sustainability

[Leave Out Violence \(LOVE\)](#) - Reduces violence in the lives of Toronto youth

[Licensed to Learn Inc.](#) - Empowering children to reach their potential through peer-led tutoring

[Luminato Festival](#) - An annual, multi-disciplinary arts Festival, reflecting the diverse character of Toronto

[Make-A-Wish Foundation](#) - Granting the wishes of children living with life-threatening medical conditions

[Mammalian Diving Reflex](#) - Interactive performances that occur beyond the walls of the theatre

[Manifesto Community Projects](#) - Unites and empowers diverse young people through hip-hop culture

[March of Dimes Canada](#) – Creating a society inclusive of people with physical disabilities

[Mentoring Junior Kids Organization \(MJKO\)](#) - Promoting healthy and active lifestyles for youth

[Merry Go Round Children's Foundation](#) - Enabling financially disadvantaged students to achieve their academic pursuits

[METRAC](#) - Focuses on education and prevention to build safety, justice and equity

[Moorelands Community Services](#) - Provides youth affected by poverty fun experiences to strengthen their confidence

[Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto](#) – Building the collective capacity of Aboriginal women

[New Visions Toronto](#) - Provides residential services for individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities

[Newcomer Women's Services Toronto](#) – Delivering educational and employment opportunities for immigrant women and their children

[Nightwood Theatre](#) – Propelling women to the top of their craft in Canadian Theatre

[No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment](#) - Uses art and design to bring awareness to environmental concerns

[North York Community House](#) - Enhancing the strength and resilience of their neighbourhood

[North York Harvest Food Bank](#) - Creating community where all members can meet their food needs

[North York Women's Centre \(NYWC\)](#) – Supporting and empowering women and effect positive change

[Not Far From The Tree](#) - Putting Toronto's fruit to good use by picking and sharing the bounty

[OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants](#) - Provides integration services to immigrants and refugees

[Ontario Justice Education Network](#) - Promoting public understanding to support a responsive and inclusive justice system

[Oolagen](#) - Empowering youth and their families to enhance their wellbeing and mental health

[Ophea](#) - Championing healthy, active living in schools and communities

[Outward Bound Canada](#) - Cultivating resilience and compassion through challenging journeys in nature

[Parasport Ontario](#) - Developing and promoting Paralympic and Parasport in Ontario

[Pathways to Education Canada](#) - Helps underserved youth graduate from high school and transition to further education

[Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario](#) - Champions of childhood cancer care

[People for Education](#) – Engaging parents to become active participants in their children's education

[Project Canoe](#) - Uses the outdoors and wilderness canoe trips to create an environment in which youth develop life skills

[The PACT Urban Peace Program](#) - Empowering underserved youth and youth already in conflict with the law

[The Peer Project](#) - Youth Assisting Youth - Promoting the healthy growth and development of young people

[The Pollution Probe Foundation](#) - Improving the well-being of Canadians by advancing environmental change

[Vermont Square Parent-Child Mother Goose Program](#) - Fosters parent-child bonding and literacy through a rich oral language experience

[Ralph Thornton Centre](#) - Building the potential of the Riverdale community

[Right To Play](#) - Uses the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing adversity

[Roots of Empathy](#) - Reducing bullying among school children while raising emotional competence

[The Redwood](#) - Supporting women and their children to live free from domestic abuse

[San Romanoway Revitalization](#) - Fostering a sense of belonging in residents of all ages and backgrounds

[Scadding Court Community Centre](#) - Providing opportunities for inclusive recreation, education, and community participation

[Scarborough Arts](#) - Develops programming and cultural initiatives in collaboration with the community

[Second Harvest](#) - Feeding hungry people by picking up, preparing and delivering excess fresh food to social agencies

[Seed to Table](#) - Cultivating the conditions for community change by building local capacity

[Seeds of Hope Foundation](#) - Building sustainable communities with resource centres that encourage learning, recovery, and enterprise

[Serve](#) - Engaging diverse youth in experiential education so that they can achieve their goals

[Shakespeare in Action](#) - Enhancing arts and education through exploring and performing Shakespeare

[Sheena's Place](#) - Supporting individuals, families and friends affected by eating disorders

[Sistema Toronto](#) - Free, ensemble-based music lessons to inspire children to realize their full potential

[SKETCH Working Arts](#) - An arts initiative for young people who are homeless or living on the margins

[Skills for Change of Metro Toronto](#) - Learning and training opportunities for immigrants and refugees

[SkyWorks Charitable Foundation](#) - Advocating and participating in social change through community film making

[Small Change Fund](#) - Supporting grassroots projects that contribute to social and environmental change

[Soulpepper Theatre Company](#) - Creating a home in Toronto for the great dramatic works of our collective cultural inheritance

[South Riverdale Community Health Centre](#) - Improving the lives of people that face barriers to physical, mental, and social well-

being

[Springboard](#) - Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre](#) - Providing programs and services for seniors and older adults

[St. Stephen's Community House](#) - Multi-service programming for newcomer and low-income residents

[Story Planet](#) - A story making centre running workshops that encourage young people to tell their stories

[Sustainability Network](#) - Enriching Canadian environmental leaders and organizations by supporting them to increase capacity

[The Stop Community Food Centre](#) - Increasing access to healthy food by building community and challenging inequality

[Toronto Youth Development](#) - Assisting and fostering underprivileged youth in Toronto

[The 519](#) - Enhancing the vibrant downtown and LGBTQ* community

[Thornccliffe Neighbourhood Office](#) - Building a safe and healthy community

[Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development](#) - Creating a strong culture of community engagement

[Toronto City Mission](#) - Creating lasting change through preventative and transformational programs

[Toronto Environmental Alliance](#) - Promoting a greener Toronto

[Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs](#) - Providing a safe, supportive place for the young people of Regent Park, Cabbagetown, and Trinity-Bellwoods

[Toronto Park People](#) - The catalyst for better parks across Toronto

[Toronto Public Library Foundation](#) - Providing essential resources for the enhancement of the Toronto Public Library

[Toronto Wildlife Centre](#) - Building a healthy community for people and wildlife by raising awareness about urban wildlife

[Trails Youth Initiatives Inc.](#) - Challenging and equipping youth from the inner city of Toronto

[Unison Health Community Services](#) - Delivering accessible and high quality health and community services

[UNITY Charity](#) - Empowering youth to use artistic self-expression to make positive life

[UrbanArts](#) - Engaging youth in community development through the arts

[UforChange](#) - Inspiring newcomer and Canadian youth through arts-based community-building

[White Ribbon](#) - Men and boys working to end violence against women and girls

[WoodGreen](#) - Enhancing self-sufficiency, promoting well-being and reducing poverty

[Words In Motion](#) - Using the arts to help children and their families achieve their full potential

[Workman Arts Project of Ontario](#) - Developing and supporting artists with mental illness and addiction issues

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Glossary

Affordable housing: Affordable housing is defined as housing costs that do not exceed 30% of household income, in contrast to other definitions based on the housing market—for example: affordable housing defined as rental housing that is 80% or less than gross market rents.

Age-Friendly Cities: “Age-Friendly Cities” is an international [World Health Organization \(WHO\) initiative](#) designed to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of services in cities for people of all ages.

Arts and Culture Professional Occupations: The Statistics Canada National Index of Occupations lists the following [Professional Occupations in Art and Culture](#):

- Librarians, archivists, conservators and curators
 - Librarians
 - Conservators and curators
 - Archivists
- Writing, translating and related communications professionals
 - Authors and writers
 - Editors
 - Journalists
 - Translators, terminologists and interpreters
- Creative and performing artists
 - Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations
 - Conductors, composers and arrangers
 - Musicians and singers
 - Dancers
 - Actors and comedians

Average: The average equals the sum of all the values, divided by the number of values being studied. For example, in a population of 10 people, if one person earns \$1 million and 9 earn \$30,000, the average income would be \$127,000, whereas the median income in the sample would be \$30,000.

Also see: **median**.

Brownfield development: Brownfield development is re-development of previously developed land (generally urban infill or intensification).

Also see: **greenfield development**.

Budget deficit: A budget deficit would occur if the City of Toronto’s expenses were greater than their revenues, or if the City collected less revenue than it anticipated. The City is not permitted to have a year-end operating budget deficit.

Also see: **operating budget**.

Business establishment: An establishment refers to any business or firm location. Some businesses, such as a restaurant chain, may have a number of establishments at different locations.

Body Mass Index (BMI): is a method of determining health risk by body weight. It is calculated by dividing body weight (in kilograms) by height (in metres) squared. According to the World Health Organization and [Health Canada guidelines](#), the index is as follows: less than 18.5 (underweight); 18.50–24.99 (normal weight); 25–29.99 (overweight = increased health risk); 30–39.99 (obese class I = high health risk); 35–39.99 (obese class II = very high health risk); 40.0 or greater (obese class III = extremely high health risk).

Capital budget: The City of Toronto’s [capital budget](#) sets aside future funding for the construction and repair of transit, roads, bridges, public buildings such as libraries, community centres and fire stations, water and sewer facilities, parks and other major infrastructure projects. The City of Toronto updates and presents a new 10-year Capital Budget and Plan each year as part of the annual budget process. The capital budget is primarily funded by property taxes. Other funds come from reserves, development charges, other levels of government and by borrowing funds or taking on debt.

Also see: **operating budget**.

Census family: A census family is defined as a married couple and the children, if any, of either or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either or both partners; or, a lone parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling and that child or those children. All members of a particular census family live in the same dwelling. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Children may be children by birth, marriage or adoption regardless of their age or marital status

as long as they live in the dwelling and do not have their own spouse or child living in the dwelling. Grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present also constitute a census family. ([Statistics Canada](#) definition)

Census tract: [Census tracts](#) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in other population areas that had a core population of 50,000 or more in the previous census.

Child poverty: Children are defined as living in poverty when they are a part of low-income families. The definition of “low income” varies by the measure being used, and there is currently no consensus among anti-poverty advocates, researchers, decision-makers or media as to the best measure.

For a discussion of poverty measures, see Richard Shillington and John Stapleton (2010), [Cutting Through the Fog: Why is it so hard to make sense of poverty measures?](#)

Also see: **Low Income Measure**, **Low Income Cut Off**, and **Gini coefficient**.

Complete streets: Complete streets describes streets that have been designed with all users in mind: the motorists, street car and bus riders, cyclists, pedestrians, and those with disabilities. A complete street is therefore, one where a variety of policies, bylaws and infrastructure have come together to make the public right-of-way fully multi-modal.

Core housing need: Households are said to be in core housing need if they are occupying housing that falls below any of three dwelling standards: adequacy—not requiring major repairs; suitability—enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident household, and; affordability—not requiring the household to spend 30% or more of their before-tax income to pay for the median rent of alternative local market housing (from the CMHC Canada Housing Observer 2008).

Cultural industries: There is no standard definition of this cluster of occupations in Canada. For the purposes of this Report, cultural industries refers to the following sub-industries from the Labour Force Survey: Information and Cultural Industries, and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation. Sub-industries that are excluded are publishing industries,

telecommunications, internet providers and other information, and amusement, gambling and recreation industries, as well as those industries with less than 1,500 workers in Ontario. Note that this is not the same as the definition of the Cultural Labour Force used in [From the Ground Up: Growing Toronto's Cultural Sector](#).

Crime Severity Index: The police-reported Crime Severity Index (CSI) was introduced in the spring of 2009 to enable Canadians to track changes in the severity of police-reported crime from year to year. The index measures changes in the severity of crime from year to year. Each type of offence is assigned a weight derived from actual sentences handed down by courts in all provinces and territories. Weights are calculated using the five most recent years of available sentencing data. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights; less serious offenses lower weights. As a result, when all crimes are included, more serious offenses have a greater impact on changes in the Index.

Police Reported Crime Rate (PRCR): the PRCR is a rate per 100,000 population measuring changes in the volume of crime, and counts each criminal incident equally. As a result, the rate is dominated by high volume, less-serious offenses.

Also see: **Violent Crime Severity Index**.

Diversity: For the purposes of this Report, diversity within a group is measured in terms of race and ethnicity, rather than a broader range of diverse characteristics.

Downtown core: For the purposes of this report, Toronto's downtown core refers to the area bounded on the north by Bloor St., on the west by Spadina Ave., on the east by Jarvis St., and on the south by Queen's Quay.

Economic family: An economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Foster children are included. By definition, all persons who are members of a Census Family are also members of an economic family. Examples of the broader concept of economic family include the following: two co-resident census families who are related to one another are considered one economic family; co-resident siblings who are not members of a census family are

considered as one economic family; and, nieces or nephews living with aunts or uncles are considered one economic family. ([Statistics Canada](#) definition)

Food insecurity: The UN defines food security as access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life. Food insecurity has been monitored in Canada since 2004. On the basis of an 18-question survey of the experience of household members, households are judged to be:

- Marginally food insecure: Worry about running out of food and/or limit food selection because of lack of money for food.
- Moderately food insecure: Compromise in quality and/or quantity of food because of lack of money for food.
- Severely food insecure: Miss meals, reduce food intake and at the extreme, go day(s) without food.

Food system: Food systems are chains of commercial and non-commercial actors—from suppliers to consumers, regulators to advocates for system change—who collectively determine how we grow, process, distribute, acquire and dispose of food. (From [Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs](#).)

Gini coefficient: Named after the Italian statistician Corrado Gini, the Gini coefficient is a simple relative measure of income inequality. It calculates the extent to which income distribution varies from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini coefficient of 0 represents perfect equality, and a coefficient of 1 represents perfect inequality (one person has all the income, and the rest of the population has nothing). Its focus is on relative income distribution, rather than real levels of poverty and prosperity in society.

For a discussion of poverty measures, see Richard Shillington and John Stapleton (2010), [Cutting Through the Fog: Why is it so hard to make sense of poverty measures?](#)

Also see: **Low Income Measure** and **Low Income Cut Off**.

Green infrastructure: Green infrastructure is defined, for the purposes of this Report, as natural vegetation, soil in volumes sufficient to sustain vegetation and absorb water, and green technologies that replicate ecosystem functions, such as porous sidewalks, cisterns and bioswales (landscape elements that trap contaminants from surface water runoff).

Greenfield development: In the context of this report,

greenfield development is defined as development on land that has not been developed before (generally rural and often agricultural).

Also see: **brownfield development**.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): GDP is a measure of a jurisdiction's annual official economic output. The most direct way of determining GDP is to add up the value of production in all categories of economic enterprise. To bring the Canadian System of National Economic Accounts into line with international standards, the valuation of production is now calculated according to basic prices. GDP at basic prices (as opposed to GDP at factor costs or at market prices) includes indirect taxes (for example property taxes, capital taxes and payroll taxes) but excludes taxes and subsidies attached to the factors of production (for example sales taxes, fuel taxes, duties and taxes on imports, excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products and subsidies paid on agricultural commodities, transportation services and energy).

Homelessness: the [Canadian Definition of Homelessness](#), as defined by the Canadian Homelessness Research Network, describes a range of housing and shelter circumstances, with people being without any shelter at one end, and being insecurely housed at the other. That is, homelessness encompasses a range of physical living situations, organized here in a typology that includes:

1. Unsheltered, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
2. Emergency Sheltered, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence;
3. Provisionally Accommodated, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure, and finally;
4. At Risk of Homelessness, referring to people who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards. It should be noted that for many people homelessness is not a static state but rather a fluid experience, where one's shelter circumstances. Although many included in the category will not end up in shelters, their housing situation is defined as such because it is insecure or unstable.

Human capital: For the purposes of this report, human capital is defined as the set of characteristics

and competencies in a labour force that determine and influence economic strength and output, including:

- Employment
 - Unemployment rate/Youth unemployment rate
 - Proportion of women in management positions
 - Male-female income ratio
 - Proportion of population over 65
- Workplace Health
 - Population Health
 - Workplace safety (work-related injuries and deaths per 100,000 population)
- Workforce Skills
 - Proportion of labour force with post-secondary education
 - Proportion of population with high-school education or less
 - Proportion of workers employed in high-skill occupations
 - Proportion of highly skilled immigrants

Human trafficking: In Canada and elsewhere, there is no overall consensus on the definition of human trafficking. Law enforcement in Canada are mandated to adhere to [sections 279.01 to 279.04](#) of the Criminal Code of Canada, which contain four indictable offences that specifically address human trafficking, and [section 118](#) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. The working definition of human trafficking of the [City of Toronto](#) is: “An act by a person, or group of people that involves recruiting, transporting or receiving a person, harbouring, luring, exercising control over a person by means of a threat, use of force or other forms of coercion or influence for the purpose of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, forced labour and/or forced marriages”.

LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a set of rating systems regulated by national bodies like the [Canada Green Building Council](#) and the [World Green Building Council](#) for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of green buildings, homes and neighbourhoods. Green buildings can have advanced air ventilation systems, utilize for more natural daylight, produce less waste, conserve energy, and/or decrease water consumption. Criteria for certification continue to evolve as emerging green building technologies advance.

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs): The 2006 Local Health System Integration Act changed the way the Ontario government planned, funded and managed health care services. LHINs possess significant decision-making power in order to manage health care at the community level. They plan, integrate and fund local health care services. The Province stewards the health system, setting direction, policy and standards and delivering provincial programs and series.

Low Income Cut Off (LICO): The LICO is defined as the income levels at which 70% or more of a family's before tax income is spent on food, shelter and clothing. It takes into account the total family income, the number of people supported by that income, and the population size of the municipality where they live. For example:

Census Metropolitan Area – 500,000 inhabitants or more
Family Unit Size: 2013 After Tax Low income Cut-off (1992 base)
1 person: \$19,774
2 persons: \$24,066
3 persons: \$29,968
4 persons: \$37,387

The LICO has been criticized for not reflecting regional differences, and because it has not been updated to reflect changes in spending patterns since 1992. LICO can be calculated both before and after taxes.

For a discussion of poverty measures, see Richard Shillington and John Stapleton (2010), [Cutting Through the Fog: Why is it so hard to make sense of poverty measures?](#)

Also see: **Low Income Measure** and **Gini coefficient**.

Low Income Measure (LIM): LIM is used for international comparisons and is increasingly being adopted by the anti-poverty movement in Canada. It is a relative measure of low income. LIM is a fixed percentage (50%) of median family income adjusted based on a consideration of family needs. The family size adjustment reflects the precept that family needs increase with family size. For the LIM, each additional adult, first child (regardless of age) in a lone-parent family, or child over 15 years of age, is assumed to increase the family's needs by 40% of the needs of the first adult. Each child less than 16 years of age

(other than the first child in a lone-parent family) is assumed to increase the family's needs by 30% of the first adult. A family is considered to be low income when their income is below the Low Income Measure (LIM) for their family type and size. The LIM has been criticized for defining poverty in relative rather than absolute terms, as it incorporates contemporary living standards and is adjusted in some way to maintain this relationship, rather than being indexed to prices only. LIM can be calculated both before and after taxes.

For a discussion of poverty measures, see Richard Shillington and John Stapleton (2010), [Cutting Through the Fog: Why is it so hard to make sense of poverty measures?](#)

Also see: **Low Income Cut Off** and **Gini coefficient**.

Median: The median equals the mid-point in distribution of a number of values being studied where one half is above and the other half below. For example, in a population of 10 people, if one person earns \$1 million and 9 earn \$30,000, the median income in the sample would be \$30,000, whereas the average income would be \$127,000.

Also see **average**.

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP): ODSP is a provincial program of income and employment support to those in Ontario with a physical or mental disability of long duration (more than one year). Income support is available to those in financial need who also face substantial restrictions that prevent them from working, taking care of themselves, or participating in community life.

Office sector: Employment activity in the city of Toronto is categorized by sector. The broadest breakdown is into six sectors: manufacturing, retail, office, service, institutions (education, health, religious and other institutions) and other. The office sector includes:

- mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, construction and resource production (office workers)
- finance, insurance and real estate
- business and technical services
- communications and media
- trade and personal services
- health service offices
- government
- associations

Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI): [The Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative](#) is a partnership project to push for service excellence in municipal government. The 15 participating municipalities work together to identify and share performance statistics and operational best practices. Together, they provide regional services to more than 9.3 million residents or 73% of Ontario's population.

Ontario Works: Ontario Works is the name of the Provincial social assistance program that provides eligible Ontario residents with financial assistance to help cover the costs of basic needs (e.g., food and housing costs), and employment assistance to assist in preparing for and finding employment.

Operating budget: The City of Toronto's [operating budget](#) covers day-to-day spending on services such as recreational programs, parks maintenance, beaches and city roads, garbage collection, delivery of safe drinking water, police and other emergency services. Some of the funds for the operating budget come from property tax. The remainder comes from provincial transfers and user fees.

Also see: **capital budget**.

Precarious employment (or employment precarity): is employment that is uncertain, insecure and lacks the benefits associated with conventional full-time permanent work. Those in precarious employment are more likely to receive no benefits, face irregular hours and shifts, be paid minimum wage (sometimes in cash), have to pay for their own training, and face limited career prospects.

Priority neighbourhoods: In 2005, the City's Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force recommended the designation of 22 areas of Toronto (commonly reported as 13, as some adjacent communities are grouped and counted as one) that faced particular economic and social challenges for particular attention and investment. Some of these challenges included: low income, high levels of unemployment, and high numbers of recent immigrants. These 13 Priority Neighbourhoods (sometimes referred to as Priority Areas) were:

- [#1 Jamestown](#)
- [#2 Jane-Finch](#)
- [#3 Malvern](#)
- [#4 Kingston-Galloway](#)
- [#5 Lawrence Heights](#)
- [#6 Steeles-L'Amoreaux](#)
- [#7 Eglinton East-Kennedy Park](#)

- #8 Crescent Town
- #9 Weston-Mt. Dennis
- #10 Dorset Park
- #11 Scarborough Village
- #12 Flemingdon Park-Victoria Village
- #13 Westminster-Branson

In April 2014 Toronto City Council approved a recommendation by Social Development, Finance and Administration staff to increase the number of priority neighbourhoods from 13 to 31. A name change occurred as well, with these neighbourhoods now called Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (or NIAs). Of the original 22 neighbourhoods, eight no longer qualify as neighbourhoods requiring targeted investment: Westminster-Branson, Malvern, Dorset Park, L'Amoreaux, Yorkdale-Glen Park, Steeles, Englemount-Lawrence and Humber Heights-Westmount.

The 31 NIAs are:

- Beechborough-Greenbrook
- Birchmount-Eglinton East (BEE) (previously "Ionview")
- Black Creek
- Downsview-Roding-CFB
- Eglinton East
- Elms-Old Rexdale
- Flemingdon Park
- Glenfield-Jane Heights
- Humber Summit
- Humbermede
- Keelesdale-Eglinton West
- Kennedy Park
- Kingston Road/Galloway Road/Orton Park Road (previously West Hill)
- Kingsview Village-The Westway
- Mornelle Court (previously "Morningside")
- Mount Dennis
- Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown
- Oakridge
- Regent Park
- Rockcliffe-Smythe
- Rustic
- Scarborough Village
- South Parkdale
- Taylor-Massey (previously "Crescent Town")
- Thistletown-Beaumont Heights
- Thorncliffe Park
- Victoria Village
- Weston
- Weston-Pellam Park
- Woburn
- York University Heights

For more information, including description of the 15 indicators of neighbourhood inequity used to choose the NIAs, see the City's [Neighbourhood equity index: Methodological documentation](#).

Professional Employment in Arts and Culture:

Using the National Occupational Codes defined by Statistics Canada, Professional Employment in Arts and Culture includes the following:

- Librarians, Archivists, Conservators, Curators
- Writers, translators and public relations professionals
- Creative and performing artists.

Racialized: Racialized is a term that is increasingly used in place of "visible minority" or "racial minority". It affirms that "race" is a social and cultural construct often imposed upon people on the basis of perceived physical characteristics. Those racialized groups may then be discriminated against on the basis of perceived physical traits.

Also see: **visible minority**.

Real income: Real income is income adjusted for inflation's effect on purchasing power. If it costs earners more to buy the same goods and services than it did previously, and their income has not increased correspondingly, then their "real income" has actually decreased.

Recent immigrant: Recent immigrants refer to those who arrived in Canada in the five years prior to a particular census. The most recent immigrants are those who arrived in Canada between January 1, 2006 and Census Day, May 16, 2011. Established immigrants are those who have resided in Canada 10 years or more.

Resilience: Resilience is the ability of a system, entity, community, or person to withstand shocks while still maintaining its essential functions and to recover quickly and effectively (from the [Rockefeller Foundation](#)).

Sanctuary City: A Sanctuary City one where all people, regardless of immigration status, can live without fear of detention or deportation. It is a city where individuals can exert autonomous control over the places they gather at, their schools, their health centers, their food banks, their social services and their neighbourhoods. (From [No One is Illegal](#)).

Self-reported data: Self-reported data is information reported by study participants themselves rather than measured independently. Self-reported data is subject to bias, as respondents may over- or under-report. Activity levels, for example, tend to be over-estimated, while obesity tends to be under-reported.

Social capital: Social capital refers to networks of social relationships between individuals and groups with shared values and assets that benefit those individuals, groups and communities, and the larger society. Examples of social capital include networks of social support, membership in voluntary organizations and associations, civic participation and levels of trust and sense of belonging to the community. By investing in and leveraging social networks, social capital can be developed to help communities build and create together.

Social housing: Sometimes called subsidized housing, social housing is housing that receives some form of government or not-for-profit subsidy. Forms of social housing include some housing co-ops (with rent geared to income for low-income residents, or housing geared to specific low-income groups such as seniors or artists), public housing (where the government directly manages the property) and rent supplements (paid to landlords). Tenants must generally meet eligibility requirements for social housing.

Social planning neighbourhoods: The City's [Social Policy Analysis & Research Unit](#) divides Toronto into 140 social planning neighbourhoods based on Statistics Canada census tracts. The boundaries do not change over time in order to gather longitudinal socio-economic data at a meaningful geographic area. [Neighbourhood profiles](#) were developed to help government and community agencies with their local planning.

Supply chain: The supply chain is the linked chain of organizations and individuals that starts with suppliers of raw materials and ends with consumers. Supply chain organizations include farms, mines, manufacturers, retailers, service providers, government agencies and not-for-profit groups.

Undocumented resident: Also known as non-status residents, undocumented residents have no immigration status, not even the temporary resident status of a Temporary Foreign Worker or a refugee claimant (who still have no access to federal programs or provincial programs such as Ontario Works and

OHIP). Although Toronto was declared a Sanctuary City in 2013, these residents still face significant barriers to accessing municipal services.

Unemployed: The [unemployment rate](#) expresses the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force (the [labour force](#) is the population aged 15 and over who were either employed or unemployed; it does not include those who were not working nor anticipating a return to work within four weeks, nor does it include those not available nor looking for work). [Unemployed persons](#) are defined as those who are available for work but without it, and either on temporary layoff, had looked for work in the past four weeks, or had a job to start within the next four weeks. (from [Employment and Social Development Canada](#), using Statistics Canada definitions from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey)

Urban heat island: In the context of this Report, an urban heat island is defined as an area within a metropolitan centre, where surface temperatures are at least 5° above the average for the whole of the metropolis. Heat islands are caused by the combined effects of heat-generating and heat-trapping construction materials; lack of vegetation; tall buildings that block wind; air pollution; and waste heat from energy generation, industrial processes, air conditioning and automobiles.

Violent Crime Severity Index: In addition to the overall police-reported Crime Severity Index, the Violent Crime Severity Index measures only violent crime. It is also available for crimes committed by youth.

Also see: **Crime Severity Index.**

Visible minority: Visible minority refers to whether or not a person, under criteria established by the Employment Equity Act, is non-Caucasian or non-white. Under the Act, an Aboriginal person is not considered to be a visible minority. The term is controversial and deemed to be problematic for a number of reasons by many. The term is vague and subject to confusion. In some instances it is used to refer to ethnicity or nationality, which may include both white and non-white people; in others to sub-regions of entire continents (East Asia, for example), which always are made up by multiple ethnic and racial groups.

Also see: **racialized.**

Walkability Index: The Walkability Index is a rigorous tool that has been developed to measure and evaluate neighbourhood design features that have been clearly associated with utilitarian walking such as residential density, land use mix, and intersection density (Frank et al., 2009). The tool was used by Toronto Public Health to measure “walkability” in neighbourhoods.

Whitebelt: The Whitebelt is the common name for the land between the protected Greenbelt and existing urban development. The Whitebelt is not protected like the Greenbelt, and is subsequently subject to continued pressure from development, while other interests would like to see it remain primarily used for farmland, or added to the Greenbelt.

Woonerf: A woonerf is a street in the Netherlands where pedestrians and cyclists have legal priority over motorists. By 1999 the Netherlands had over 6,000 woonerfs. The Dutch traffic code stipulates that motorized traffic in a woonerf is restricted to walking pace.

Working poor: For the purposes of this Report, a member of the working poor is an independent adult between the ages of 18 and 64, and not a student, with earnings of at least \$3,000 per year, but an income below the median Low Income Measure (LIM). (from the [Metcalf Foundation](#)).

Endnotes

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Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
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Canadian Homeless Research Network
Canadian Index of Wellbeing
Canadian International Television Festival
Canadian Screen Awards
Canadian Urban Institute
Canadian Urban Transit Association
CareerBuilder.ca
CBC News
CBRE Canada
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre for the Study of Living Standards (National Research Partner)
CERIS
Child Development Institute
Children's Aid Society of Toronto
CIBC Metro Monitor
Citizens for Public Justice

City of Toronto:	Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Affordable Housing Office	fDi Magazine	Ministry of Education
Children's Services Division	FoodShare Toronto	Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
City Clerk's Office	Friends of the Pan Am Path	Ministry of Labour
City Manager's Office	Futurpreneur Canada	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Corporate Finance	George Brown College (Lead Research Partner)	Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Cultural Services	Institute Without Boundaries at GBC	Newsroom
Economic Development and Culture	GO Transit	Ontario Long Term Care Association
Election Services	Government of Canada:	Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association
Environment and Energy	Citizenship and Immigration Canada	Ontario Physician Human Resource Data Centre
Film and Television Office	Parks Canada	Open Streets TO
Finance & Administration	Statistics Canada	Options for Green Energy
Communications	Greater Toronto Civic Action Alliance (CivicAction)	OPENCities
Live Green Toronto	Greenest City	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Parks, Forestry and Recreation	Global News	Park People
Parks and Environment Committee	Grosvenor	Parkdale Activity – Recreation Centre
Pedestrian and Cycling Planning Division	Hill Strategies Research	Pembina Institute
Shelter, Support and Housing Administration	Hot Docs	People for Education
Social Development, Finance and Administration	Housing Connections	Playing for Keeps
Solid Waste Management Services	Huffington Post	Ploughshares
Strategic and Corporate Policy	Imagine Canada	Poverty and Employment
Toronto Community Housing Corporation	InsideToronto.com	Precarity in Southern Ontario (PEPSO)
Toronto Food Policy Council	Institute for Canadian Citizenship	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)
Toronto Public Health	Institute for Research on Public Policy	PROOF
Toronto Water	Intelligent Community Forum	Red Sky Performance
Toronto's Children Services	Ipsos Reid	Region of Peel
Traffic Safety Unit	KPMG	Royal Bank of Canada
Urban Forestry Services	Leger	Ryerson University
Waterfront Toronto	Maytree Foundation	Samara
Wellbeing Toronto	Mental Health Commission of Canada	Social Planning Toronto
Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change	Metcalf Foundation	Social Progress Imperative
CTV News	Metro News	Solidarity City Network
Cushman & Wakefield	MetroLinx	St. Michael's Hospital
Daily Bread Food Bank	Move the GTHA	Centre for Research on Inner City Health
David Suzuki Foundation	Mowat Centre	TD Economics
Democracy Watch	National Crime Prevention Centre	The Canadian Press
Demographia	National Post	The Economist
Diabetes Care	Neptis Foundation	The Globe and Mail
DiverseCity Counts	Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Service for Seniors	The Grid
East Scarborough Storefront	Ontario Campaign 2000	
Egale Canada Human Rights Trust	Ontario Government:	
FarmStart	Local Health Integration Networks	
Fast Company		

The Guardian	West End Food Co-op
The Homeless Hub	Wheels.ca
The Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids)	Wildlands League
The Muttart Foundation	Women and Work Research Group
TomTom	WoodGreen Community Services
Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games	World Health Organization
Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts	Yonge Street Media
Toronto Argonauts	Youth Empowering Parents
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