

TORONTO'S VITAL SIGNS

TORONTO FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CITY



TORONTO
FOUNDATION
The Art of Wise Giving™



ONE
PEACE

TO

2015

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 \$400 million. A growing number of Torontonians support the Vital Toronto Fund, our community fund 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 each issue area section, 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 in our communities and around the world. It is used by residents, businesses, community organizations, universities and colleges, and government departments. In addition, the Report is a model now being used 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 I care about?
- What data surprises me?
- How can I get involved to make a difference?

About the Community Knowledge Centre

At www.ckc.torontofoundation.ca you will find an online showcase of more than 260 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 and other funds, which support community projects, and by providing leadership on issues of broad community concern.

Vital Signs is a national program led by community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada that leverages local knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities and supports action towards improving our quality of life. Started by the Toronto Foundation in 2001, today 75 communities across Canada and around the world use Vital Signs to mobilize the power of community knowledge for greater local impact.

VitalSigns[®]
Community foundations taking the pulse of
Canadian communities.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA
all for community.



ONE PLACE, ONE PEACE: IN IT TOGETHER

For Toronto, this was a record-breaking year.

We hosted the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, a spectacular series of events around the GTHA and beyond. The Games were a big win for Canada: our athletes won 385 medals. And a big win for Toronto, too: a civic “aha!” moment when we realized what can happen when we work together toward a common goal.

The Games gave us a chance to see our city through others’ eyes. Visitors and international media gave us top marks for our quality of life. At a time when the environment is paramount, Toronto’s green spaces got the nod. At 445 hectares per 100,000 people, our parks, ravines, backyards, and green roofs keep us 4 degrees cooler on average and remove airborne particulate matter equivalent to the output of one million cars.

For those tuned into global culture, Toronto’s concerts and museums, galleries and festivals won ovations. And residents seconded that emotion in record numbers. Attendance at City-funded or -programmed events reached 19 million and 71% of us regularly attended an arts-related event, program, or place.

And the Games built on last year’s tourism records. The Region drew the highest-ever number of overnight visitors. This city is also a beacon for immigrants: just over half of Torontonians are foreign-born, with one-third of Torontonians having arrived in the last 25 years.

All of this international attention adds up: Toronto’s economy continues to grow. Overall employment was up 1.5% from 2013 to 2014, with 20,850 new jobs and more than 5,000 new

businesses. We're building more high- and mid-rise buildings than any other North American city. On-location filming hit a new high of \$1.23 billion, and the 2014 World Pride Festival contributed \$313 million to Toronto's GDP. Plus, we continue to win accolades. For the seventh year running, the Economist has declared Toronto as the fourth most liveable city in the world.

Yet, as gratifying as these numbers are, they don't tell the whole story. Almost twenty years after amalgamation, Toronto remains tenaciously divided. The gap between the richest and the rest in our Region is the second largest in Canada (next only to Calgary) and, after 25 years of steady growth, the income inequality gap in our city is increasing at twice the national average. We're becoming more polarized geographically, too, as illustrated by City Hall debates on the Gardiner, "carding", and subway-versus-LRT.

The question on everyone's mind is how do we transcend these destructive divisions and move forward?

By wholeheartedly rejecting the divided city and embracing a new vision. By seeing ourselves as one city. A city where 140 diverse neighbourhoods pull together as one. Where Toronto is the driver of a thriving global city region.

We must become "One place."

"One place" is a new way of thinking, working, and living together. As "One place" we will devise city-wide solutions to city-wide problems.

Like traffic. The Region's congestion crisis continues, boasting the second longest round-trip commute – 66 minutes – of any North American city.

Like affordable housing. Toronto's house purchase prices have tripled since the 1970s. We are the 13th least affordable major housing market in the world.

And like our health. Just under half of our young people are active and 50% of adults are overweight or obese. And while most residents (70.5%) report very good or excellent mental health, 262 people took their own lives in 2013 (that's more than four times the number of homicides and quadruple the incidence of auto accident deaths).

As "One place" we will deliver a more effective response to those most at risk.

Like seniors. One in five Torontonians 55-plus lives alone; for those 85 and older, it's 44%. And the numbers are rising: today, 14.76% of us are seniors; by 2036, one in four Canadians will be. Like "the precariat." Last year, 22.7% of us depended on temporary and contract work. Two working parents with two young children must each earn at least \$18.52 an hour to make ends meet. The impact? Close to 80,000 on the active waiting list for affordable housing. More than 890,000 visits to food banks. Lowest-income men are 50% more likely to die before 75 than those with the highest income, while the poorest women are 85% more likely to have diabetes than their wealthiest counterparts. And 29% of Toronto's children live in poverty.

Like the next generation. In 2014, youth unemployment was almost 22% in Toronto, and young people were the fastest growing homeless segment in Canada. Is it any wonder young adults don't feel connected to their city or aren't politically engaged? Just 39% of 18 to 24-year-olds voted in the 2011 federal election – a startling contrast to the 80% of their parents' generation who did so at the same age.

How will we know when Toronto is getting it right? When "One place" leads to "One peace" for this city's residents.

When we have the peace of mind that comes from knowing our youth feel optimistic about the future. The peace that comes from knowing you can make a good life for your family. And that you can age with dignity.

In fact, Toronto is already getting it right in many ways, and the 2015 Games are a case in point. They provided a platform for people to come together to do something good for the entire city. The physical and social legacies created will endure long after this summer. Even better, we now have solid proof of what we can achieve by thinking and working together. The need for cities to get it right has never been greater. By the middle of this century, two-thirds of the world's population will live in urban areas. Toronto is one of the fastest-growing regions in Canada, so the challenges we face will only intensify.

Toronto is uniquely positioned to build the inclusive and sustainable city of the future. A great place for people to live. And a model for cities everywhere.

And who will build the "One place" of the future that will offer "One peace" to its residents?

People like you.

From this day forward, you are the "One."



John Barford
Chair
Board of Directors



Rahul K. Bhardwaj
President & CEO
Toronto Foundation

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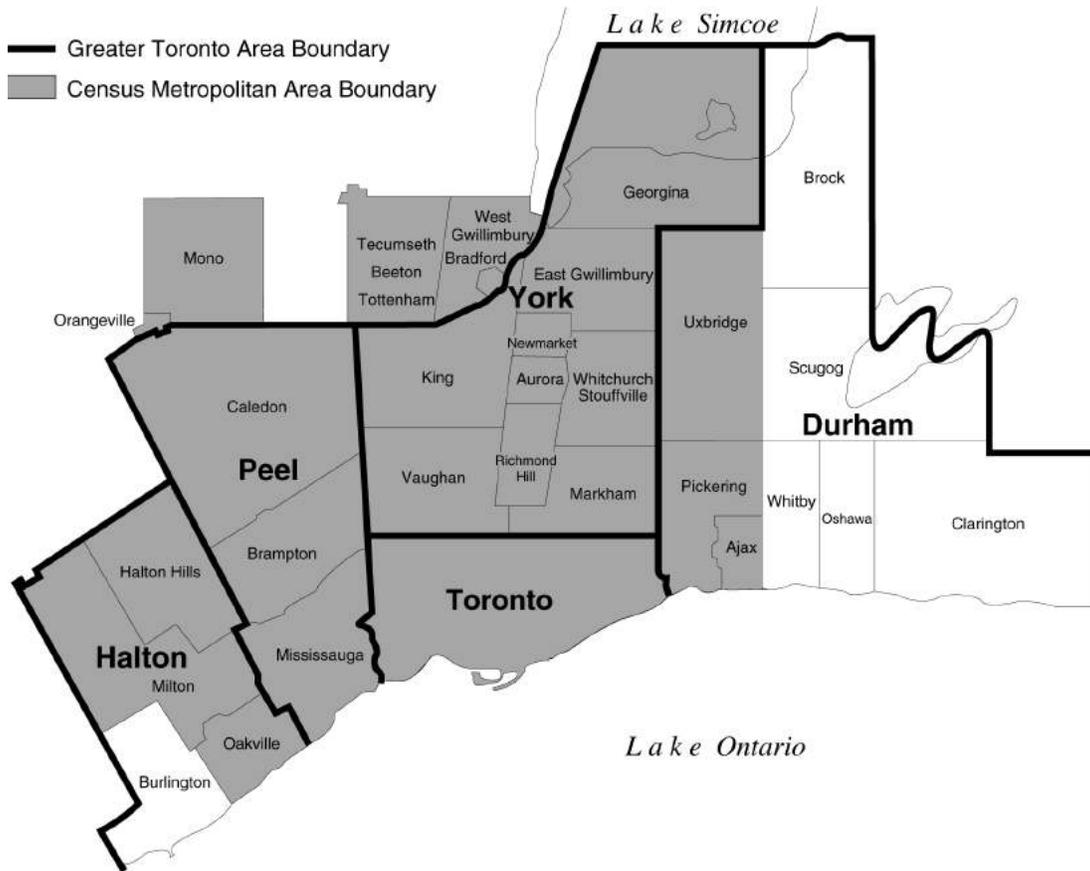
Understanding this Report

1. The following definitions are used frequently throughout the Report (also see the [Glossary](#) at the back of this document for a complete list of definitions).
 - “Toronto” or “the city” refers to the formal boundaries of the city of Toronto, consisting 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.
 - 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.

- 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.

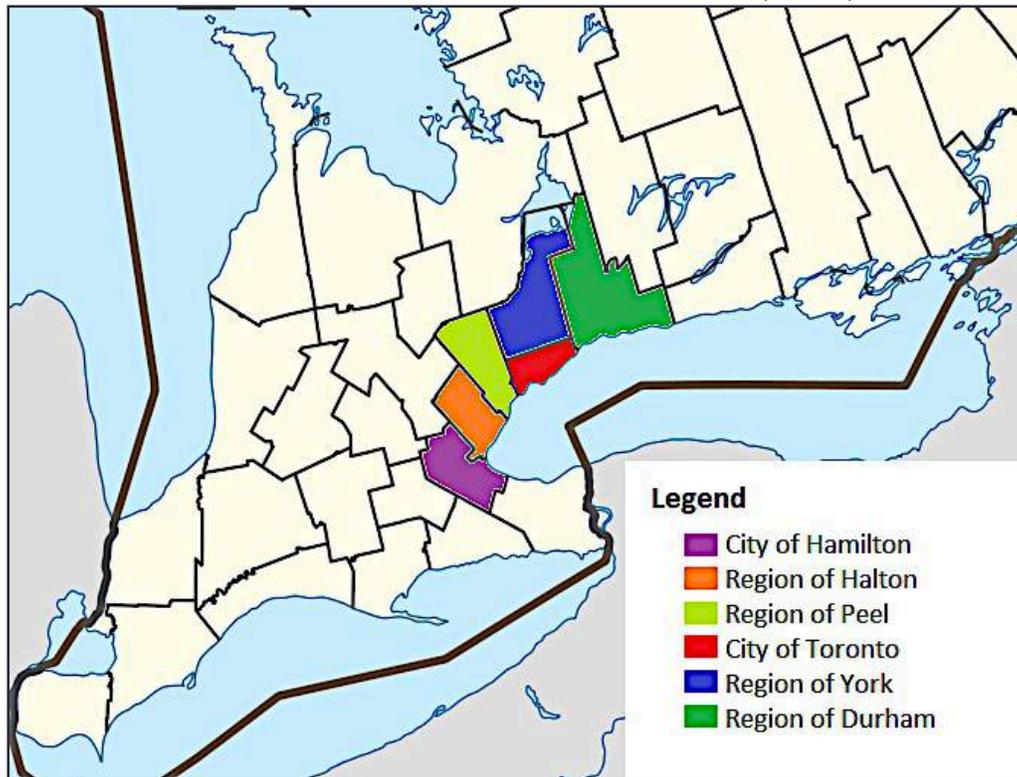
Census Metropolitan Area (Toronto Region) and the Greater Toronto Area



Source: City of Toronto, *Toronto Economic Development and Culture*. Prepared by Toronto Urban Planning and Development Services, *Presentation Graphics 1997*

2. The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) refers to the GTA region and the City of Hamilton. It is increasingly becoming a dominant unit of planning in Southern Ontario, particularly with regard to transit.

The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA)



3. The Report is divided into 13 chapters for ease of reference. However, each issue area is intimately connected to all the others. Readers will discover a plethora of examples, such as socio-economic indicators in the Learning section, illustrating the connection between poverty and the presence of necessary supports to learning, as well as employment data in the chapter on Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging, pointing to linkages between the security of one's employment and their likelihood to vote or volunteer.
4. 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.
5. Links to organizations directly cited are included in text. Citations are listed at the end of each indicator (which may contain several bulleted points).
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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 concepts that are the same or that overlap (e.g. “visible minority” versus “racialized,” or “LGBTQ*” versus “LGBTTIQ”).
9. Ideas and Innovations that point the way forward for Toronto are identified with the following icon:



10. Data, or ideas and innovations that come from outside Canada are included to help provide international context for interpreting Toronto’s experience. Throughout the Report, data or ideas and innovations that speak to an international context are identified with the following icon:



11. The Toronto’s Vital Signs Report 2015 includes data and studies that speak to anticipated projections based on past trends and future implications. These narratives allow us to make considerations for future actions and interventions. Narratives that incorporate future projections are signified by the following icon:



12. In Toronto’s Vital Signs Report 2015 we have included several “neighbourhood snapshots” related to the issue areas (identified by the graphic below) to give you a sense of the statistics at the level of some of Toronto’s 140 neighbourhoods. We used data garnered from the City of Toronto’s award-winning website [Wellbeing Toronto](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing/), as well as other sources, as cited in the text. It will be accommodated by this icon:



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 (www.toronto.ca/wellbeing/).

Toronto's 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 community organizations—in fact, for everybody.

What are the trends?

The Toronto Region's population base is one of the fastest growing in Canada; growth between 2001 and 2014 equaled 83% of the total population of Calgary in 2014. More than half of the global population (54%) now lives in cities, and by 2050 it is expected to grow to 66%. Toronto has more than twice the proportion of recent immigrants (8.4%) as Canada (3.5%). Toronto's population continues to age. Seniors represent almost 15% of the city's residents, and it has been projected that the GTA will absorb more than half the provincial increase in the over-75 population between 2011 and 2016.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.			
1. Population of the city of Toronto	2,741,281	2,777,208	2,808,507 ¹
2. Share of the population who are youth (15-24)	13.05%	12.97%	12.92% ²
3. Share of the population who are seniors (65 years and over)	14.21%	14.5%	14.76% ³
4. Number of new permanent residents (Toronto Region)	77,398	81,702	75,821 ⁴
5. Percentage population growth	1.36% (2011-2012)	1.31% (2012-2013)	1.13% (2013-2014) ⁵

What's new?

As in other major North American cities, transit infrastructure in Toronto is being overwhelmed by the numbers of people who are increasingly choosing to live and work downtown. But progress on critical transit improvements in the GTA has been hindered by a lack of governmental consensus on how to fund the \$50B Big Move plan and by debates over subways versus LRT lines in Toronto. Although immigration has been one of the city's main sources of growth, its share as a source of population growth declined by almost a fifth from 2011 to 2013. Meanwhile, the loss of the long-form census is affecting the ability of city leaders to plan.

How much is Toronto's population growing, and which demographic is growing the fastest?

The GTA (2014 population estimate: accounted for 72% of total Ontario population growth between 2006 and 2011:⁶

- A projection based on the 2011 National Household Survey estimates that the Region will grow an average 1.6% (or 108,766 persons) annually between 2014 and 2019, bringing the population to almost 7.1 million.⁷
- One estimate puts the 2014 GTA population at 6,546,519.⁸

The number of people who have come to the Region since 2001 is almost the same number of people who lived in Vancouver in 2014:

- The Toronto Region's population base is one of the fastest growing in Canada.
- The Region's population in 2014 was 6,055,724, up 1.61% from 5,959,950 in 2013 (versus a 1.42% increase across the province). Between 1996 and 2014, the population increased by an average of 2.1% per year (versus 1.33% at the provincial level).
- Between 2001 (when the population was 4,882,782) and 2014 the Region added 1,172,942 people, or 83% of the population of Calgary in 2014 (1,406,721).⁹
- More than 40% (42.9%) of the Region's population in 2014 lived within the city of Toronto.¹⁰
- Almost 1 in 5 Canadians (18.1% of the total population) lived in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in 2011.¹¹

Canada's Top 10 CMAs Ranked by Population and Projected Population Growth, 2014–2019:¹²

2019 RANK	CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA	2014	2019	AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE 2014–2019	AVERAGE ANNUAL % CHANGE 2014–2019
1	Toronto, ON	6,552,370	7,096,202	108,766	1.6
2	Montréal, QC	4,186,281	4,473,317	57,407	1.3
3	Vancouver, BC	2,483,571	2,707,138	44,713	1.7
4	Calgary, AB	1,499,616	1,670,946	34,266	2.2
5	Edmonton, AB	1,355,671	1,487,085	26,283	1.8
6	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON-QC	1,279,928	1,399,934	24,001	1.8
7	Quebec City, QC	796,452	853,495	11,409	1.4
8	Winnipeg, MB	708,765	742,707	6,788	0.9
9	Hamilton, ON	554,172	599,560	9,078	1.6
10	Kitchener-Waterloo, ON	543,980	592,889	9,782	1.7

The City of Toronto's population grew by 5.5% between 2006 and 2011 (from 2,610,578 to 2,753,131).¹³

- In 2014, Toronto's population was 2,808,507, up 1.13% from 2,777,208 in 2013. Growth was slightly higher between 2011 and 2012 (+1.36%) and between 2012 and 2013 (+1.31%).¹⁴

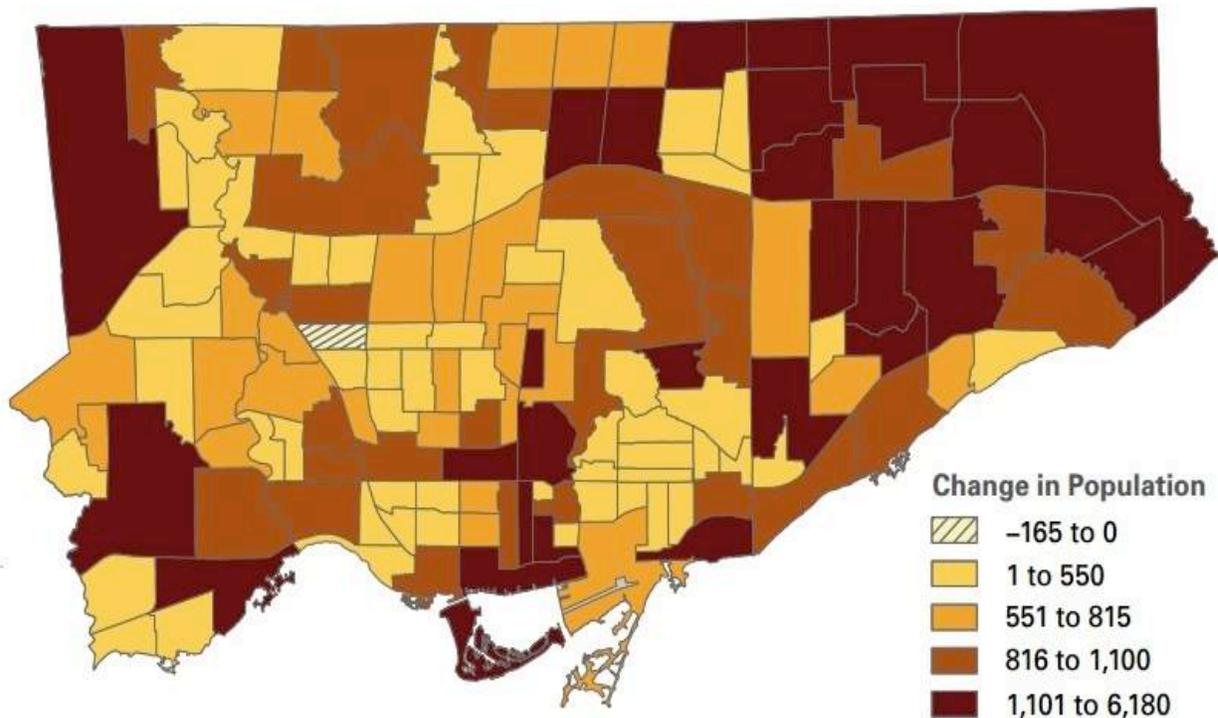
- These urbanization trends reflect similar shifts occurring the world over – more than half (54%) of the global population now lives in urban areas, and the proportion of the world’s population living in urban areas is expected to increase to 66 per cent by 2050.¹⁵



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 2036¹⁶:

- The fastest-growing population segments in 2011 were 60-64 year-olds and those over 85.
- 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).¹⁷
- Long-term care homes are dealing with residents who are older, more frail, and have more complex care needs (as of 2010, only seniors with high or very high care needs are eligible for long-term care).¹⁸
- According to estimates since the 2011 census, seniors (65+) made up 14.76% of the Toronto population in 2014, up from 14.5% in 2013 and 14.21% in 2012.¹⁹
 - 72% of Toronto’s seniors (65 and older) are women.²⁰
 - Seniors made up 13.6% of the population of the Region in 2014, slightly below the provincial rate (15.6%). Between 2001 and 2014 the proportion of seniors in the Region’s population increased by 24.8% (versus 25% province wide).²¹

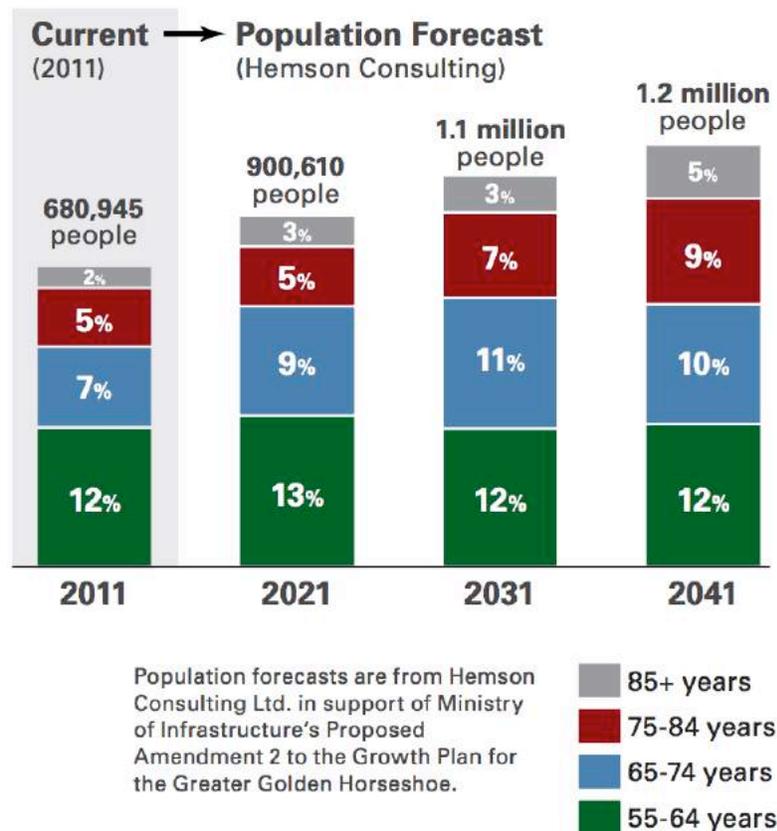
Population Change in Older Adult Population 55+, Toronto, 2001-2011:²²



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, 2001 and 2011. Map prepared by City of Toronto Social Development Finance and Administration.

- 2011 Census data indicate that over one in five Torontonians (22%) 55 years and older live alone. The percentage doubles for Toronto's oldest citizens—44% of those 85 and older live alone.
- Multiple estimates forecast significant growth in Toronto's older adult population.²³

Forecasted Percentage of Older Adults in Toronto's Total Population:²⁴



Source: Statistics Canada 2011 Census. Prepared by Hemson Consulting, 2012.

- The share of the city's population who are youth aged 15-24 has remained relatively stable in the last decade. Youth accounted for 12.7% of the population in the 2006 Census, 12.8% in the 2011 NHS²⁵, 13.05% in 2012, 12.97% in 2013, and 12.92% in 2014.²⁶
 - Children (under 15) made up 14.36% of the city's population in 2014 (slightly down from 14.52% in 2013 and 14.71% in 2012),²⁷ and 16.3% of the Region's population, slightly below the provincial rate of 16%. Between 2001 and 2014 the Region's share of children dropped by 15.9% (versus 17.5% province wide).²⁸

Are immigrants and their families still choosing Toronto to live, work, and play?

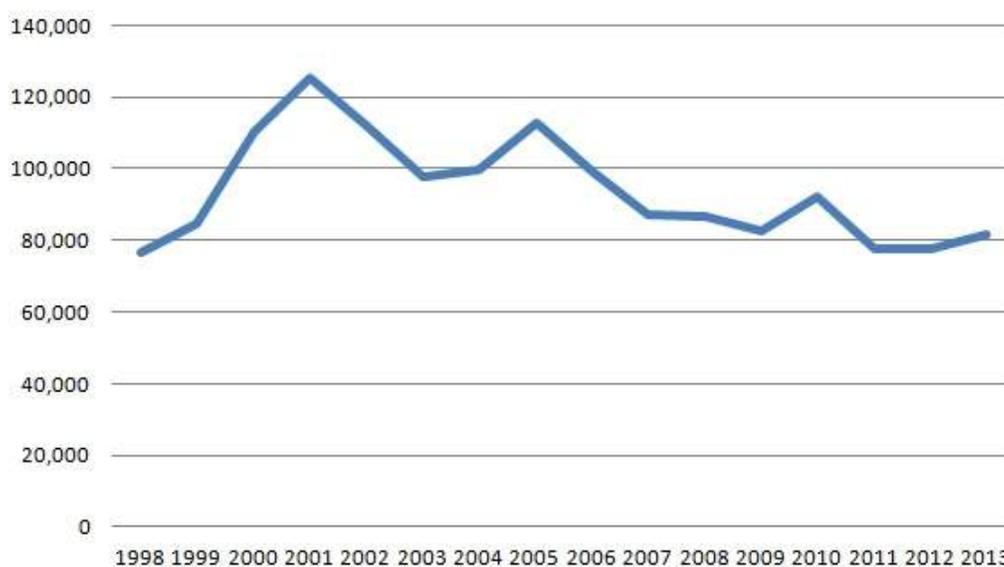
Almost one-third of Torontonians arrived in the city between 1991 and 2011:

- 30.7% of the city's 2011 population—790,895 (including non-permanent residents) of a total population of 2,576,025—arrived in the two decades before the 2011 NHS.²⁹

One of every six immigrants to Canada in the five years before the last census chose to settle in Toronto:³⁰

- In 2013 Toronto had a total of 81,691 new permanent residents.³¹
- The city of Toronto became home to 216,520 new residents from all over the world between 2006 and 2011.
- 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 immigrants in Toronto had arrived in Canada within the previous 10 years. Toronto has more than twice the proportion of recent immigrants as Canada (8.4% compared to 3.5% nationally).
 - 14% of Toronto residents don't yet hold Canadian citizenship (compared to 6% for all of Canada).³²

Number of New Permanent Residents, Toronto, 1998–2013:³³



Three thriving “ethnoburbs” (ethnic suburbs) are emerging in the Toronto Region:

- Many of the immigrants coming to the Toronto Region in the last decades have settled directly in the suburbs, drawn by more affordable housing and open spaces, and jobs in suburban business and industrial parks. They have created distinct ethnic suburbs (complete multi-ethnic communities of residences, businesses and cultural institutions, with a high concentration of one ethnic group).
 - One [study](#) found that by 2006, more than one-third of the Toronto Region's neighbourhoods (35%) were made up of half or more visible minority residents. More than half of North York's neighbourhoods and 76% of Scarborough's had

over 50% visible minority populations. Some of these richly diverse communities have evolved into ethnoburbs.

- The study identified three distinct ethnoburbs in the Region: one that includes Brampton, most of Mississauga, north Etobicoke and western North York and is predominantly South Asian; a second that includes most of Markham, Scarborough, eastern North York and part of Richmond Hill, with a predominantly Chinese visible minority population; and a third emerging in Pickering and Ajax, with a high South Asian population.
- In Toronto's ethnoburbs, local residents own, or have a stake in a large percentage of local businesses and have developed a full range of cultural institutions.
 - By July 2011, there were 57 Chinese supermarkets and 66 Chinese shopping centres in the Toronto Region to serve 500,000 Chinese ethnic minority residents.
 - The first South Asian shopping centre opened in Scarborough in 2008 and three new centres will add 540,000 sq. ft. of commercial space in Brampton and Scarborough.³⁴

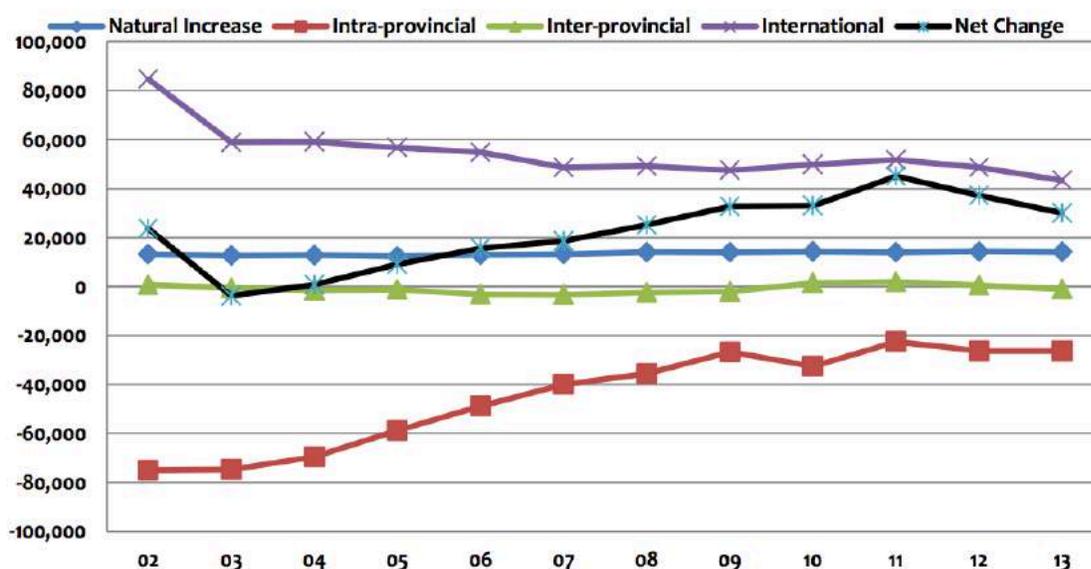
Distribution of South Asian Temples and Chinese Shopping Centres, Toronto Region, 2011 (shaded areas are "ethnoburbs"):³⁵



Nonetheless, immigration has declined as a source of Toronto's population growth over the last couple of years:

- The age structure of the population, natural increase (the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths in a year), and migratory movement in and out of the city are the main determinants of Toronto's population growth.
- In the last decade the rate of natural increase has remained relatively flat, but net migration has been more variable, mostly due to swings in interprovincial migration and international immigration.
- Immigration as a share of Toronto's population has been high and one of the main sources of its growth. Its share as a source of population growth declined, however, by 19% from 2011 to 2013.³⁶

Components of Toronto's Population Change, 2002-2013:³⁷



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Tables 051-0063 and 051-0064

- From July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, the population of the Region grew by 89,385 people, due to:
 - a net gain of 79,528 people from international migration,
 - a net loss of 4,562 people to interprovincial migration,
 - a net loss of 21,095 people from intraprovincial migration, and
 - a natural increase of 35,514 people.³⁸

Despite immigration, a growing percentage of the city speaks only one of Canada's official languages:

- As of the 2011 NHS, 87.9% of Toronto's population spoke English only, up from 87.4% in the 2006 Census and 85.7% in the 2001 Census.
- Only 0.1% of Toronto's population spoke French in 2011 (the same percentage as in 2001).

- 7.7% had knowledge of both official languages in 2011, a decline from 8.5% in 2001.³⁹

Can the city keep up with the demands on infrastructure and services, and create a sustainable urban core?

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

- The population growth rate 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 over housing size 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.
 - In 2011, nearly half (47%) of the [downtown population](#) was 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.⁴⁰

In major cities across North America, millennials are contributing to urban renewal but overwhelming transit infrastructure with their desire to work and live downtown:

- A [report](#) from global commercial real-estate firm Cushman & Wakefield examines the consequences to public transit and gridlock of rapid population growth in 10 major North American urban centres (Atlanta, Washington D.C., Miami, Mexico City, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and Toronto).
- Millennials (born between early 1980s and 1990s) have fueled an explosion of living and work space development in downtown cores across North America, including here in Toronto.⁴¹
- Empty nesters are also attracted to urban living.
 - Over 46,000 high-rise condominium units were under construction at the time of the report's release in fall 2014. Companies are following the workers; 4.5 million ft² of office space was built between 2009 and 2011, and 5.1 million ft² were estimated to go up between 2014 and 2017.⁴²



The migration of workers and residents into the core has increased commuter congestion:

- City governments, developers, and businesses must work to reduce commute times if growth is to be sustainable. However, critical transit improvements are hindered by red tape, impact studies, NIMBYism, and a lack of funding.⁴³
- Progress on congestion in the GTA has been plagued by a lack of governmental consensus on how to fund the Big Move plan (currently only \$16B of the required \$50B has been raised since the plan's inception in 2008) and by debates over subways versus LRT lines in the city of Toronto.⁴⁴

Cities across Canada have been affected by the cancellation of the mandatory long-form census questionnaire and move to a short-form census and voluntary National Household Survey (NHS):

- The [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) says the loss of information is hindering local governments' abilities to effectively understand, monitor, and plan for the changing needs of communities.
- Toronto's manager of social research says the change has also increased planning costs.
 - Staff resources and money must now be spent to source and purchase supplementary sources of data.
 - Extra staff hours are also going into checking whether data from disparate sources is comparable over time like data from the long-form censuses was.
- Toronto's most vulnerable residents will pay the biggest price, though, as the loss of the census data makes it difficult to determine which communities are most in need of services and long-term investment.⁴⁵



The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has released the first standardised set of indicators for cities. [ISO 37120](#) will allow cities to measure indicators such as energy, environment, finance, recreation, telecommunications and innovation, and more against other global cities:

- The standardized measurements will allow for learning across cities and more innovation in city decision-making and global benchmarking.⁴⁶



The Toronto-based [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) hosts a network of innovative cities committed to improving city services and quality of life with globally standardized city data and provides a consistent and comprehensive platform for standardized urban metrics:

- Comparable city data is critical for building more sustainable, resilient, smart, prosperous and inclusive cities. As a global leader on standardized metrics, the WCCD is operationalising ISO 37120 *Sustainable Development of Communities: Indicators for City Services and Quality of Life*, the first international standard for sustainable and resilient cities.
- The WCCD has also developed the first ISO 37120 certification system and the Global Cities Registry™. In May 2015 the WCCD Open City Data Portal was launched. This innovative and highly visual [tool](#) allows for comparative analytics across the WCCD cities, while fostering global learning and the creation of data-driven solutions for cities.

Toronto on the World Stage

Numerous studies appear each year, ranking global metropolitan regions on measures such as prosperity, economic strength, competitiveness, and liveability. Although researchers sometimes question the methodologies used to compare cities in such studies, the following studies outlined in this section illustrate what the world is saying about Toronto in 2014 and 2015.

Toronto is a “Youthful City”:

- Toronto is the sixth most Youthful City in the world according to the 2015 YouthfulCities Index, after having placed first in 2014.
 - In its second index, [YouthfulCities](#), a global initiative to rank the world’s top 100 cities from a youth perspective and lead a unique urban regeneration in the process, analysed data from 55 global cities, using 101 indicators across 20 categories (such as diversity, music, film, safety, health, civic engagement, and transit) deemed important for life, work, and play by 9,000 surveyed youth.
- New York, London, and Berlin placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively. Other North American cities in the top 10 included San Francisco at 4th, Chicago at 7th, and Los Angeles at 8th.⁴⁷



Toronto is one of the safest cities in the world, and the world’s most liveable city:

- Our city ranks eighth out of 20 across the globe on The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)’s [Safe Cities Index 2015](#), which assesses urban security in the digital age.
 - Toronto and New York (in 10th place) are the only North American cities to make the top 10. Montréal was the only other Canadian city on the list at 14th. San Francisco placed 12th, Chicago 16th, Los Angeles 17th, and Washington DC 19th.
 - The safest cities are in Asia: Tokyo, Singapore, and Osaka in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.
- Cities were ranked based on their levels of digital security, health security, infrastructure safety, and personal safety.
 - Toronto ranks 11th in digital security, 21st in health security, 8th in infrastructure safety, and seventh in personal safety.⁴⁸
- This year’s Safe Cities Index included an “index of indexes” compiled from six rankings by The Economist—Safe Cities, Liveability, Cost of Living, Business Environment, Democracy, and Global Food Security—to determine the most liveable cities in the world. Toronto came out on top of 50 global cities.
 - Montréal and Stockholm followed Toronto in 2nd and 3rd respectively.⁴⁹



“Toronto is one of the world’s most liveable cities”:

- Toronto again places high on The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)’s 2015 [Global Liveability Ranking](#), placing fourth again—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 over 30 indicators across stability, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and culture and environment categories.

- Melbourne tops the list, and Vienna places second. Two other Canadian cities round out the top five, on either side of Toronto: Vancouver is third, and Calgary ties with Adelaide for fifth place.⁵⁰

Toronto is the most liveable location for employees living in North America as assignees:

- [ECA International](#), a global consulting firm that provides data and technology to help companies assign and manage employees around the world, says Toronto is the most liveable location for North American assignees.
- ECA's [Location Ratings](#) are updated annually, and in 2014 the overall quality of living of over 450 locations worldwide was evaluated.
 - Factors assessed included political tensions, personal safety, climate, air quality, infrastructure, availability of health services, housing and utilities, and social considerations including risk of isolation and access to a social network and leisure facilities.
- Toronto's "good air quality, solid infrastructure, decent medical facilities, low crime and health risks" contributed to its topping the global ranking.
 - Ottawa, Vancouver, and Montréal also made the top 20.⁵¹

According to MoneySense magazine, however, Toronto is only the 35th best place to live in Canada:

- While crediting Toronto for its low taxes, ease of walking, biking and using transit, good weather and strong arts and sports communities, the [Canada's Best Places to Live 2015](#) ranking from [MoneySense](#) nudged Toronto from 32nd place in 2014 to 35th this year.
 - The magazine evaluated 209 cities using metrics related to household income, employment, housing prices, weather, crime, and healthcare access.
- Two GTA cities, Burlington and Oakville, did manage to place among the top 10, in 3rd and 6th respectively.
 - Boucherville, QC and Ottawa were 1st and 2nd.
- Toronto itself did not make the top 10 "Best Places for New Immigrants."
- Toronto is ranked the second-best place in Canada to retire, with an average property tax of \$1,710, a ratio of 2.03 doctors per 1,000 people, and 264 days a year with a temperature above 0° C. Ottawa ranked 1st (with the respective stats of \$2,498, 2.53/1,000, and 216).
- Seven of the 10 richest cities in Canada are within the GTA: Oakville placed 4th with an average household net worth of \$1,069,469, Whitchurch-Stouffville 5th (\$1,037,252), Vaughan 6th (\$1,014,562), Richmond Hill 7th (\$946,615), Aurora 8th (\$935,067), Caledon 9th (\$926,552), and Markham 10th (\$918,633).
 - The three richest cities were West Vancouver (\$3,152,364), North Vancouver (\$1,149,991), and Canmore, AB (\$1,099,001).
 - These rankings are further indication of growing income inequality. In 2014 only two cities had an average household net worth over \$1M and in 2015, six do.⁵²

The Toronto Region dropped to 5th place (from 3rd in 2014) among the dozen North American cities included in a ranking of 24 global metropolitan areas:

- The 2014 Toronto Region Board of Trade [Scorecard on Prosperity](#) assesses the strengths of the Region through the lenses of economy and labour attractiveness (socio-economic and environmental factors) against other global cities.

- Calgary beat out Toronto again this year, placing 3rd (down from 2nd last year).
 - Paris placed 1st again, Stockholm 2nd, and Oslo 4th.
- While Toronto scores high overall, its economy has traditionally been an underperformer.
 - Toronto fell two spots to 14th on the overall economy ranking with a “C” grade. Nonetheless, the Region is crucial to the economy of Ontario as well as to that of Canada. Toronto is home to half of Ontario’s labour force and businesses, and industry here accounts for nearly 50% of the province’s GDP and 20% of Canada’s. By comparison, New York produces about 9% of the US’ GDP.
 - Many North American cities populate this ranking’s top 10, with San Francisco in 1st with an A grade, Boston 2nd (A), Seattle 3rd (A), Dallas 4th (B), Calgary 7th (B), and New York in 10th (B).
- In labour attractiveness, Toronto ranks 3rd with a B grade. Paris and London take 1st and 2nd respectively.
 - Toronto earned an “A” in six of the 15 indicators, including measures of immigrant population, teachers per 1,000 school-aged children, and air quality.
 - Transportation continues to be Toronto’s area for improvement, showing a rare combination of both a low percentage of people who commute by means other than automobile (29%, ranking us 14th) and a long commuting time (66 minutes, good for 15th place).
 - Toronto performed quite well on environment indicators, with a grade of “A” in air quality (ranking 7th), “A” in domestic water usage (3rd), and a “B” in the comfortable climate index (although our ranking is quite low at 18th).⁵³

Health and Wellness

Why is this important?

Good physical and mental health are vitally linked to, and affected by, virtually all the issues raised 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, and half of adult Torontonians now report being overweight or obese. The level of youth inactivity is troubling (and likely even worse than the data show, because the figures are self-reported and therefore generally under-reported). And while most Torontonians are satisfied with life and believe their mental health is good, numbers are decreasing over time, and almost a quarter of the population experiences high levels of stress.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.			
1. Percentage (12 and older) reporting good or excellent health	59.5%	58.8%	58.2% ⁵⁴
2. Percentage (12 and older) reporting being diagnosed with diabetes	6.0%	6.2%	7.0% ⁵⁵
3. Percentage of Torontonians (12 and older) reporting being at least moderately active during leisure time	46.2%	52.6%	46.1% ⁵⁶
4. Percentage (18 years old and older) who report being overweight or obese	43.8%	46.2%	50.7% ⁵⁷
5. Percentage who report very good or excellent mental health	69.3%	67.4%	70.5% ⁵⁸

What's new?

A new Toronto Public Health report has analysed, for the first time, how the relationship between income and health in Toronto has changed over time. Low-income groups had worse health on a majority of indicators when compared to high-income groups. Meanwhile, a comprehensive snapshot of the wellbeing of the city's youth has shown troubling inequities based on gender, ethno-cultural identity, socio-economic access, and sexual orientation. And a new study from Ryerson University explores the positive effects on children's physical health of being given freedom to explore places within their neighbourhoods without adult supervision.

What are some of the biggest health challenges we face?

Although the majority of Torontonians report very good or excellent physical health in 2014, many are making some unhealthy lifestyle choices, and diabetes and obesity rates are growing alarmingly:

- Almost six in 10 (58.2%) Toronto residents aged 12 and over say they are in very good or excellent physical health, and 66.8% of youth (aged 12 to 19) say the same.⁵⁹
- Nonetheless, although there were approximately 4.3 million visits to more than 5,700 City drop-in recreation programs in 2014,⁶⁰ less than half (46.1%) of Torontonians 12 and over report being at least moderately active during their leisure time (down from a high of 52.6% in 2013).⁶¹
 - And although there were more than 406,300 children and youth registrations in City recreation programs in 2014,⁶² the percentage of youth (12-19) who are active during their leisure time is down seven percentage points from 2003 (from 67.2% to 60.2% in 2014) and lower than the national (70.4%) and provincial (68.0%) averages.⁶³ (It should also be noted that Statistics Canada [research](#) shows that children's self-reported activity levels tend to be over-estimated.)
 - 14.5% of the population is limited in activity by pain or discomfort.⁶⁴
- 14.0% of Torontonians 12 and over reported heavy drinking (for men, that means having five or more drinks, and for women four or more, on one occasion, at least once a month in the previous year).⁶⁵ The rate represents a 22.8% increase since 2003 (from 11.4%), although it is lower than both the national (17.9%) and provincial (16.2%) averages.⁶⁶
- While the percentage of smokers has decreased from 19.9% in 2003, 15.6% of Torontonians still smoke (compared to 18.1% of Canadians and 17.4% of Ontarians).⁶⁷
- Only 38.3% of Torontonians 12 and over reported eating at least five servings of fruit and vegetables daily (down from 39.7% in 2013 and 42.5% in 2012).⁶⁸ Even fewer youth ate the required servings daily—just 36.8%, down from 40.8% in 2013 and 45.9% in 2012.⁶⁹
- Influenza immunization rates have risen 2.1 percentage points since 2003 (reaching their highest at 42.6% in 2005), but only 35.7% of Toronto's population 12 and over were immunized against influenza in 2014 (similar to the provincial average of 35.4% but higher than the national average of 32.5%).⁷⁰
- Half (50.7%) of Toronto adults (18 years and older) report being overweight or obese, up from 43.8% in 2012 and 46.2% in 2013.⁷¹
 - The rate of adult obesity (self-reported body mass index of 30.0 or higher) increased 32.2% between 2003 and 2014, from 11.8% to 15.6% (although Toronto's rate remains below the national and provincial averages of 20.2% and 20.4% respectively).⁷²
- Youth (ages 12 to 17) obesity is a greater problem in Toronto than it is nationally and provincially. Toronto's rate was 27.0% in 2014, having risen 7.5 percentage points since 2005 (when data were first collected) from 19.5% (national and provincial averages were 23.1% and 23.3% respectively in 2014).⁷³
- Diabetes rates have increased by almost 43.0% since 2003. In 2014, 7.0% of Toronto's population (aged 12 and older) had been diagnosed with the disease, up from 4.9% in 2003. Toronto's diabetes rate is higher than the national average (6.7%) but lower than the provincial average (7.4%).⁷⁴

In the Toronto Central LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) unit, which serves much of the city of Toronto, or approximately 1.15 million Torontonians, for every 100,000 residents, there is more than double the number of physicians than there are nationally and provincially:

- The number of family physicians per 100,000 residents increased by 20.8% between 2002 and 2013, reaching 174 (up from 144). Comparatively, there are 111 physicians per 100,000 nationally, and only 103 provincially.⁷⁵
- There were 317 specialists per 100,000 residents in 2013 (an increase of 14% from 278 in 2002). In Ontario as a whole there were 106 specialists per 100,000.⁷⁶
- Nonetheless, 10.8% of this population was without a regular medical doctor in 2014, above the provincial rate of 7.5% (although lower than the 12.2% of 2005).⁷⁷



According to [Wellbeing Toronto, in 2011](#) the Annex had the most health providers (doctor and dentist offices, pharmacies, and clinics) with 198, and Elms-Old Rexdale had the least with just one.

Most Torontonians are satisfied with life and believe their mental health is good. But numbers are decreasing over time, and almost a quarter of the population experiences high levels of stress:

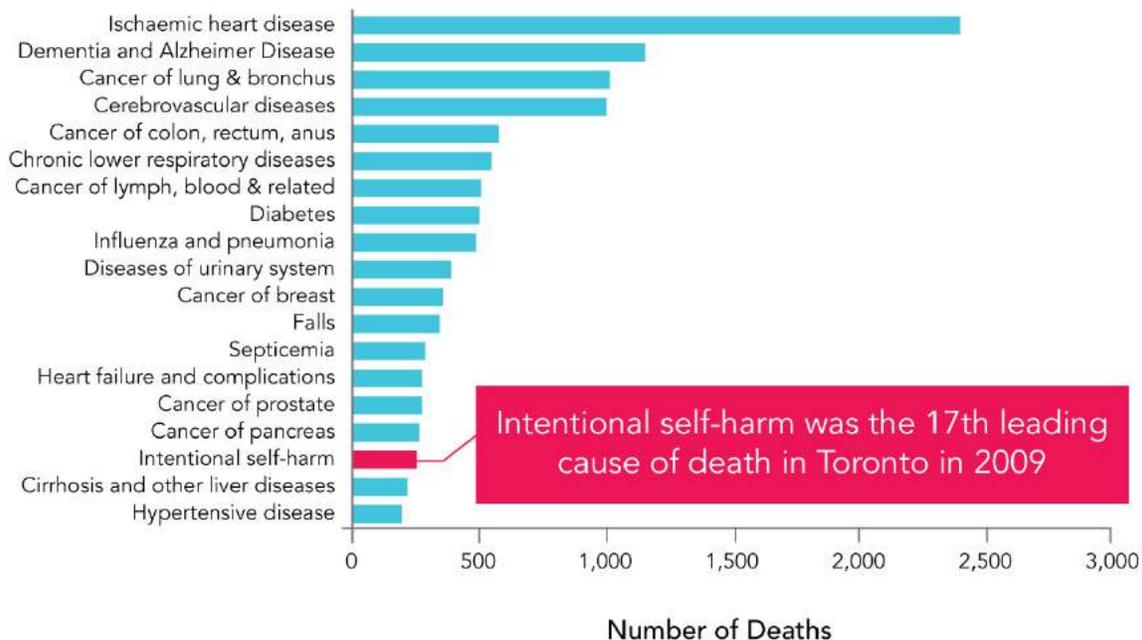
- Almost nine in 10 Torontonians aged 12 and over (88.7%) self-reported in 2014 that they are satisfied or very satisfied with life.⁷⁸ This is lower than the national (92.2%) and provincial (91.2%) averages, and not much higher than a decade ago (it was 87.8% in 2003).⁷⁹
- Seven in 10 (70.5%) said they are in very good or excellent mental health.
 - Over time, however, Torontonians' self-reported mental health has decreased, by 1.2 percentage points between 2003 and 2014. It was at its highest in 2008 at 77.5% and lowest in 2013 at 67.4%.
 - Self-reported very good to excellent mental health in Toronto is currently lower than the national average (71.1%) and lower than the provincial average (70.4%).⁸⁰
 - Nonetheless, only 7.3% report fair or poor mental health.⁸¹
- The mental health of Toronto's youth (12-19) has also declined. 70.9% perceived their mental health as being very good or excellent in 2014, a decrease of 6.4 percentage points since 2003 and lower than the national (73.9%) and provincial (72.3%) averages.⁸²
- 22.8% of the population (15 years and over) reported in 2014 that most days in their life were quite a bit or extremely stressful, down from 27.4% in 2013 but above the rate provincially (22.3%). The rate is, however, slightly lower than the national rate (23%).⁸³ 22.8% reported high levels of stress.⁸⁴

What do we know about suicide rates in Toronto and what are we doing about it?

One of the most important yet least talked about population health issues—suicide—is being tackled by Toronto Public Health:

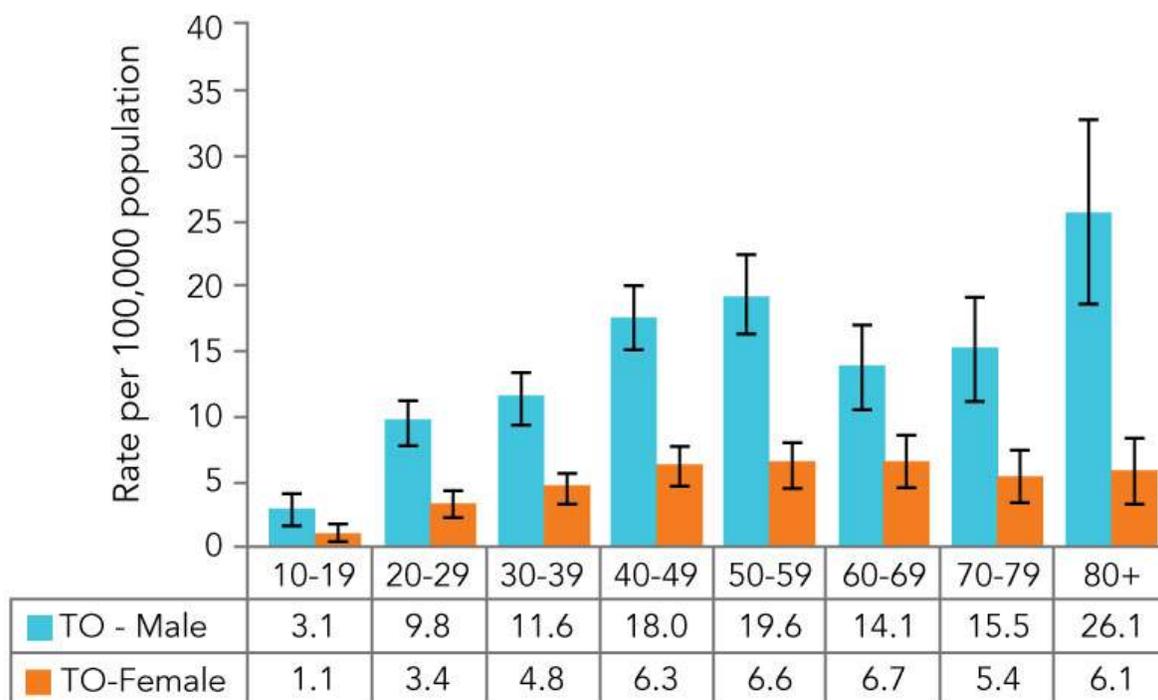
- A [review](#) of available evidence on suicide in Toronto found that it is a growing cause of premature death.
- 6% of Torontonians—over 150,000—have self-reported that they have considered suicide in their lifetime.
- In 2009, suicide was the 17th leading cause of death in the city. There were 243 suicide deaths that year, more than four times the number of homicide deaths, and three times the number of motor vehicle crash deaths.⁸⁵
- In 2013, that rate increased as 262 Torontonians took their own lives that year.⁸⁶

Top 20 Leading Causes of Death, Toronto, 2009.⁸⁷



- About 25% of those who took their own lives in 2009 had attempted suicide previously, and the majority (83% of the females and 73% of the males) had an identified history of mental illness.
- Age-specific mortality rates from 2005-2009 show higher rates of suicide for males than females at all ages (although the difference is not significant at 10-19 years).
 - At 80 years and older, the suicide rate for males is more than four times higher than for females. The report authors are unsure, however, whether this is a true difference or whether female suicides in this age group are misidentified as dying from some other cause.⁸⁸

Age-Specific Mortality Rates from Suicide per 100,000 Population by Sex,
Toronto, 2005-2009 (Combined):⁸⁹



- After undertaking a review of suicide prevention strategies from jurisdictions across Canada and worldwide along with a scan of multiple national, provincial, and community prevention policies, Toronto Public Health has identified gaps and opportunities for prevention initiatives in Toronto.
- Current and emerging initiatives and services in Toronto related to suicide prevention include:
 - mental health promotion, suicide prevention policies and interventions, and a call for the City to address suicide prevention in “priority populations” including older adults;
 - 24-hour crisis services—integral to suicide prevention, intervention, and post-intervention—ranging from hospital-based to community-based services;
 - bridge barriers such as the Luminous Veil on the Prince Edward Viaduct System (Bloor Viaduct), which has successfully prevented suicides at the site since its installation in 2003;
 - [reporting guidelines for media](#) from the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention to discourage copycat suicides (which research has linked to “public presentation of suicide”); they recommend including resources for getting help and warning signs of suicide while avoiding the disclosure of specific details; and
 - the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario’s “Assessment and Care of Adults at Risk for Suicidal Ideation and Behaviour” [best practice guidelines](#).⁹⁰

In 2014, suicide attempts on Toronto's subway system reached their highest level since 2000:

- As Council debated spending over \$1B on platform edge doors (PEDs) to prevent suicide attempts and deaths on the subway system, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) released disquieting 2014 suicide statistics.
 - 30 suicide attempts were made in 2014 (almost double the 17 in 2013 and more than the annual average of 23.4). One-third were fatal.
- PEDs have been proven effective at deterring suicides in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Paris. They also prevent delays from debris on subway tracks and allow for more efficient passenger boarding. They are however, expensive and would require the TTC to convert to automatic train control.
 - The cost of erecting PEDs has been estimated at \$551M on the Yonge-University-Spadina line and \$614M on the Bloor-Danforth line.
 - Trains need to align perfectly with PEDs, requiring control by computers rather than human drivers. The TTC has already begun converting the Yonge-University-Spadina line to automatic control, but it will still be another several years before PEDs could be in use.
- Council voted 35-4 to request that the TTC consider PEDs in the design of new extensions or lines and retrofit existing stations with them.
- In the meantime, the TTC has measures in place to help prevent suicide attempts including the [Crisis Link](#) program, which connects people with a Distress Centre counsellor via a direct-dial button on a payphone on the platform, and a Gatekeeper program, which trains employees to notice and report suicidal behaviour.⁹¹ The Crisis Link program received 218 calls between its introduction in June 2011 and June 2013.⁹²



How can we improve outcomes for women experiencing intimate partner violence?

The [Centre for Research on Inner City Health](#) (CRICH) at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto is calling on policy makers, researchers, and healthcare administrators to make intimate partner violence screening a public health priority:

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is pervasive. The [Department of Justice](#) has estimated its cost nationally (in healthcare and other related costs) at \$7.4B annually.
- Healthcare settings provide a great avenue for screening women for IPV, but a Toronto-based CRICH [study](#) involving interviews with healthcare providers, administrative staff, and scientists from eight teaching hospitals across the city found that screening practices vary widely between hospitals and departments.
- The study found a number of barriers to IPV screening, including lack of knowledge of IPV or training on how to screen for it, lack of time or prioritization compared to other aspects of patient treatment, and a fear of harming patients further (by not being tactful) or violating their privacy.
- The researchers concluded that policy makers should make IPV screening a public health priority to improve health outcomes for women and to lessen the burden on the healthcare system through earlier identification and intervention.
 - Universal screening, in which healthcare providers routinely ask women about their experiences with IPV, has proven more effective at uncovering it than case-finding, in which healthcare workers ask women only if they see signs of abuse.⁹³

How do inequities impact health and wellbeing?

Lower-income Torontonians have poorer health, and the situation has not improved in recent years:

- Extensive evidence has shown a clear link between income and health. Socio-economic circumstances account for 50% of a person's health.⁹⁴

What Shapes Canadians' Health?:⁹⁵

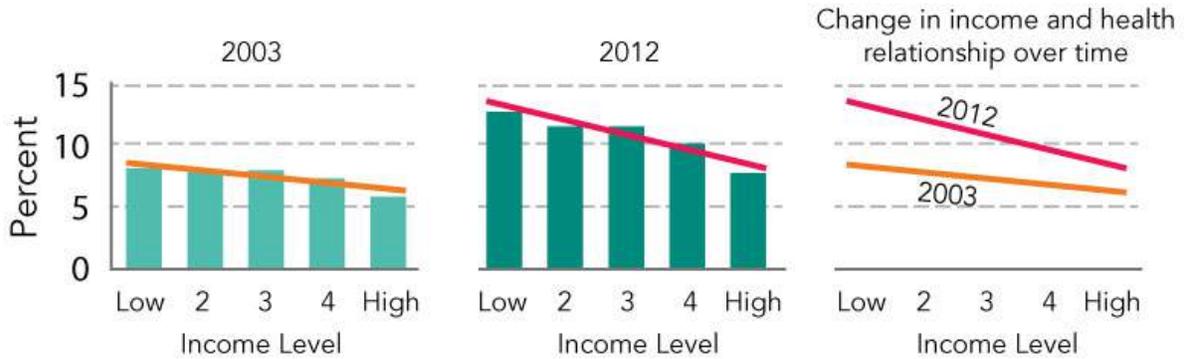


Source: The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

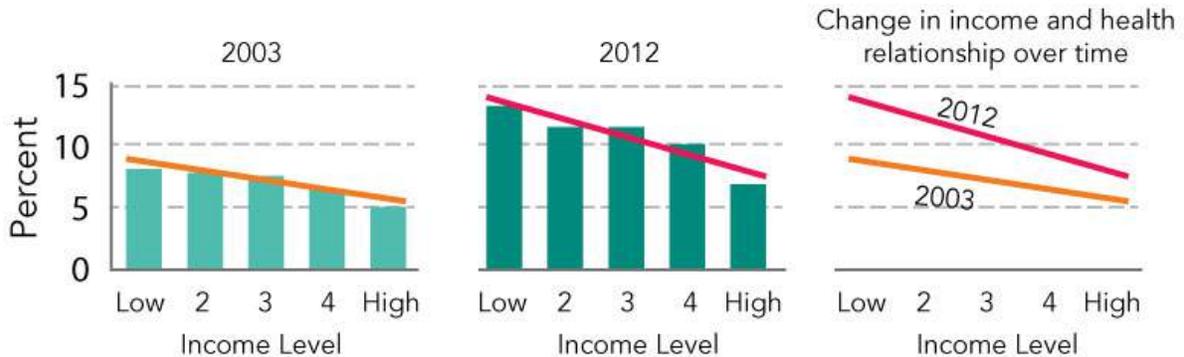
- In 2008, Toronto Public Health released *The Unequal City: Income and Health Inequalities in Toronto*, which showed that there were differences in health between income groups in the city, and that low-income groups had worse health on a majority of indicators.
- A 2015 follow-up [report](#) describes the current relationship between income and health in Toronto and analysed, for the first time, how the relationship has changed over time.
 - For the most recent years of data analysed, 20 of 34 assessed health status indicators showed significant inequities—i.e., low-income groups had worse health. For example, when the health status of the lowest-income group is compared to that of the highest-income group:
 - men are 50% more likely to die before age 75,
 - women are 85% more likely to have diabetes,
 - young women (aged 15 to 24) are twice as likely to be infected with chlamydia, and
 - babies are 40% more likely to be born at a low weight.
 - High-income groups had worse health status in four indicators (including, of note, unhealthy alcohol use). The remaining 10 indicators (including childhood injury, overweight and obesity, and colorectal cancer) showed no differences across income groups.
 - Overall, inequities have not improved. For the first years of data analysed, low-income groups had worse health for 21 of the 34 indicators, and over approximately 10 years inequities persisted for 16, became worse for four, and improved for just one.
 - The relationship between low income and diabetes, for example, has increased in strength over time. While diabetes was more prevalent in

2012 than in 2003 across income groups, its prevalence had increased much more in low-income groups.⁹⁶

Male Diabetes Prevalence Over Time in Relation to Health Status and Income, 2003, 2012:⁹⁷



Female Diabetes Prevalence Over Time in Relation to Health Status and Income, 2003, 2012:⁹⁸



- The report estimates that, if all income groups in Toronto had the same health status and inequities were erased, it would result in:
 - 932 fewer premature deaths per year,
 - 62,111 fewer diabetics,
 - 1,720 fewer chlamydia cases among youth per year, and
 - 611 fewer low-weight births per year.⁹⁹



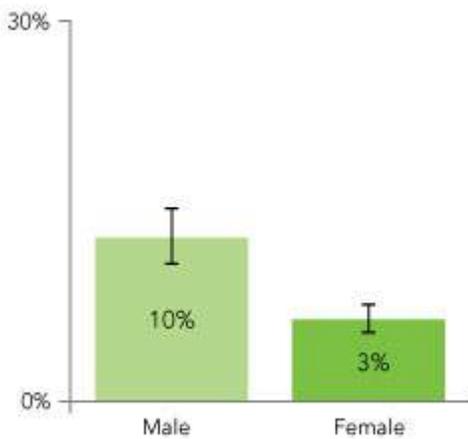
St. Michael’s Hospital has begun to treat poverty as a contributing factor to illness and poor health outcomes that can be “cured”:

- The hospital has started screening patients’ income levels and offering non-medical services to increase the efficacy of medical treatment. For some patients, for example, staff at the clinic assist by acting as advocates for them with all levels of government, assisting them with applications for access to their Canadian Pension Plan funds or Ontario Disability Support Program income, and providing public transit passes.¹⁰⁰

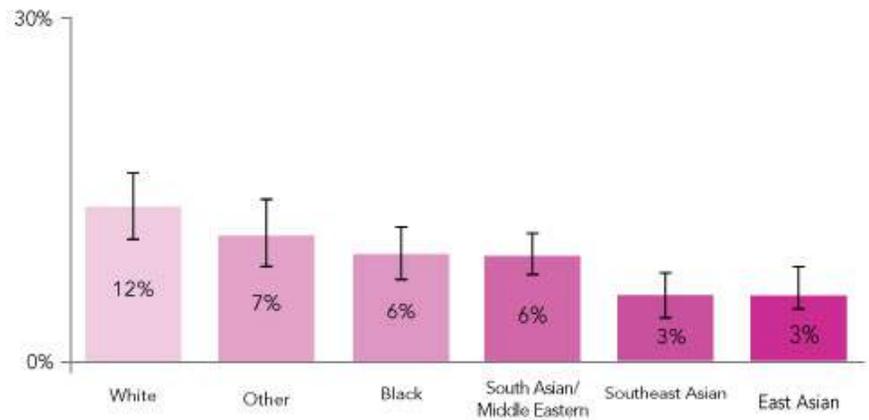
A comprehensive snapshot of the wellbeing of the city’s youth has shown troubling inequities based on gender, ethno-cultural identity, socio-economic access, and sexual orientation:

- A 2014 Toronto Public Health [survey](#) assessed the sexual, mental, and physical health, along with health behaviours of more than 6,000 students in grades 7 to 12.
- Compared to Ontario averages, Toronto students smoke and drink less, but they are less active. Only 7% are meeting Canada’s physical activity guidelines for youth (at least one hour of exercise of moderate to vigorous intensity daily).
 - Males were more likely to meet the guidelines (10% versus 3% female), as were white students (12%, compared to just 3% of East Asians, for example).¹⁰¹

Meeting the Guidelines for Physical Activity by Gender, Toronto, 2014:¹⁰²

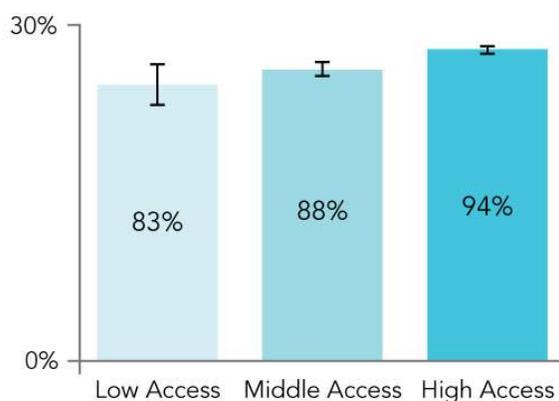


Meeting the Guidelines for Physical Activity by Ethno-Racial Identity Group, Toronto, 2014:¹⁰³

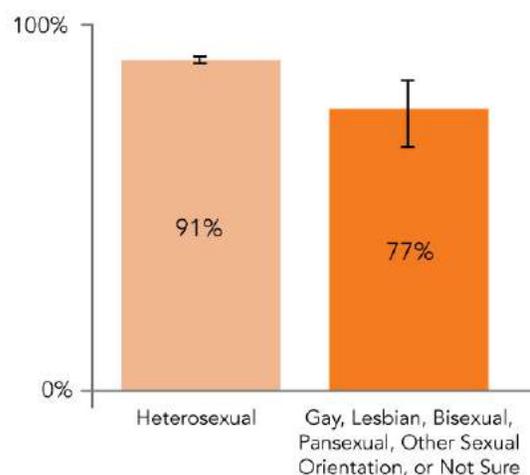


- While 92% of students reported good or better general health, those with higher “socio-economic access”—i.e., their family’s access to a variety of goods and services—and those who identified as heterosexual were more likely to rate their health as excellent, very good, or good.

Good or Better General Health by "Socio-Economic Access," Toronto, 2014:¹⁰⁴



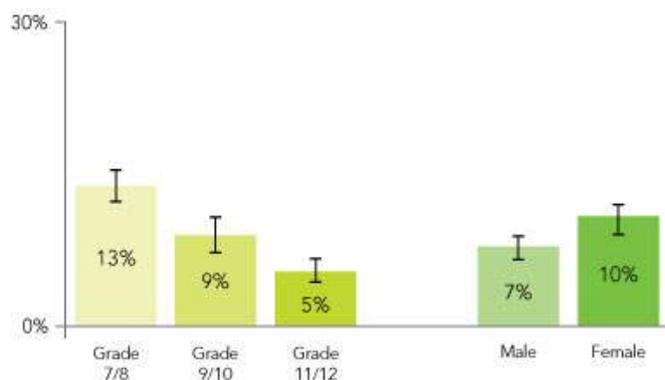
Good or Better General Health by Sexual Orientation, Toronto, 2014:¹⁰⁵



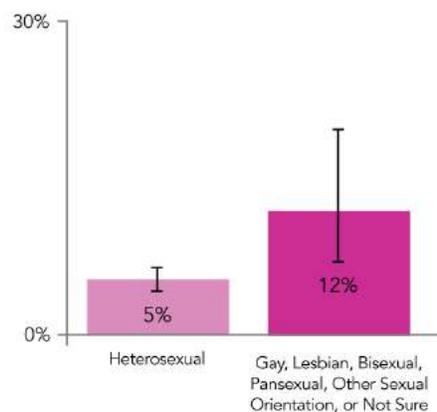
Bullying affects not only immediate but long-term mental health:

- One in five students reported experiencing bullying in the previous 12 months. Bullying was more commonly reported by students in lower grades, by females, and by students who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, another sexual orientation or unsure about their sexual orientation.

Bullied Once per Month or More in the Past 12 Months by Grade and Sex, Toronto, 2014:¹⁰⁶



Bullied Once per Month or More in the Past 12 Months by Sexual Orientation, Toronto, 2014:¹⁰⁷



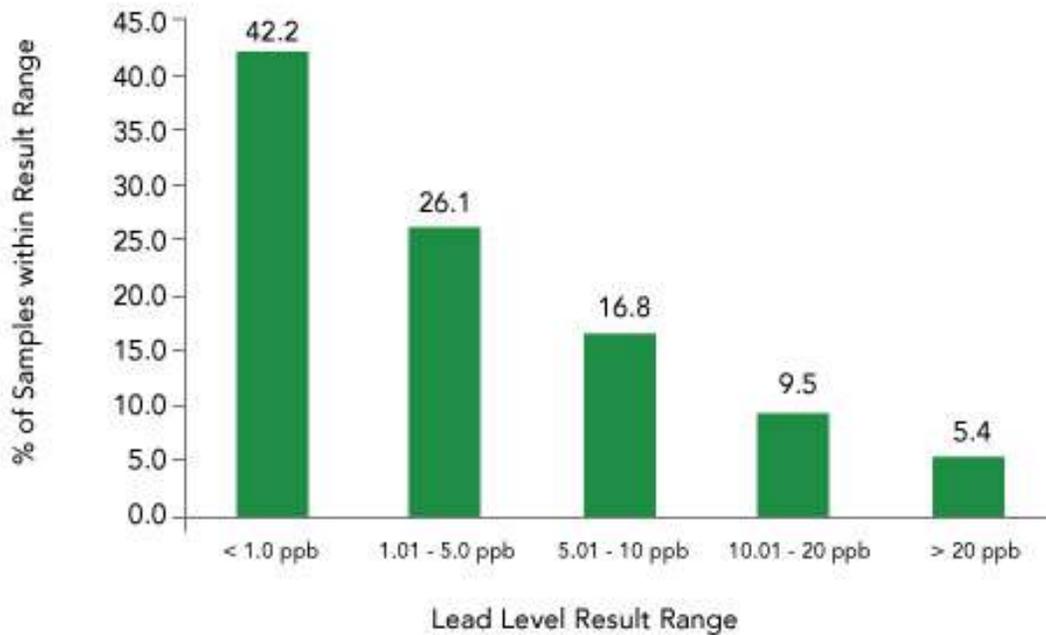
- Girls are not faring as well as boys when it comes to mental health and wellbeing.
 - While one in 10 students reported purposely hurting themselves (11%) and seriously considering suicide (12%) in the past year, girls reported self-harm and suicidal thoughts more often than boys. 2% of students reported that they had attempted suicide in the past year.
- On a more positive note, "school connectedness" was relatively high and there were no noted differences between groups of students. 85% agreed or strongly agreed that "I feel close to people at my school," and 90% agreed or strongly agreed that "In general, I like the way that I am."

- Students who feel connected to their school are less likely to engage in risky health behaviours such as violence and early sexual initiation.¹⁰⁸

How safe is our water and what are the risks to our health?

Although progress has been made in upgrading water infrastructure, issues around affordability and access to information still place vulnerable Toronto households at risk of exposure to lead in their drinking water:

- A [report](#) from Toronto’s Medical Officer of Health to the Board of Health shows that action by both the City and the public to mitigate exposure has had some success.
 - Between 2007 and 2014, the percentage of the 475,000 residential water service connections in Toronto assumed to be made of lead dropped by about 46% (from 65,000 in 2007 to 35,000 in 2014).
- Nonetheless, tests of drinking water in 2011-2013 found dangerous levels of lead in about 15% of samples. [Toronto Water](#) offers residents free testing for lead in their drinking water. In 2011-2013 the majority of samples tested were low in lead, but about 15% showed 10 parts per billion or greater.¹⁰⁹



Residential Drinking Water Sample Results, Toronto, 2011-2013:¹¹⁰

- Lead components may exist in both the public and private side of the drinking water system, and the cost of replacing them is a barrier to some homeowners.
 - Research has shown that cost is the greatest barrier to full replacement. Other municipalities—Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Brantford, Welland, and Guelph—offer residents financial assistance as incentive.¹¹¹

- The City pays to replace the portion of City-owned lead pipes connected to houses up to the property line, but homeowners are responsible for replacing the portion of pipes on their own property—at a typical cost of about \$3,000.
- A 2011 City report estimated that 70% of Toronto property owners whose services were upgraded on the City’s side did not upgrade their portion.¹¹²
- The Medical Officer of Health also notes that although the City has a variety of risk mitigation strategies, including a free filter program, a filter rebate program, and the Toronto Water testing program, awareness of many of these—as well as awareness of the risks associated with lead in drinking water—is not high enough. Vulnerable subpopulations and tenants in particular may experience barriers to accessing information and taking action.¹¹³
- Exposure to lead can affect the brain and nervous system. In adults, symptoms include hypertension and kidney failure. Lead exposure is most dangerous, however, to fetuses, infants and children under six. In young children, symptoms include shortened attention span, reduced IQ, ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and behavioural problems.
- Health Canada considers lead levels below 10 parts per billion safe. Many medical researchers disagree, saying that any level of lead in drinking water is unsafe.¹¹⁴

How healthy are the city’s adults and children and what strategies are being proposed to promote active, healthy lifestyles?

Children aren’t getting enough exercise, and parental fears, lifestyle choices and social pressures may contribute to the problem:

- A 2014 [study](#) out of Ryerson University explores the effect on children’s physical health of being given freedom to explore places within their neighbourhoods without adult supervision.
 - The researchers surveyed more than 1,000 parents and caregivers of students in Grades 5 and 6 in 16 Toronto public elementary schools, while the students wore an accelerometer for seven days.¹¹⁵
 - The study found that parents’ or caregivers’ perceptions of the “social environment” influenced children’s physical activity—for example, if parents were afraid for children’s safety, they would be less willing to let them out on their own without supervision, and the longer the parents lived in same residence, the more likely they were to allow more unsupervised time outside of the residence.
 - Children who were allowed at least some time to go out and explore on their own or with friends were 14 to 19% more physically active than kids who were always supervised.¹¹⁶ Yet only 16% of parents reported that they either frequently or always allow children to travel independently.
 - About 35% of parents reported that they never allow children to go out on their own or with friends. Parents who preferred active modes of transport were more likely to do so.¹¹⁷
 - Children in playgrounds tended to be more active when their parents weren't around.¹¹⁸
- The physical activity [report card](#) released by [ParticipACTION](#) shows that only 14% of 5- to 11-year-old and 5% of 12- to 17-year-old Canadian children are meeting the

recommended 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous activity. Toronto kids accumulated, on average, only about 30 minutes a day.¹¹⁹

- The organization says that keeping kids indoors is a bigger risk than giving kids access to active, self-directed play outdoors, which is essential for healthy child development.¹²⁰
- Sedentary behaviours in children (such as prolonged sitting, using motorized transportation, watching television, and playing passive video games) continue to be associated with poor health outcomes including disordered sleeping and obesity-related measures such as higher body-fat percentages, waist-to-hip ratios, and body mass index (BMI) measures.¹²¹
 - Children's sedentary behaviour is linked to parents' income and education. University-educated parents with annual household incomes of \$100,000 or more are generally less likely to report that their child engages in sedentary pursuits for at least two hours during the after-school period than are parents without a university education and with lower household incomes.¹²²
 - The Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines of the [Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology](#) offer suggestions to decrease sedentary behaviour in youth:
 - encourage active transportation to school,
 - encourage active play after school,
 - become active as a family in the evenings, and
 - encourage teens to visit friends instead of texting them.¹²³
- The Province, meanwhile, mandates 20 minutes of daily physical activity within instructional time in elementary schools. 82% of Toronto's elementary schools have a Health and Physical Education teacher, and 63% employ one full time.
 - The Province announced in November 2014 that it would work with the [Active at School](#) coalition (of private, public, and not-for-profit organizations) and the [Ontario Physical and Health Education Association](#) to implement programs to ensure that young people get 60 minutes of physical activity per day.
 - Research shows that early exposure to comprehensive health programs has a positive impact on students' short- and long-term health and may help to reduce the prevalence of chronic diseases in adulthood.¹²⁴

With eight of the top 10 causes of death in 2009 in Toronto being chronic diseases, a City of Toronto report outlines design principles that would allow residents of all ages and abilities to incorporate physical activity into their daily routines:

- Physical activity and obesity can be factors in a variety of chronic diseases.
- [Active City: Designing for Health](#) presents principles to guide changes to our built environment (our neighbourhoods, streets, and buildings) to encourage active living.¹²⁵

Top 10 Causes of Death in Toronto, 2009:¹²⁶

	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths
1	Ischaemic Heart Disease*	2394
2	Dementia and Alzheimer Disease*	1154
3	Cancer of Lung and Bronchus*	1013
4	Cerebrovascular Disease*	997
5	Cancer of Colon, Rectum, and Anus*	582
6	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases*	547
7	Diabetes*	505
8	Cancer of Lymph, Blood, and Related*	497
9	Influenza and Pneumonia	490
10	Diseases of the Urinary System	392

* chronic diseases

Data Source: Vital Statistics, 2009, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO, Date Extracted: August 2012.

¹Leading Causes of Death are based on a standard list developed by Becker, et al¹² for the World Health Organization (WHO) that was modified by the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists of Ontario in 2008.

10 Principles for an Active City:¹²⁷

1. An Active City shapes the built environment to promote opportunities for active living.
2. An Active City has a diverse mix of land uses at the local scale.
3. An Active City has densities that support the provision of local services, retail, facilities and transit.
4. An Active City uses public transit to extend the range of active modes of transportation.
5. An Active City has safe routes and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.
6. An Active City has networks which connect neighbourhood, to city-wide and region-wide routes.
7. An Active City has high quality urban and suburban spaces that invite and celebrate active living.
8. An Active City has opportunities for recreational activities and parks that are designed to provide for a range of physical activities.
9. An Active City has buildings and spaces that promote and enable physical activity.
10. An Active City recognizes that all residents should have opportunities to be active in their daily lives.



Small Money Can Make a Big Difference in Teens' Lives:

- With only 4% of Canadian teens aged 12-17 getting enough daily physical activity, [ParticipACTION](#) is empowering 13- to 19-year-olds to make a difference by actively identifying and hosting creative new physical activity events in their communities.
- While many factors can inhibit a child's access or ability to engage in physical activity, an obvious barrier is cost. The 10-year, \$10M [ParticipACTION Teen Challenge](#) provides microgrants of \$250 to \$500 to teens who organize physical activity events.
- A study found that the microgrants were sufficient to enhance communities' capacities to provide opportunities for adolescents to engage in physical activity.
- The program operates via a network 13 provincial/territorial coordinating organizations that support communities at the local level.¹²⁸

How can sport and recreation contribute to the city's health and wellbeing?

The City of Toronto spends \$778 per household on recreation and culture, for a total expenditure of \$861,716,000 or 0.09% of total household expenditures:

- Comparatively, Calgary spends \$474 per household (for a total expenditure of \$211,142,000 or 0.22% of total household expenditures), and Regina spends \$736 (\$61,196,000 or 1.2%).¹²⁹

Despite criticisms of major international sporting events in other cities, there is optimism that the Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games will create a lasting and positive legacy of health:

- Now that the Games are over, local municipalities and universities that invested in new facilities for them (such as the [Back Campus Fields](#) on the University of Toronto's St. George campus) will be motivated to promote "sport for all."
 - 44% of funding for new facilities came from these financial stakeholders (with the other 56% coming from the Federal government).
- Improvements to the city's parks and trails for the Games have created greater usability and wayfinding for users.¹³⁰

[Friends of the Pan Am Path](#) was 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 recreational pathway that will connect Toronto's trails and create for walkers, runners, and bikers an active-living legacy of the [Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games](#).
- Made up of over 80km of continuous trail across the city, 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.¹³¹
 - From May 16 to August 15, 2015, the Pan Am Path came alive with an Art Relay festival of art installations and events. Each week, the festival travelled across Toronto to celebrate the city's diversity, nature, and arts.¹³²
- The City expects that once the Path is complete in 2017 it will be used by thousands of residents every year. It has the potential to become a high profile tourist attraction in its own right.¹³³
- To date, Pan Am Path arts programming and cross-city community building has led to:
 - 14 activations and local festivals on the Path,
 - The engagement of over 100 organizations from across city,
 - 24 permanent or semi-permanent art installations,
 - 84 performances (dance, music, etc.), and
 - 2 new permanent exhibition/art/gallery spaces.¹³⁴

Toronto Pan Am Path Route¹³⁵:



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](#) – Working to beat arthritis and autoimmune diseases

[Alliance for South Asian Aids Prevention \(ASAAP\)](#) – Providing HIV/AIDS sexual health and support services

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto](#) – Mentoring young people across the nation

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

[Boost Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention](#) – Working to eliminate abuse and violence towards children and youth

[Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders](#) – Increasing 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](#) - Providing support for those affected by HIV/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

[Charlie's FreeWheels](#) - Teaching bicycle mechanics, safety and leadership skills to youth

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

[Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie](#) – Presenting professional dance performances in Toronto and around the world

[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 youth experiencing homelessness

[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

[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

[The Gardiner Museum](#) – Leading arts education and therapy through clay and ceramics

[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

[Green Thumbs Growing Kids](#) – Engaging young people with nature and food through gardening

[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](#) – Welcoming homeless men into a safe space through a drop-in centre

[High Park Nature Centre](#) – Promoting awareness and respect for nature through outdoor education

[Hospice Toronto - Facilitating access to compassionate care](#)

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

[John Howard Society](#) – Supporting rehabilitation and re-integration of those in conflict with the law

[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

[LGBT Youth Line](#) - Providing anonymous peer support for youth in a queer-positive context

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

[Lumacare](#) – Providing essential programs and services for the support of seniors

[MABELLEarts](#) - Bringing together local communities to make art, tell stories, and creatively transform their public space

[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

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

[New Leaf Yoga Foundation](#) - Supporting the well-being of youth by making mindfulness and yoga accessible

[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

[Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre \(PARC\)](#) - Working with members of the Parkdale community on issues of poverty and mental health

[Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario](#) - Championing 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](#) - Using the outdoors and wilderness canoe trips to help 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

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

[Seed to Table](#) - Cultivating the conditions for community change by building local capacity

[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](#) – Creating a safe space for arts and creativity for young, marginalized people

[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 – 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](#) – Providing recreation through basketball for young people 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](#) - Fostering parent-child bonding and literacy through a rich oral language experience
[Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation](#) – Supporting individuals and families living with cancer
[White Ribbon](#) - Working to end violence against women and girls by engaging men and boys
[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

Safety

Why is this important?

The city can prosper only if its residents feel safe in their neighbourhoods, engage with one another, and trust their institutions. The majority of Torontonians do feel safe (almost 80% feel at least somewhat comfortable walking in their community at night).¹³⁶ However, tracking indicators like perceptions of safety, as well as violent and non-violent crime, allows us to both test the basis of that confidence, and also to better understand the places and situations where vulnerable residents don't experience safety.

What are the trends?

Toronto continues to be among the safest metropolitan areas in the country. Most indicators of safety confirm a continuing long-term downward trend. Others show little change over time (hate/bias crimes, for example, have averaged approximately 143 a year over the past 10 years). The Region's youth crime rate continued to decrease. The number of homicides in the city, which rose in 2012 and 2013 after a four-year decline, remained stable in 2014.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.			
1. Total Criminal Code offences (per 100,000 population)	130,754 (4,551.1)	122,005 (4,246.6)	108,307 (3,769.8) ¹³⁷
2. Number of known homicides	56	57	57 ¹³⁸
3. Crime Severity Index (Toronto Region)	52.1	47.1	44.9 ¹³⁹
4. Number of reported sexual assaults per 100,000 population	62.4	59.4	66.8 ¹⁴⁰
5. Violent Crime Severity Index (Toronto Region)	78.4 ¹⁴¹	68.2 ¹⁴²	63.5 ¹⁴³

What's new?

On many indicators, crime is trending downwards, but some acts of violence are up. Total criminal code offences are down, along with the rate of crime severity. But reported sexual assaults have increased by 12.5% (higher than the provincial and national averages). Incidents of stabbings jumped dramatically in 2014—to 815, a 36% increase from 2013—and stabbing homicide numbers increased by 7.1%, reaching a four-year high of 15. The city is especially not safe for some vulnerable populations. Toronto is a hub for human trafficking, and on any given night, approximately 2,000 homeless youth in this city are vulnerable to being trafficked.

Just how safe is Toronto?

For the eighth straight year, the Toronto Region had the lowest rate of police-reported crime in 2014 among the 33 Canadian Census Metropolitan Areas:

- The crime rate in the Region dropped by 3% in 2014 from 2013, to 2,844 per 100,000 population, lower than the national crime rate of 5,046 per 100,000 and much lower, comparatively, than Ottawa (3,424), Montréal (3,728), Calgary (4,205), and Vancouver (7,425).¹⁴⁴ The Region's crime rate declined by 38% between 2004 and 2014.
 - On the Overall Crime Severity Index, the Region decreased 4% from 2013 (versus a 10% decrease from 2012 to 2013) to 44.9 per 100,000 population, the second lowest score of the large Canadian metros and well below the Canadian average of 66.7. Only Barrie placed lower on the Index (at 43.6). Ottawa (45.3), Calgary (59.9), Montréal (60.2), and Vancouver (96.7) had much higher scores.¹⁴⁵

The rate of violent crime across the Toronto Region declined in 2014 from 2013:

- Among the 33 metropolitan regions in Canada, there were only three (St. Catharines-Niagara, Ottawa, and Guelph) with a lower [violent crime rate](#) in 2014 than the Toronto Region's rate of 718 violent crimes per 100,000 population (down 3.4% from 749 per 100,000 in 2013). Comparatively, Ottawa had 624 violent crimes per 100,000, Calgary 740, Montreal 882, and Vancouver 962.¹⁴⁶ The Region's rate is lower than the national (1,039) and provincial (786) rates.¹⁴⁷
- On the Violent Crime Severity Index (measuring the seriousness of crimes by the sentences handed down by the courts), the Region is not among the lowest scoring metropolitan areas, at 63.5 per 100,000 persons in 2014 (a 6.8% decrease from 68.2 in 2013) but falls below the Canadian average of 70.2. Comparatively, Ottawa had a score of 49.6, Calgary 63.0, Montréal 72.5, and Vancouver 78.2.¹⁴⁸
- The homicide rate (per 100,000 population) in the Region was also lower than it was nationally at 1.38 per 100,000 (versus 1.45 nationally).¹⁴⁹



According to [Wellbeing Toronto](#), 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

The violent crime rate also declined in the city of Toronto in 2014, and the number of homicides in the city remained unchanged from 2013 at 57. But firearm and stabbing homicide numbers and reported sexual assaults increased:

- In 2014, the violent crime rate in Toronto was at 987 per 100,000 population, a decrease of 1.8% from the 2013 rate.¹⁵⁰
- Firearm homicides in 2014 increased by 22.7% over the previous year to 27 from 22 in 2013, but were still lower than in 2012 and 2011, when there were 33 and 28 respectively.
- Stabbing homicide numbers, meanwhile, increased by 7.1%, reaching 15 in 2014, a four year high, compared to 14 in 2013 (there were 9 stabbing homicides in 2012 and 7 in 2011).¹⁵¹

- In 2014, Toronto's reported sexual assault rate was 66.8 per 100,000 population, an increase of 12.5% over 2013 and higher than the provincial (55.7 per 100,000 population, and national (58.5) averages.¹⁵²



The New York Police Department has introduced an additional two female plain clothes officers into each public transit squad to help fight sexual assaults:

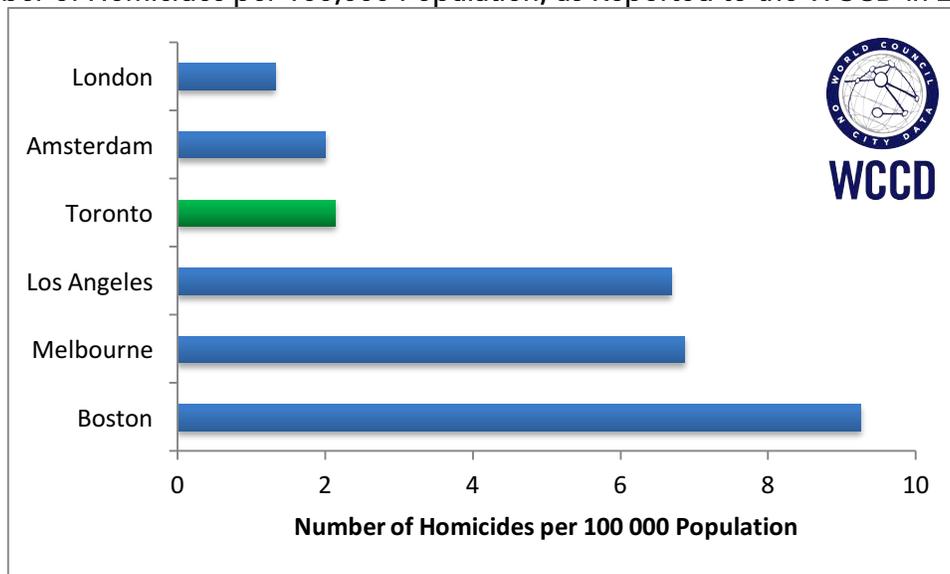
- The hope is that having more presence will not only help victims (who are mostly female) give statements right away, but it will also lead to more perpetrators being apprehended (incidents of sexual assault often go unreported).¹⁵³



Despite a long-term declining trend in violent crimes in Toronto, the homicide rate in other global cities such as London fares much better, while the rates of other cities more than triple that of Toronto:

- As reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) in 2014, the number of homicides per 100,000 in the city of Toronto was 2.13, while in London it was just 1.32. Los Angeles, Melbourne, and Boston, however, all reported rates much higher than Toronto, at 6.69, 6.87, and 9.25 respectively.¹⁵⁴

Number of Homicides per 100,000 Population, as Reported to the WCCD in 2014:¹⁵⁵



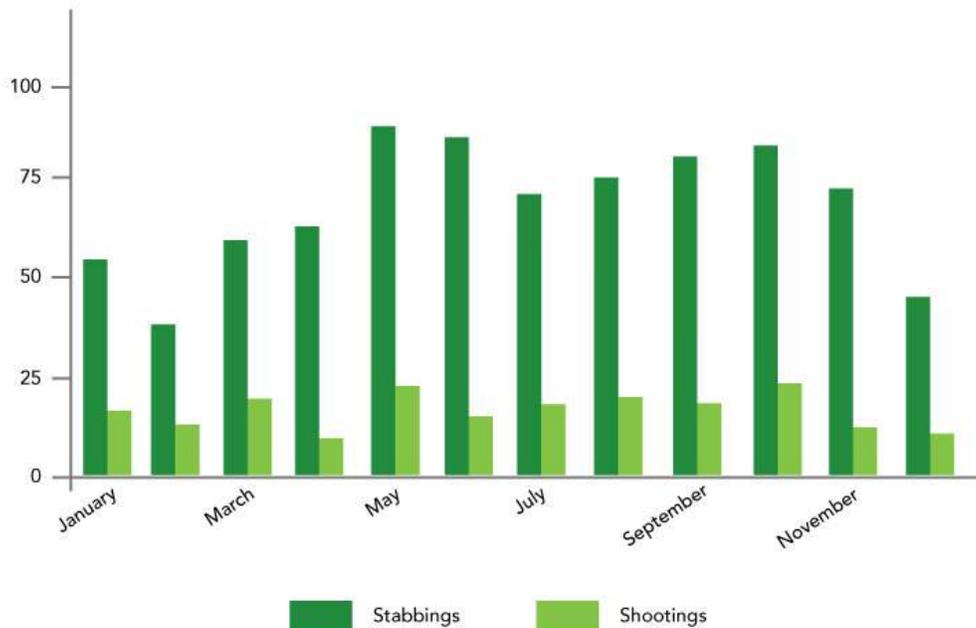
Incidents of stabbings in Toronto jumped dramatically in 2014 (according to numbers obtained by CBC News), although all crimes involving knives increased only slightly:

- A Freedom of Information request has revealed that there were 815 stabbings in Toronto in 2014—a 36% increase from the 599 in 2013.
- Although the increase in stabbings is significant, the number of overall crimes involving knives (such as using a knife as a threat) increased only slightly (from 1,391 in 2013 to 1,438 in 2014).
- Incidents involving knives were down 25% by the end of January 2015.¹⁵⁶

Stabbings in 2013 vs. 2014:¹⁵⁷



Stabbings vs. Shootings, 2014:¹⁵⁸



The Region's youth crime rate continues to decrease:

- In 2013, the youth crime rate (total charged per 100,000 youths) in the Region was 1,496 per 100,000, down 15.4% from 2012 (when it was 1,769 per 100,000) and 38.9% lower than the national average (2,447 per 100,000) and 21.8% lower than the provincial average (1,912 per 100,000).
- The youth crime rate decreased 44.9% between 2004 and 2013 (from 2,714 per 100,000).¹⁵⁹

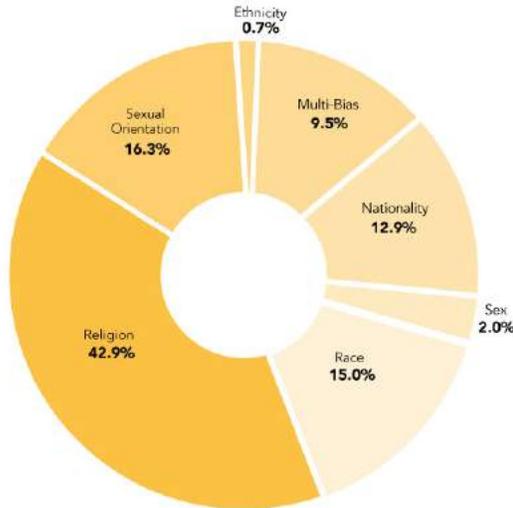
How safe are members of minority and other vulnerable populations in the Toronto Region?

Hate per bias crimes are up after a drop in 2013:

- 146 hate per bias crimes were reported to Toronto Police Services' Hate Crime Unit in 2014, up approximately 11% (from 131) the previous year. Hate per bias crimes have averaged approximately 143 a year over the past 10 years (between 2005 and 2014).
 - The Jewish, LGBTQ* (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and the entire spectrum of gender and sexuality outside of heterosexual), and the black communities remain the three most frequently targeted.
 - In 2014 there were no reported hate crimes motivated by age, language, disability, or "similar factors" (in similar factors occurrences, hatred focuses on members of a group—e.g., a particular ancestry, citizenship, or profession—who have significant points in common and share a trait often integral to their dignity). Stigma may cause under-reporting, however.¹⁶⁰

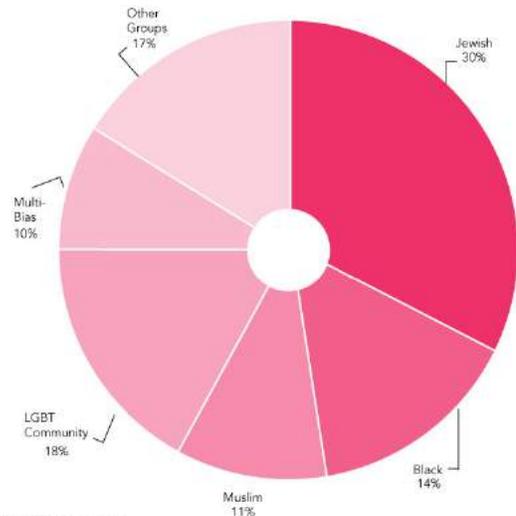
Proportion of Reported Hate per Bias Crimes, based on Toronto Police Service Statistics:

by Motive:¹⁶¹



Note:
Based on the total number of hate/bias crimes reported in 2014.

by Victimized Community:¹⁶²



Note:
Victim groups with five or more occurrences are represented in the graph.

Note: Based on the total number of hate/bias crimes reported in 2014.

Note: Victim groups with five or more occurrences are represented in the graph.

After years of public consultation, the police practice of “carding” - stopping people arbitrarily to question them, record their personal information, and enter it into an investigative database - is under review in Toronto:

- In [“Known to Police”](#) (a 2013 follow-up to a 2010 series of the same name), the Toronto Star investigated race, policing, and crime and found that 25% of those carded in 2013 were black¹⁶³ (the 2011 NHS reported that less than 10% of Torontonians identified as black)¹⁶⁴. A black person was 17 times more likely than a white person to be carded in the downtown core.¹⁶⁵
- In April 2014 the Toronto Police Services (TPS) Board approved a new [Community Engagement policy](#) requiring officers to define a specific “public safety purpose” when stopping citizens and to advise them that their participation in the engagement was voluntary.
 - The policy was developed from the 31 recommendations of TPS’ internal review of carding (the Police and Community Engagement [Review](#) or PACER, released near the end of 2013). Although the PACER report’s recommendations were approved by Police Chief Bill Blair, he refused to operationalize the new policy.¹⁶⁶
- A summer 2014 [community-based research project](#) assessing policing in 31 Division found “widespread dissatisfaction” with citizen-police interaction among residents surveyed and a low level of trust in police. 40% of those surveyed felt the relationship between police and the community was poor.

- In January 2015, under pressure from newly elected Mayor John Tory and the Board, Chief Bill Blair suspended carding.¹⁶⁷
- The Police Services Board, activists, lawyers and youth advocates have called for a transparent and educational approach (i.e., advising citizens of their right to walk away from an engagement) for any new “community engagement” procedures.¹⁶⁸ After much debate, analysis, criticism, and media attention (including an April 2015 [Toronto Life cover story](#) by journalist Desmond Cole, who reported having been interrogated by police more than 50 times due to his skin colour¹⁶⁹), Mayor John Tory has made the following recommendations in a June 2015 report to the Toronto Police Services Board:
 - that the Board support permanently cancelling “carding” (defined here as the random stopping of citizens not engaged in or suspected of criminal activity to gather, record, and retain information);
 - that new Chief Mark Saunders’ decision to continue the suspension of “carding” (after being named Chief in April 2015) be extended indefinitely, or until a new policy is approved and put into practice;
 - that the Board work closely with the Province and submit guiding principles for consideration as it develops new regulations regarding police-community engagements;
 - that the Chair report back to the Board with a draft policy that aligns with any regulatory changes, no later than two months after legislative approval;
 - that the Board work with the Chief, the PACER Advisory Committee, community representatives, the Toronto Police Association, the Senior Officers’ Association, and other stakeholders to establish the new policy; and
 - that the Chief provide the Board information on questions about the historical data, which concern:
 - legal and practical implications for purging historical data, and for purging data not related to any past or pending criminal investigation,
 - the rationale for purging the Master Names Index system on a monthly basis of all “carding” information older than one year and one month prior to 2008,
 - the legal and technical process of transferring all historical information to an independent third-party agency such as the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) to keep it secure but not purge it, and
 - the legal, financial and technical implications of developing a system that would allow Service members to apply to search the database, if it were held by an independent third-party, for a “public safety purpose.”¹⁷⁰

The Toronto Star is [starting a project](#) to gather as much data on carding as possible through individual and specific-to-police service Freedom of Information Requests:

- In August 2015, ahead of the provincial hearings on carding in Brampton, the Star released data pertaining to the Region of Peel that was obtained through a freedom of information request:
 - 159,303 “street checks” were conducted between 2009 and 2014, which averages to one check for every 46 Peel residents, each year.
 - For comparison, in Toronto in 2014 there was an average of 1 contact card filled out for every 232 residents, and in 2012, 1 for every 6.5 residents.¹⁷¹

On any given night in this city, approximately 2,000 homeless youth are vulnerable to being trafficked¹⁷²:

- Youth homelessness is an escalating concern nation-wide. People under 24 comprise about a third of Canada's homeless (or approximately 65,000 individuals) and are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population.¹⁷³
- In 2013, Toronto had 10 youth shelters with 398 beds. The number of shelter beds for youth had remained stable since 2010.¹⁷⁴

Toronto is a hub for human trafficking:

- Researchers of one study have 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.
 - 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.
 - 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%).
 - 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.
 - 96.5% of victims experienced some or multiple forms of violence.
 - The four biggest challenges for organizations who work with victims of trafficking were organizational funding (46.9%), lack of housing (46.2%), difficulty providing financial support (42.7%) and difficulty finding counselling (37.1%).
 - The researchers call 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).¹⁷⁵
- A 2013 [report](#) from the City's Affordable Housing Office acknowledges that Toronto is a known "principle destination" or "transit point" for human trafficking in Canada, and yet, there are no targeted supports like housing for youth subjected to such trauma in Toronto.
 - The report examines established models across North America that assist youths targeted by traffickers with the housing and supports that are critical to their escape and in preventing youth from becoming victims in the first place.¹⁷⁶



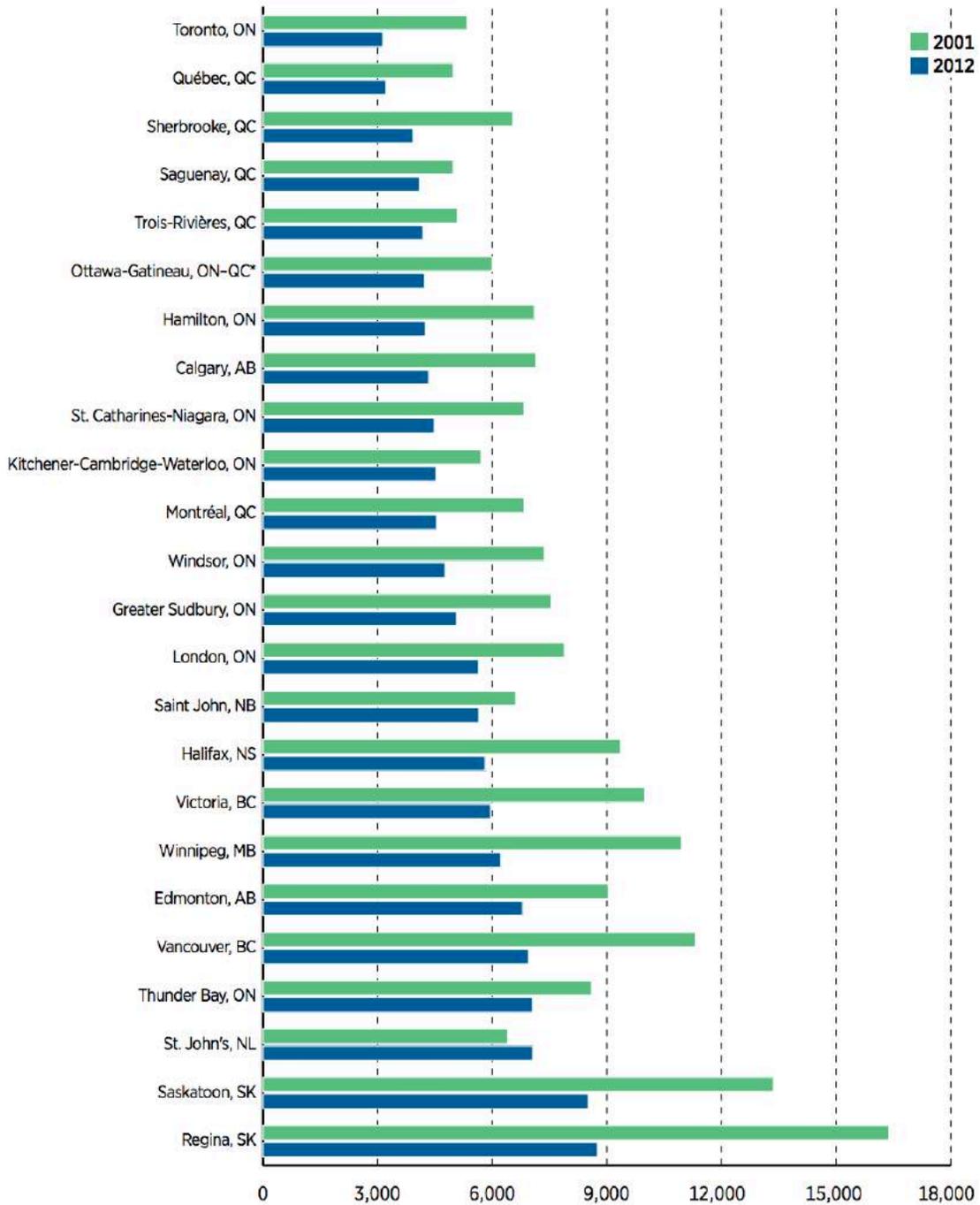
In Vancouver, [The Servants Anonymous Foundation](#) offers residential programs and services to help youth (ages 16-29) victims of the sex trade and trafficking industry achieve independent living.¹⁷⁷

As the cost of policing grows, how can we measure police staffing efficiency and effectiveness?

The cost of policing continues to increase, while crime rates decrease:

- A Fraser Institute [study](#) analysing trends in police resources and crime rates in Canada and the relationship between the two has found that since 1999 police compensation has grown faster than the rate of inflation.
 - The costs of pensions, benefits, and overtime are significant contributors to this.
- A large proportion of Toronto's police officers (and those in many other Ontario cities) now make the Province's "Sunshine List," which discloses the salaries of public sector employees earning more than \$100,000 a year. In 2013, about 37.2% of Toronto's police force workers (2,983 of 8,000 workers) earned more than \$100,000 annually.
- The Globe and Mail [reported](#) in August 2014 that the per capita cost of policing had increased 14% in the past four years, to \$387 per resident—twice the rate of inflation.¹⁷⁸
- The report estimates the "efficiency" of police staffing across Canadian CMAs using a determinants approach that first estimates the relationship between the number of police officers per 100,000 in population and the crime rate.
 - 23 of 24 CMAs saw a drop in police-reported crime rates between 2001 and 2012 (St. John's saw a 10.1% increase), but the biggest drops were seen in Toronto (to 2,844 per 100,000 population), Winnipeg, and Regina. Toronto had the fourth-lowest 2001 crime rate to begin with.
 - Nonetheless, of the 32 CMAs included in the report, Toronto is ranked 11th most "efficient." Moncton, Kelowna, and Ottawa-Gatineau place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.¹⁷⁹

Police-Reported Crime Rates: Criminal Code Incidents* Per 100,000 Population, Selected Canadian CMAs, 2001 and 2012:¹⁸⁰



*Excludes traffic and drug offences

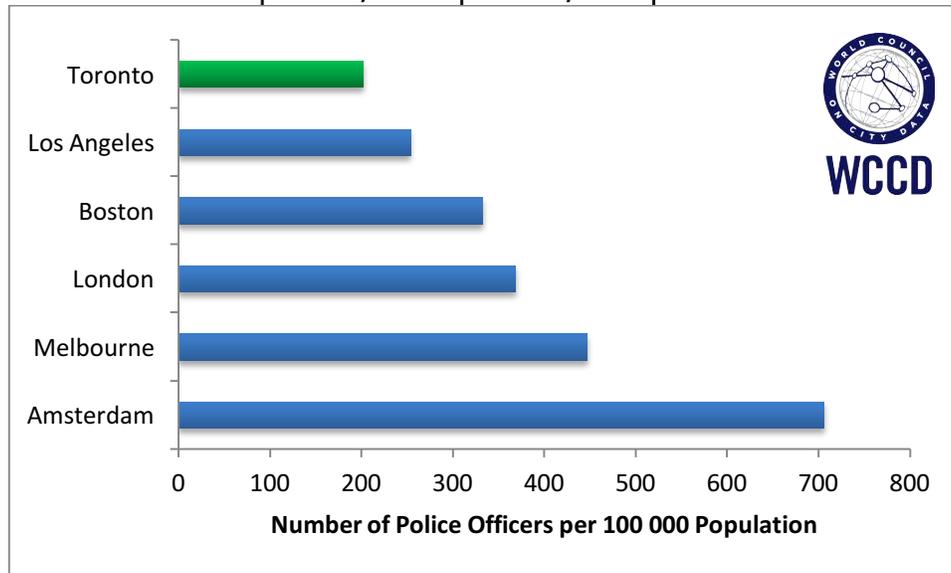


Toronto has fewer police than many other global cities:

- As reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) in 2014, per 100,000 population there were 201.89 police officers in the city of Toronto, compared to 254.07

in Los Angeles, 332.54 in Boston, 368.38 in London, 446.84 in Melbourne, and 706.00 in Amsterdam.¹⁸¹

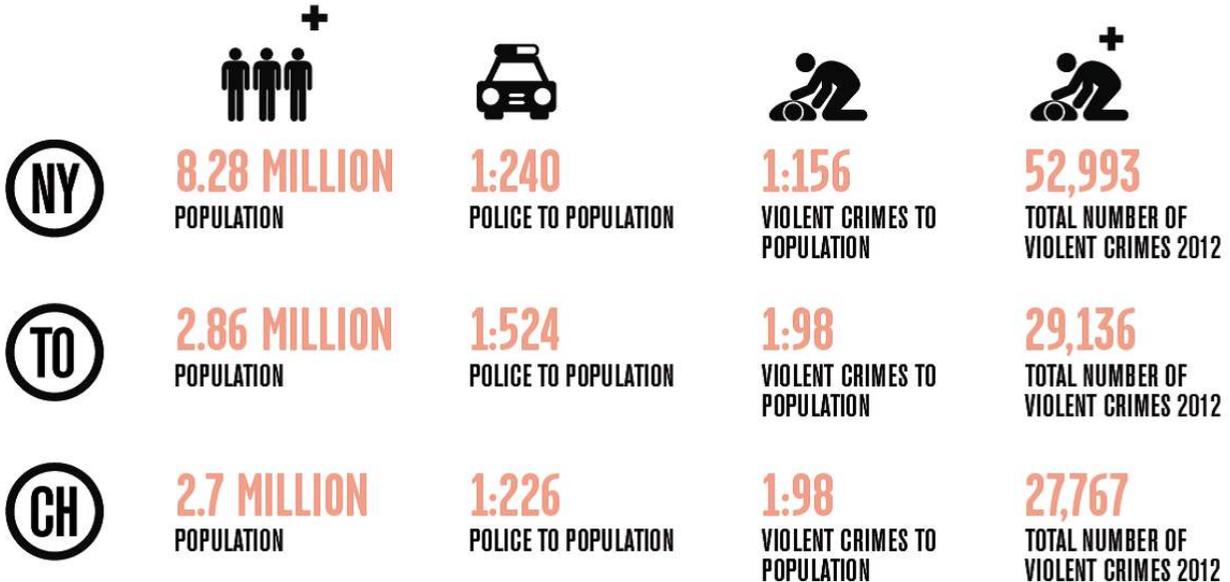
Number of Police Officers per 100,000 Population, as Reported to the WCCD in 2014:¹⁸²



Safety and law enforcement go hand-in-hand, but more police officers do not always necessarily correspond with less violence:

- The “Gateway Cities” project of the [Institute Without Boundaries](#) at George Brown College evaluated 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 as Toronto.
- New York had a ratio of police officers to population more than double that of Toronto’s in 2012 and experienced close to double (1.8 times) the number of violent crimes.¹⁸³

Police and Violent Crime in New York, Toronto, and Chicago, 2012:¹⁸⁴



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](#) – Providing services for women who have experienced violence

[Boost Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention](#) – Working to eliminate abuse and violence towards children and youth

[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

[Family Service Toronto](#) - Strengthening communities through counselling, education, social action and development

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

[Interval House](#) – Offering safe shelter and responsive services for women and children who have experienced abuse

[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - Gathering community together in a place focused on social justice

[Law in Action Within Schools \(LAWS\)](#) – Engaging high school students through education in the legal profession

[Leave Out Violence \(LOVE\)](#) - Reducing 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](#) - Focusing 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

[Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre \(PARC\)](#) - Working with members of the Parkdale community on issues of poverty and mental health

[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 – Programming for newcomer and low-income residents](#)

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

[Teen Legal Helpline](#) – Giving free and confidential online legal advice for youth

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

[White Ribbon](#) - Working to end violence against women and girls by engaging men and boys

Economic Health

Why is this important?

The Report tracks a number of important 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 are important indicators that point to levels of investment, confidence, and economic stress.

What are the trends?

Toronto’s construction activity, considered a key indicator of economic vitality, was down in 2014, although major building construction remains a strong area for Toronto. The Region continues to attract visitors; it smashed two tourism records in 2014, for number of overnight visitors (including overseas visitors) and hotel room nights sold. The City urgently needs more revenue to meet major capital demands for transit and other aging infrastructure. Like other municipalities, Toronto receives just about 8 cents of each tax dollar paid in Canada (and the federal-municipal fiscal imbalance is growing).

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
1. GDP (millions of constant 2007 dollars)	\$158,647	\$161,614	\$166,663 ¹⁸⁵
2. Annual real GDP growth	1.8%	1.9% ¹⁸⁶	3.12% ¹⁸⁷
3. Total annual value of building permits (unadjusted for inflation)	\$6.51B	\$7.90B	\$6.98B ¹⁸⁸
4. High-rises under construction (on May 1)	173	147	133 ¹⁸⁹
5. Number of personal bankruptcies (business bankruptcies)	7,203 (488)	6,714 (466)	6,032 ¹⁹⁰ (368) ¹⁹¹
(Toronto Region)			

What’s new?

Toronto has “come into its own as a global business centre,” with a downtown “class A” office market in one of the longest development cycles in its history, projecting to adding almost 10 million square feet of prestigious commercial real estate between 2009 and 2017. Meanwhile, as the City’s 10-year capital budget grows to \$31.71B, a new report examines how governments facing budgetary constraints can pay for the public spaces that enhance quality of life and attract skilled workers and investment. And the Toronto Region Board of Trade and the United Way propose that more revenue for municipal programs and services as well as

more spending will follow from equitable access to prosperity. Equity, they say, is good for business.

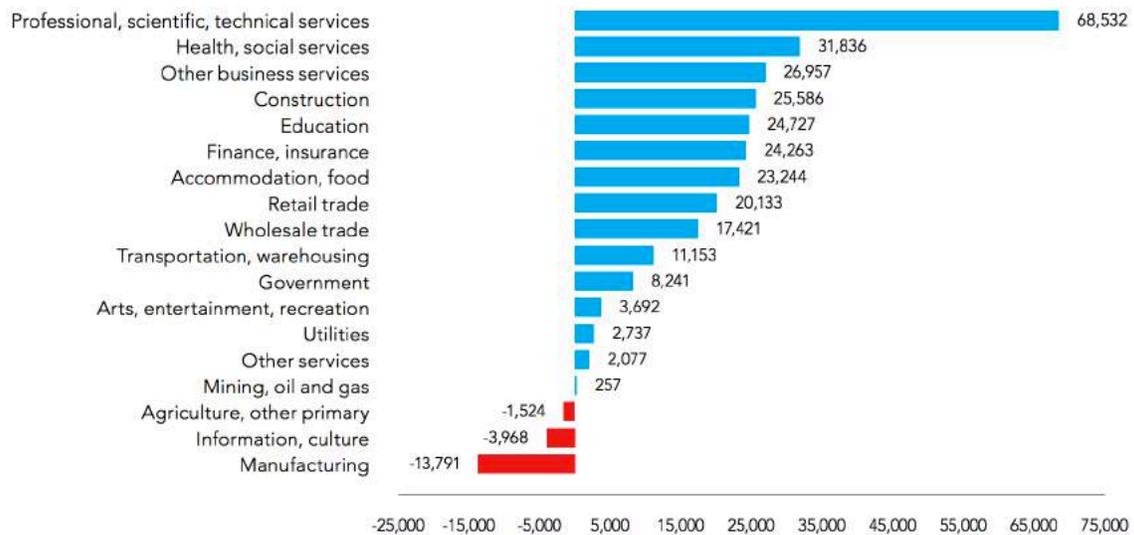
Does equal opportunity make good business sense?

Equity is good for business:

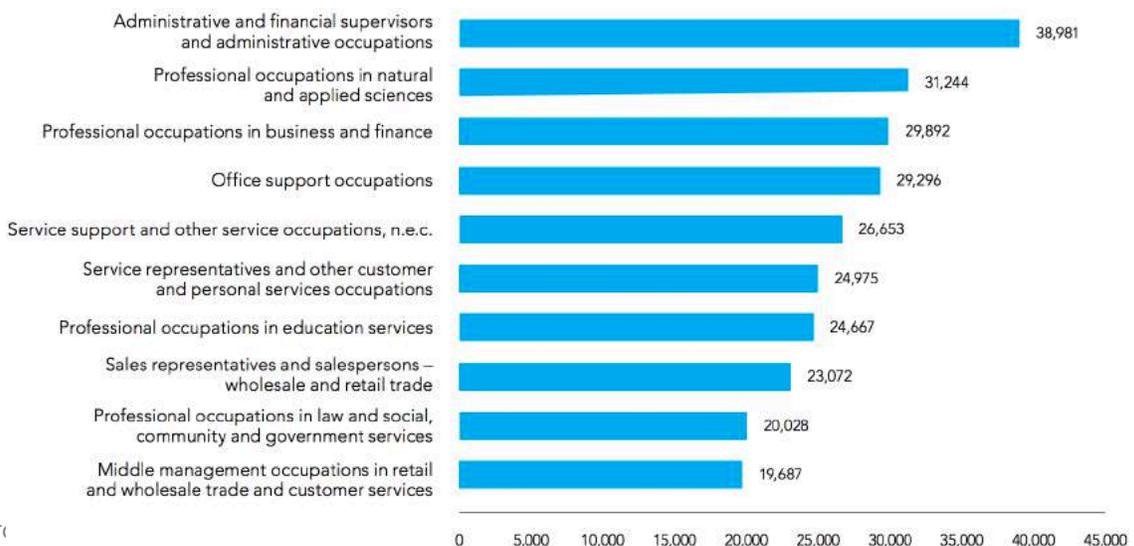
- A [collaboration](#) between the Toronto Region Board of Trade and the United Way (part of the Board's "Think Twice, Vote Once" campaign) proposes solutions for a more liveable city Region in light of an increasing prosperity gap, as evidenced by:
 - A projected increase in high-income jobs, but also in low-income, insecure jobs. Projections for the Region to 2019 show that manufacturing will continue to decline (by 13,791 jobs), and information/culture is projected to shed 3,968 jobs, perhaps a result of significant changes within the more traditional sections (e.g., publishing and media) of this industry.¹⁹²



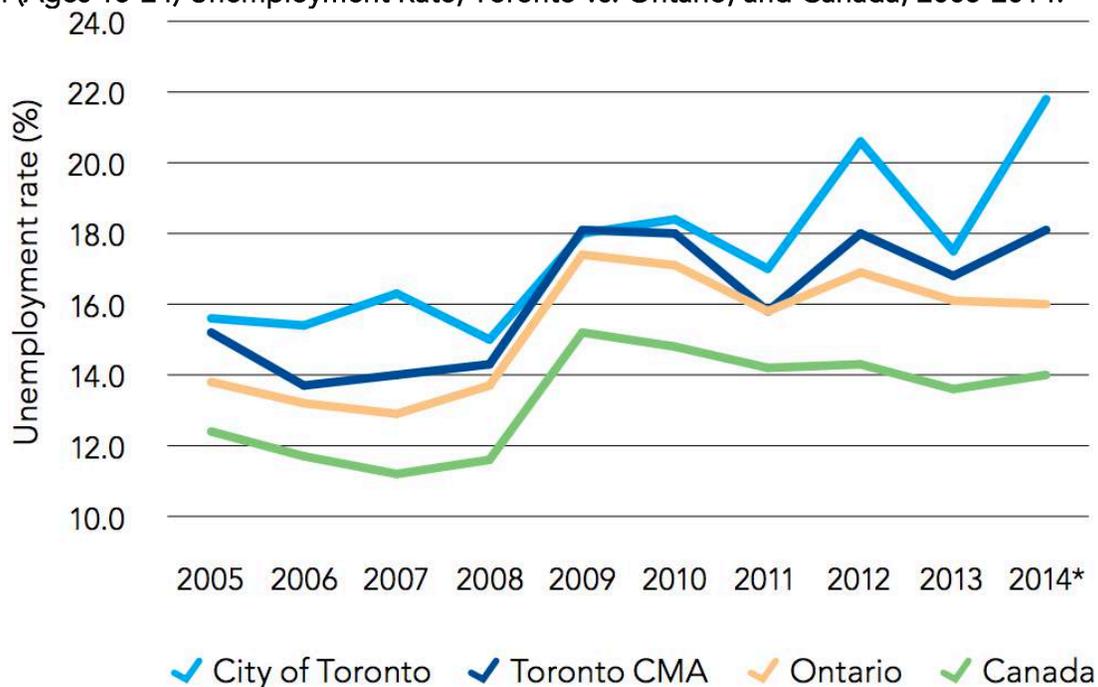
Projected Employment by Industry Growth, Toronto Region, 2014-2019:¹⁹³



Projected Greatest Demand Growth by Major Group Occupational Groupings, Toronto Region, 2014-2019:¹⁹⁴



Youth (Ages 15-24) Unemployment Rate, Toronto vs. Ontario, and Canada, 2005-2014:¹⁹⁵



* 2014 is the average from January to June 2014.

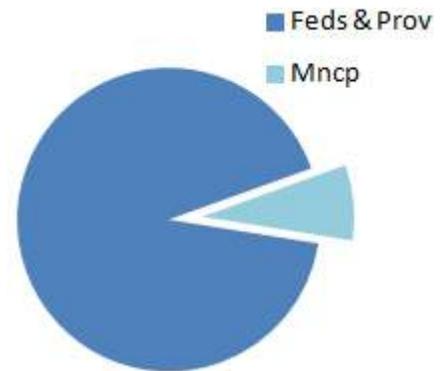
- A high youth unemployment rate—it reached close to 22% in 2014.¹⁹⁶
- High rates of new immigrant unemployment. Unemployment rates are higher, and incomes lower, for new immigrants than Canadian-born workers. In a 2010 report, the Board estimated that failing to recognize the qualifications and experience of newcomers costs the region approximately \$1.5B to \$2.25B a year.¹⁹⁷
- An increasing geographic divide between high- and low-income neighbourhoods, as revealed by the “[Three Cities](#)” research (see below).
- The report stresses the well-established link between social progress (equity, inclusion, and access), social cohesion, and economic prosperity.
- Ensuring that all residents, especially struggling youth and newcomers, have access to better opportunities and outcomes makes good long- and short-term business sense—i.e., more spending, more revenue for municipal programs and services, and reduced reliance on remedial systems such as healthcare and criminal justice.
- Proposed solutions include:
 - closing the Region’s prosperity gap through private sector leadership, collaboration among clusters to support productivity and attract good jobs, and modernising public policy for a changing labour market;
 - closing the prosperity gap between neighbourhoods through multi-sectoral collaborations and innovative public policy as a vehicle for change, social procurement, and the opportunity to integrate social and economic goals;

- economic inclusion of youth and newcomers through an enhanced municipal role in workforce development planning, collaboration across sectors, and a strong community services sector; and
- developing a better understanding of the Region’s labour market dynamics by collecting labour market data, supporting the use of this information, and projecting labour demand by occupation and industry analysis.¹⁹⁸

How does the city balance its revenues and ensure it can deliver all of its services?

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.¹⁹⁹
 - 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.²⁰⁰

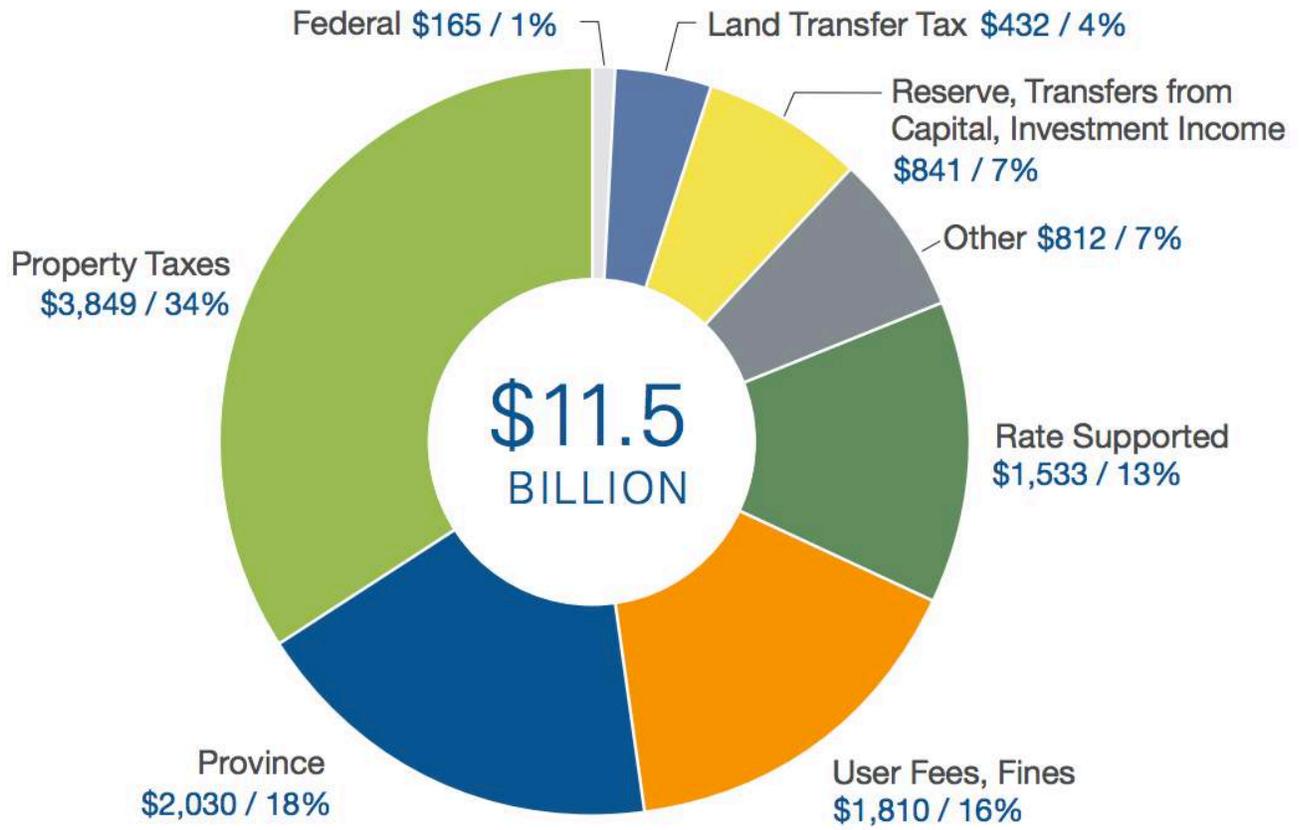


The City’s operating budget for 2015 is \$11.5B, a 19.8% increase over 2014’s \$9.6B.²⁰¹

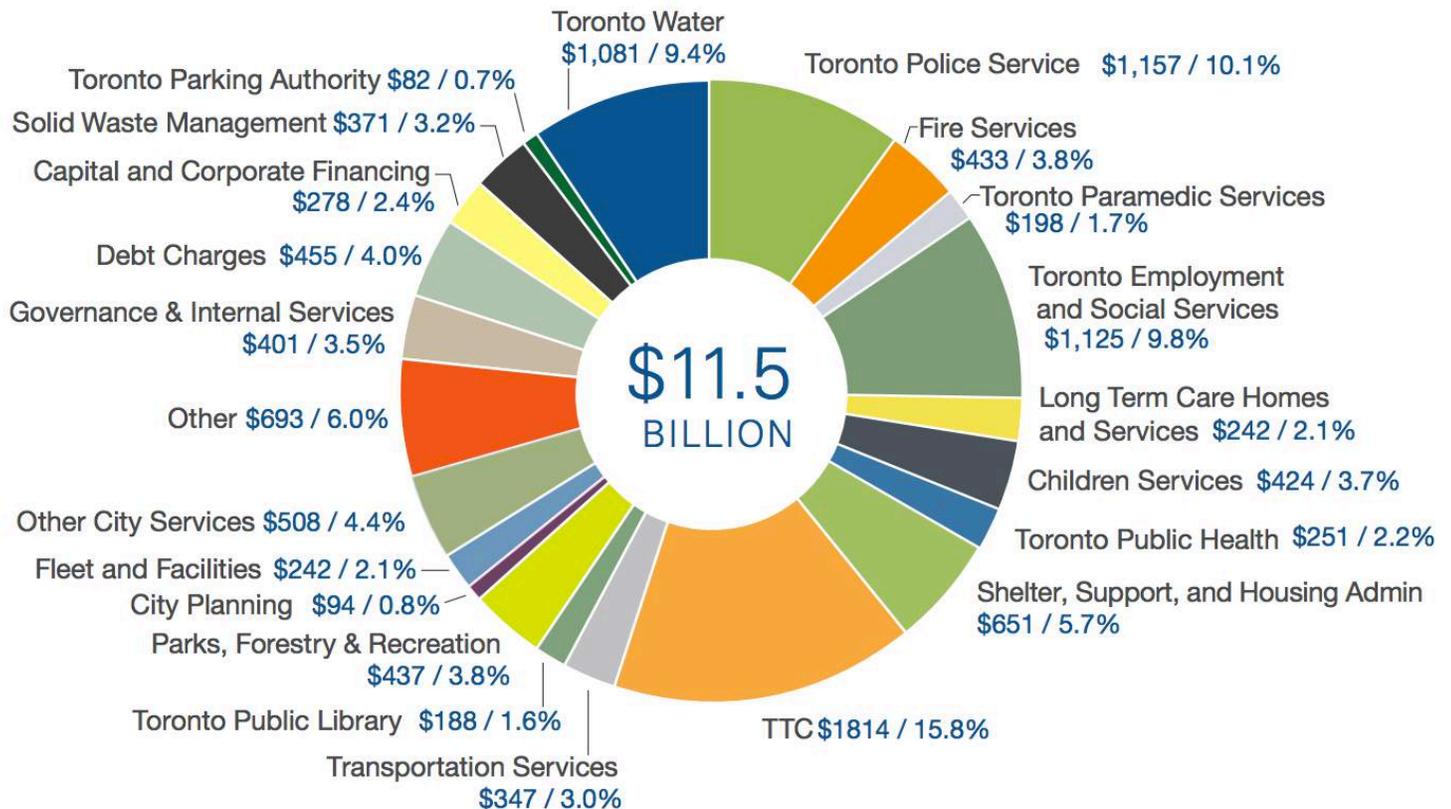
- Overall, the total 2015 budget tax increase after assessment growth is 1.5%. Residential properties will see a 2.25% increase but, in keeping with Council’s strategy to enhance the city’s business climate by reducing business taxes, non-residential properties will see an increase of 0.75%.
 - The total municipal tax increase for residential properties is 3.2%, which includes 0.5% to fund the new subway extension in Scarborough. The average house assessed at \$524,833 will pay \$2,679 in 2015.
 - The total tax increase for non-residential properties, including rental apartments, is 0.48%.²⁰²
 - The property tax increase was kept below the rate of inflation by an 8% water rate increase and a 3% garbage collection increase.²⁰³
- The budget maintained all current programs and services and provided funding for new and enhanced services, including:
 - \$39M in transit service improvements (funded by a 10-cent fare increase) including eliminating fares for children aged 2-12, 50 new buses to implement new express routes and reduce overcrowding, improved subway services, and expanded overnight bus and streetcar service;
 - \$25M for poverty reduction including new shelter beds, increases to the student nutrition program, additional funding for childcare subsidies, enhanced shelter warming centres during extreme weather events, and expansion of priority centres;
 - 56 new paramedics and 25 more fire prevention officers;
 - additional positions in City Planning to carry out heritage and area studies; and

- increased funding for tree planting.²⁰⁴

City of Toronto 2015 Total Operating Revenues of \$11.5B:²⁰⁵



City of Toronto 2015 Total Operating Expenditures of \$11.5B.²⁰⁶



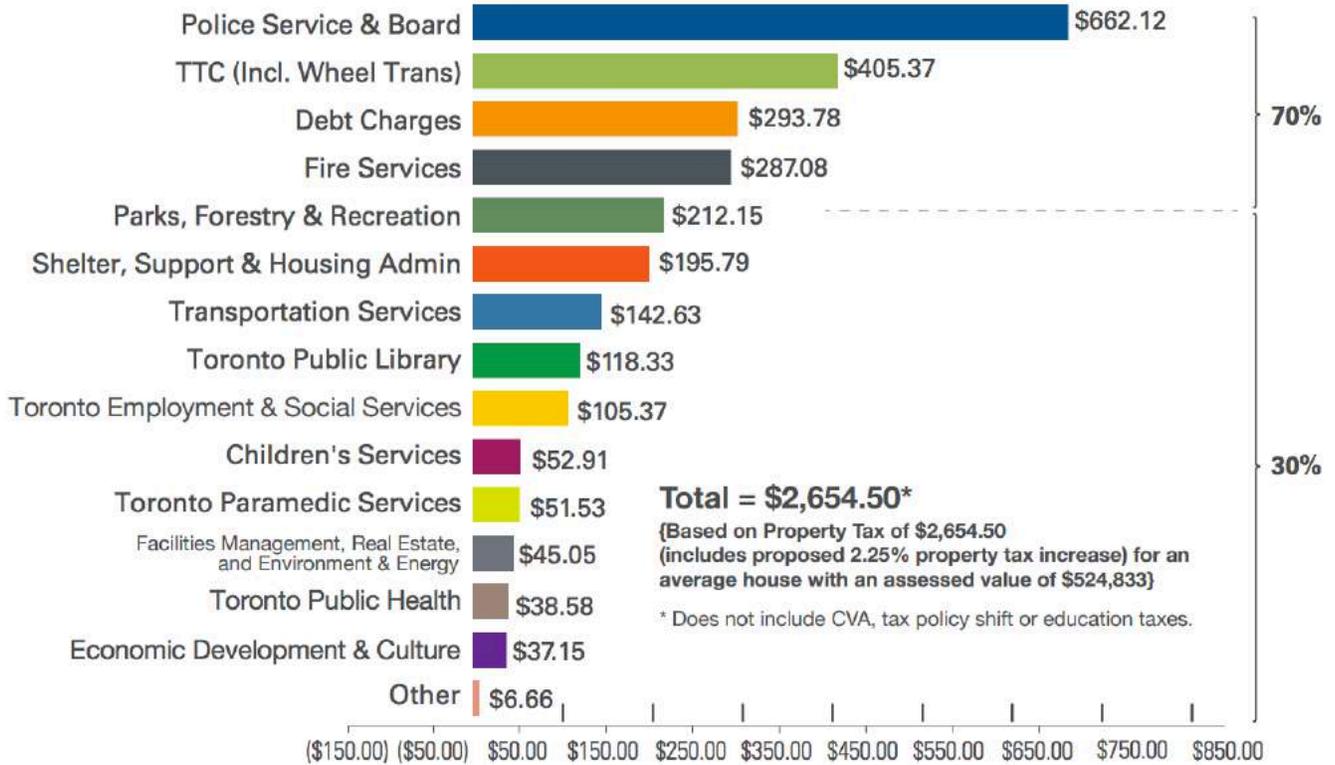
Toronto needs new revenue sources if it is to build new, or even maintain, its existing infrastructure:

- Income from property taxes funds about 40% of the City's operating budget. The remainder comes from user fees and payments from other levels of government.²⁰⁷
- 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.²⁰⁸
- The City of Toronto Act (passed in 2006²⁰⁹) gives the City the ability to add its own taxes to various goods and services, such as a vehicle-registration tax (the City lost about \$60M a year in income when this was repealed in 2010), an entertainment tax (Chicago, for example, has a 9% entertainment tax), road tolls (a toll on the Don Valley Parkway could generate up to \$120M a year according to [one study](#)), or taxes on parking, tobacco, or alcohol.
- New York City has 24 different taxes including a property tax, land transfer tax, sales tax, income tax, and vehicle tax. It generates a third of its revenue from income and sales tax.²¹⁰
- A [report](#) by the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, on the state of the City's finances and recent fiscal trends predicts that the funding shortfall to even maintain the city's existing assets will grow to nearly \$2.5B by 2020.



- Toronto Community Housing alone requires \$860M for repairs to social housing.²¹¹
- Transit alone accounts for a significant piece of the annual operating pie, and ambitious plans for essential new developments will require billions more in capital funding.²¹²

City of Toronto 2015 Property Tax Revenue Spending:²¹³

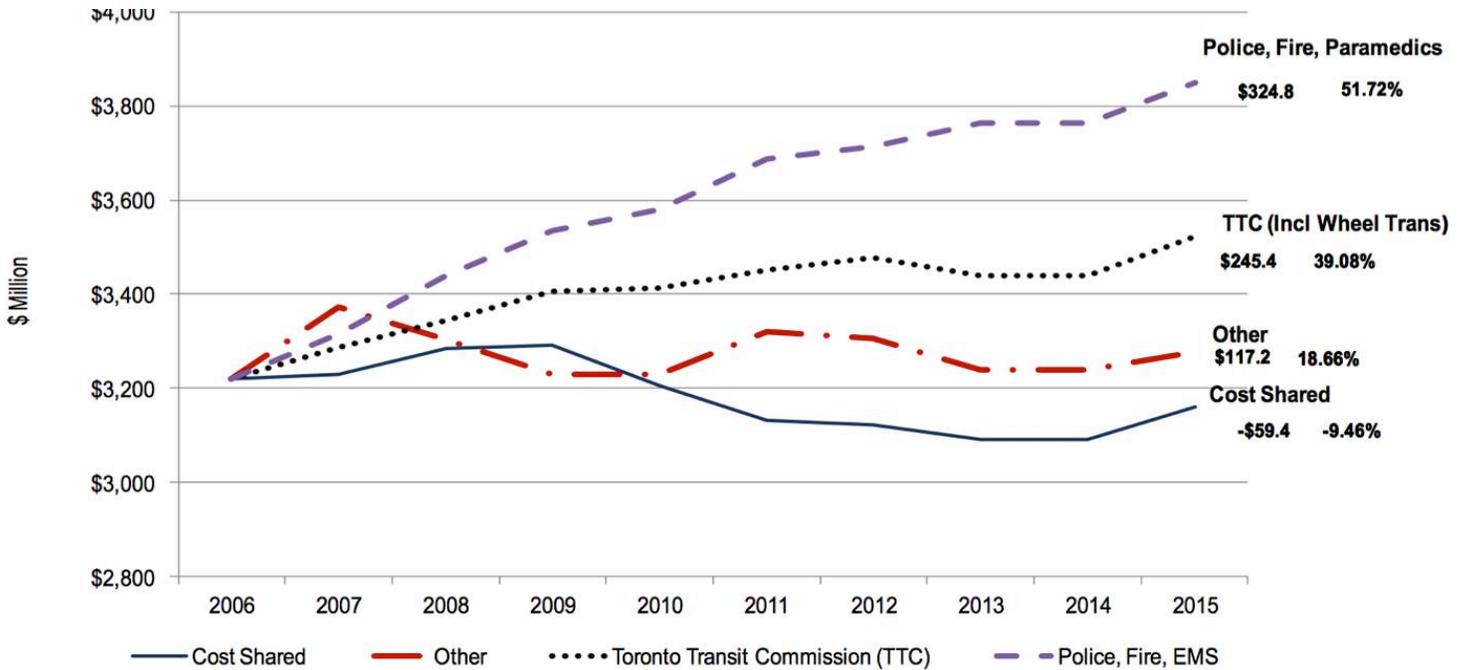


- Meanwhile, City staff have recommended increasing gambling options at Woodbine Racetrack, a move that could generate as much as \$14M a year in additional revenue for the City.²¹⁴
 - In 2012 the previous Council, amidst a contentious debate over a proposed downtown casino, voted 24-20 against expanded gaming at the track.
 - Woodbine currently has over 3,000 Ontario Lottery and Game Corporation (OLG) slot machines.²¹⁵

91% of the growth in net expenditures since 2006 is due to Emergency Services and the TTC:²¹⁶

- In 2015, 53% of the portion of the City budget that comes from property taxes goes to police, fire, and paramedics and the TTC. 25% of all tax revenues that Toronto receives goes to the Police Service and Board alone.
- The cost of Provincially mandated and shared services (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 15% of the total 2015 operating budget.²¹⁷

Cumulative Budgetary Growth Between 2006 and 2015, City of Toronto:²¹⁸



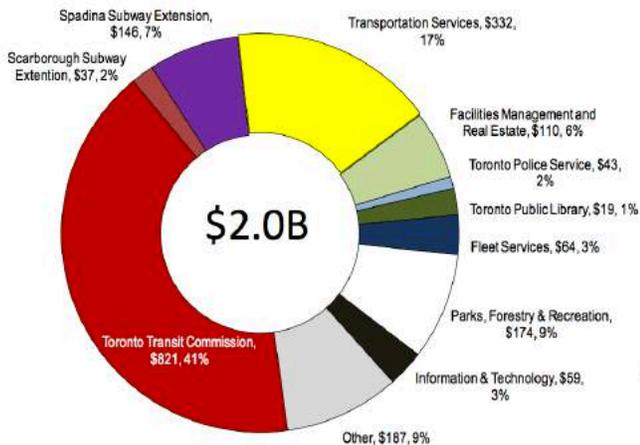
Two-thirds of the capital budget will be spent on transit and transportation:

- The tax-supported capital budget for 2015 is \$2B,²¹⁹ 9% less than 2014's \$2.2B.
- 67% (\$1.34B) will go to fund transit and transportation projects, including \$146M for the Spadina Subway extension and \$37M for the Scarborough Subway.²²⁰

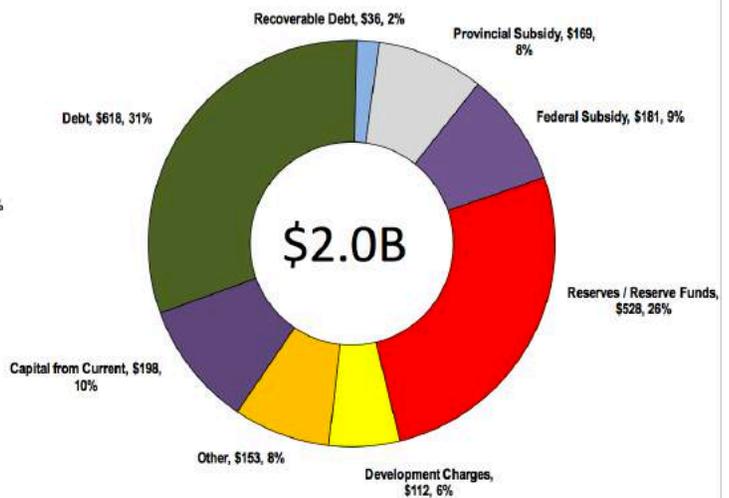
City of Toronto 2015 Tax-Supported Capital Budget:²²¹

\$ Million

Where the Money Goes 67% TTC/Transportation



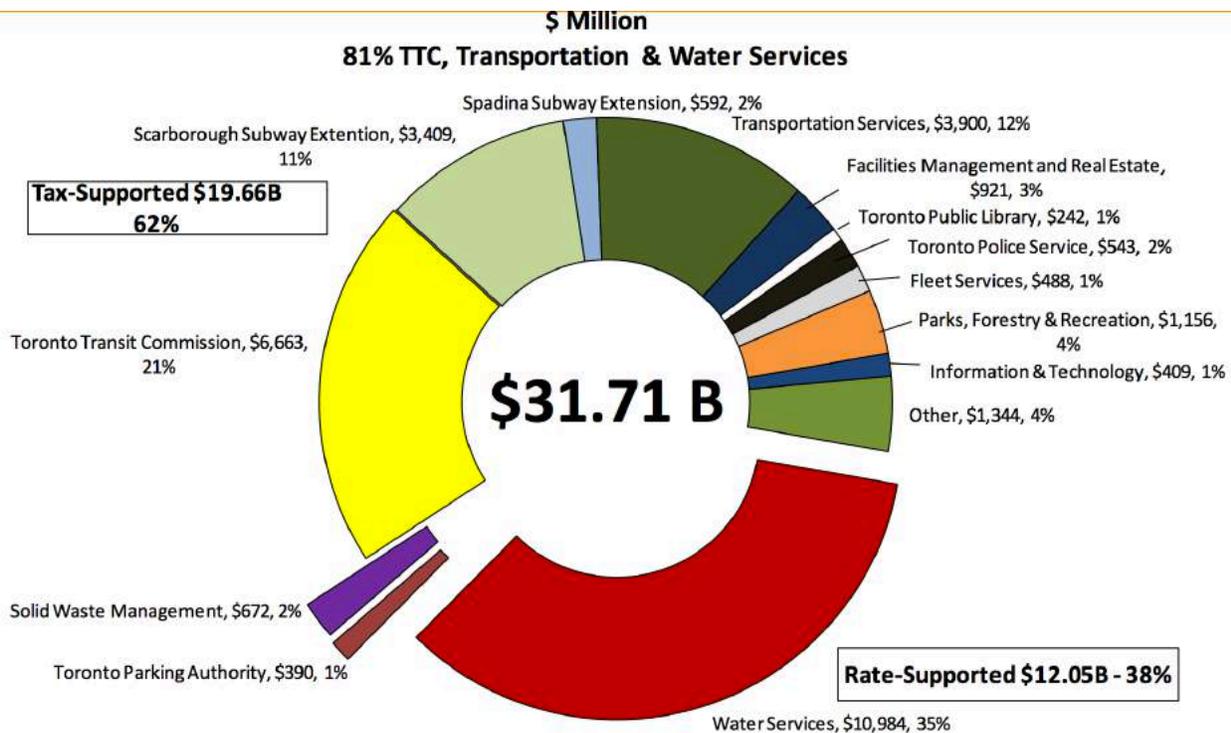
Where the Money Comes From



The 10-year capital budget and plan grew by 70% over last year, with 81% being dedicated to transit, transportation, and water services:

- The 10-year (2015-2024) tax- and rate-supported capital budget has increased from \$18.6B in 2014 to \$31.71B.²²²
 - Roughly 57% of this will be spent on maintaining and investing in the City’s state of good repair for aging infrastructure.
 - \$1.6B in new capital investments will go towards transportation and public transit, facilities and shelter, and technology.
 - The budget plan will also continue to fund the Toronto-York Spadina subway extension (\$592M) and the subway extension in Scarborough (\$3.4B).²²³
- Major investments over the next 10 years include:
 - \$970M for the rehabilitation of the Gardiner Expressway,
 - the purchase of 60 new subway cars, 810 new buses, and 195 light rail vehicles for the TTC,
 - the new McNicoll bus garage and completion of the Toronto Rocket Storage Yard,
 - \$627M to be used to address the Parks, Forestry and Recreation state-of-good-repair backlog, and
 - the construction of new fire and paramedic services stations.²²⁴

City of Toronto 10-Year (2015-2024) Total Capital Expenditures of \$31.71B:²²⁵



What creative mechanisms are emerging in Toronto to fund capital enhancements to our urban environment?

Toronto's Centre for Social Innovation and the Toronto Public Space Initiative are lauded as examples in a national report on innovation in financing urban spaces:

- An [Action Canada](#) task force [report](#) examines how governments facing budgetary constraints can pay for the public spaces that enhance cities' and communities' quality of life and attract the skilled workers and investment necessary for economic growth.
- Community organizations and the public are increasingly playing a role in developing urban spaces and places (streetscapes, parks, bike paths, green spaces, etc.) using innovative, emerging tools such as crowdfunding and community bonds.
 - Community bonds allow a community organization to provide both financial and "intangible" returns to bondholders. The [Centre for Social Innovation](#) raised several million dollars by issuing community bonds, using the funds to buy buildings to house and support social enterprises.
- Policymakers need to better understand these tools and change the law to accommodate them.
 - The task force recommends that local governments identify an internal "champion" of innovative finance tools and engage a variety of stakeholders through "user-friendly policies and citizen-centric approaches."
 - Recommendations at the provincial and national levels include provincial governments exploring tax exemptions for municipal bonds, and the federal government adapting its charity laws to accommodate crowdfunded, municipality-approved public space projects.²²⁶



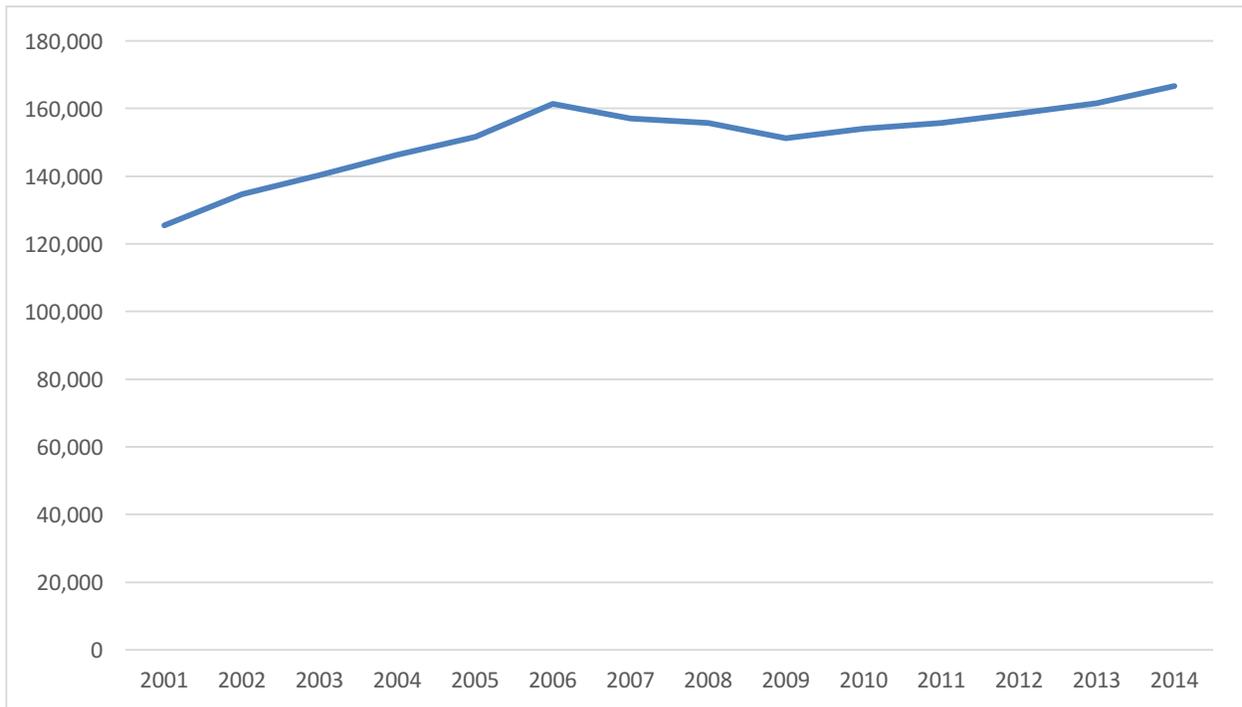
How well is Toronto performing on indicators of economic vitality?

Toronto's economic growth and productivity is modest but growing:

- The provincial economy as a whole grew by 2.1% in 2014.²²⁷
- In millions of constant 2007 dollars, GDP in the city of Toronto in 2014 was \$166,663 million (3.1% higher than the \$161,614 million in 2013).²²⁸ Toronto's GDP in 2014 was 18.6% of the national total (\$1,637,442 million), and 27.8 % of the provincial total (\$600,575 million).²²⁹
- The growth of annual GDP in 2014 was 2.0 in Canada as a whole (compared to 2.0 in 2013), while Ontario's was 2.8% in 2014 (versus 1.2% in 2013). The growth of annual GDP in 2014 in the Toronto Region was 3.3% (compared to 1.7% in 2013), while in the city of Toronto, it was 3.1% in 2014 (versus 1.9% in 2013).²³⁰
- GDP for the Toronto Region is expected to grow by 2.2% in 2015 and 2.9% in 2016.²³¹
- Toronto's productivity (measured by GDP per worker) grew by 2.2% in 2014 (better than the 0.4% in 2013), from \$114,208 to \$116,673.²³²
- According to the City, the downtown core accounts for only 3% of the land space in Toronto, but for 50% of GDP and 33% of employment.²³³



GDP (Millions of Constant 2007 Dollars), 2001-2014, City of Toronto²³⁴:



Business and consumer bankruptcies continue to decline in the Region:

- 2014 saw 368 business bankruptcies in the Toronto Region, a decrease of 21% from 466 in the previous year and a 66.1% decrease from 1,085 in 2007.²³⁵
 - The rate of business bankruptcies in 2013 was 1 per 1,000 businesses, equal to the provincial average but lower than the national average (1.2 per 1,000).²³⁶
- There were 6,032 consumer bankruptcies in 2014, about half as many as in 2008 (12,208) and down 10.2% from 2013 (6,714).²³⁷
 - The rate of consumer bankruptcies in 2013 was 1.4 per 1,000 people (18 years and older), lower than both the national (2.5 per 1000) and the provincial (2.0 per 1,000) averages.²³⁸



Cleveland has enacted an “anchor mission” to harness the city’s biggest institutions such as universities and hospitals to stimulate the local economy.

- Anchor institutions are publicly oriented organizations that are unlikely to leave the community, have a broad employee base, and are key contributors to the community’s economy.
- The Cleveland Foundation is a leading neutral convenor in the city, and as part of this strategy has made efforts to convince anchor institutions to buy and hire locally, as well as to impact invest locally.²³⁹

The Region’s ability to attract visitors smashed two tourism records in 2014, with the highest-ever number of overnight visitors (including the highest-ever number of overseas visitors) and hotel room nights sold:

- In 2014, 14.3 million overnight visitors chose the Toronto Region for business and pleasure (up from 13.69 in 2013). Their spending, along with that of same-day trip visitors, added \$6.9B to the Region’s economy (up from \$6.54B in 2013).
 - Toronto is the most-visited Canadian city by other Canadians. In 2014, 10.5 million overnight Canadian guests generated \$2.44B.
- Tourism Toronto’s marketing strategy for overnight visitors to the Region is focused on what it calls “high-value visitors” from major US cities and key overseas (all countries other than Canada and the US) markets including the UK, Germany, China, Japan, and Brazil.
 - For the fourth year in a row, Toronto saw an increase in overnight visitors from the US (2.3 million, a 3.7% increase over 2013). US visitors who fly to Toronto are more likely to stay longer and spend more, and this year, that higher-value visitor accounted for 64% of total US visitors, up from 51% in 2009.
 - China overtook the UK in 2014 as our biggest overseas market, with 230,485 visitors, an increase of 27% over 2013.
- For the fourth year in a row, Toronto Region hotels booked more than 9 million room-nights—in 2014, a record 9.45 million (up 2.5% from 9.22 million in 2013), representing 71.4% hotel occupancy for the year.²⁴⁰
- Despite this positive trend, Chicago’s tourism budget is half that of Toronto’s, but they attract almost five times as many visitors.²⁴¹



Tourism Expenditure and Profit, Toronto, Chicago, and New York:²⁴²



AirBnB, an online business platform for people around the world to list, search, and book accommodations (often in private homes), released a series of reports in 2014 focusing on twelve global communities in an effort to tout its positive impact on local economies:

- AirBnB’s most popular Canadian city is Montréal, with 73,800 guests in 2014. Toronto is second and Vancouver third.²⁴³

How is Toronto faring in terms of a key indicator of economic vitality—construction activity?

Construction overall was down in 2014, although major building construction remains a strong area for Toronto:

- Housing starts in the city continued their decline, dropping 25% to 11,671 in 2014 (down from 15,618 in 2013, itself a 38% drop from 2012).²⁴⁴
- The value of building permits issued in Toronto in 2014 decreased from the previous year by 11.6% to \$6.98B (down from 7.90B in 2013, but up from \$6.5B in 2012).
 - \$4.3B in residential building permits was issued in 2014, down from \$4.5B in 2013 (but up from \$3.1B in 2012).
- The value of commercial permits was down \$6.4M (\$1.96B in 2014 versus \$2.6B in 2013).²⁴⁵
- As of April 15, 2015, 133 high- and mid-rise buildings were under construction in the city, slightly fewer than the 147 reported at the same time the previous year.
- According to skyscraperpage.com, Toronto has the most high- and mid-rise buildings under construction of any city in North America. And although Toronto has slightly fewer 50+ storey buildings under construction than New York City does, we have significantly more buildings under 50 stories and are second only (according to another data source, Emporis) to New York for major buildings under construction.²⁴⁶

The Toronto Region gained an additional 2.1M square feet of office space between Q4 2013 and Q4 2014:

- By Q4 2014, the Region boasted 173,788,753 ft² of office space, a 1.23% increase over the same period the previous year (up from 171,651,359 ft²).²⁴⁷
 - 4.5 million ft² of office space was built between 2009 and 2011, and 5.1 million ft² are estimated to go up between 2014 and 2017.²⁴⁸

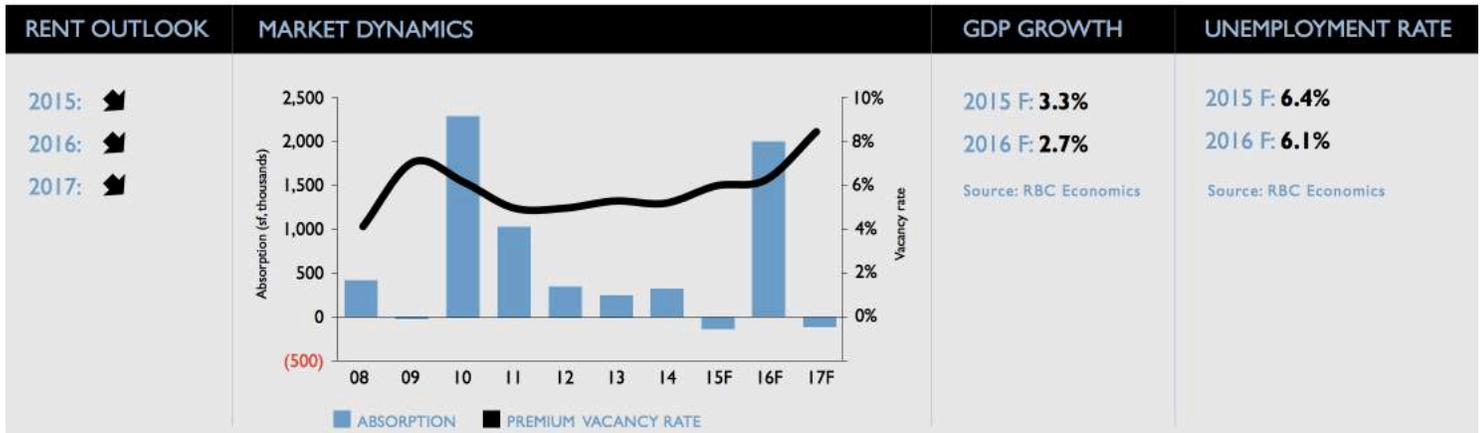
Toronto has “come into its own as a global business centre,” with a downtown “class A” office market currently in one of the longest development cycles in its history:

- Global commercial real-estate firm Cushman & Wakefield [reports](#) that this cycle will see class A office inventory increase by 25.9% (9.9M ft²) between 2009 and 2017.
- Although the new supply means premium office space vacancy will rise (it is expected to reach 9.6% downtown by 2017), the report predicts that this market’s solidity and explosive growth will sustain its success.²⁴⁹





Toronto's Downtown Class A Market Dynamics with Projection Forecast, 2008-2017.²⁵⁰



Residents in Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood are measuring and monitoring quality of life in the community themselves with an eye to developing a long-term neighbourhood plan:

- The [Parkdale People's Economy project](#) attempts to rethink "the economy" and take a different and unique approach to local economic development that goes beyond traditional economic indicators like GDP and is instead based on the principles of shared ownership, democratic management, and ethics of care.
- The project utilizes a participatory planning process and resident engagement for visioning and shaping the future of Parkdale that the community wants to create together.
- The project was born out of a research project commissioned by local organization [PARC](#) (a non-profit that works with the community on issues of poverty and mental health) that sought to investigate the impacts of gentrification on food security in the community. The report recommended policy options and community-based strategies, and has been serving as a "road map" for community planning efforts in Parkdale.

Work

Why is this important?

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

What are the trends?

The unemployment rate remains above pre-recession levels (7.5% in 2008), and grew to 9.5% in 2014 after improvement in 2013. The average monthly number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries continued its downward trend, but does not reflect those who have given up actively looking for work or who are ineligible due to the narrowing of EI criteria. While it is no longer the case that unemployment rates are higher among landed immigrants than among the Canadian-born population, unemployment remains a more likely prospect for recent immigrants. Toronto's youth, particularly those in Canada less than five years, continue to face troubling long-term trends.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
1. Unemployment rate (annual average)	9.6%	8.8%	9.5% ²⁵¹
2. Youth (15-24 year-olds) unemployment rate (annual average)	20.4%	18.1%	21.65% ²⁵²
3. Recent immigrant youth (15-24 year-olds in Canada less than 5 years) unemployment rate (annual average)	31.4%	28.1%	24.1% ²⁵³
4. Median hourly wage (unadjusted) (Toronto Region)	\$20.88	\$21.00	\$21.08 ²⁵⁴
5. Number of new business establishments	3,400 ²⁵⁵	4,340 ²⁵⁶	5,030 ²⁵⁷

What's new?

Ontario's minimum wage will increase for the second time in five years to \$11.25 per hour, the second highest in Canada. But precarious employment continues to rise and take a toll on workers. Temporary employment increased by 17% in the city between 2011 and 2014, and less than half of GTHA workers have permanent, full-time employment with benefits.

Meanwhile, some youth face more barriers to employment, education, and training than others, including those living in poverty. The City is developing an action plan for youth employment focused on work-based learning, especially for youth recipients of Ontario Works.

A new community-based research project documents the resilience of Toronto's entrepreneurial newcomers during the 2008 global recession, but cautions against self-employment being seen as the "new social safety net."

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

Toronto's overall employment in 2014 was up by 1.5% from 2013, with 20,850 jobs added:

- Toronto's total employment in 2014 was 10.26% higher than a decade earlier, with 1,384,390 jobs compared to 1,255,600 in 2004.
- Of the 1,384,390 jobs counted in Toronto in 2014, 1,063,540 (76.8%) were full time and 320,860 (23.2%) part time.
 - Part-time jobs increased by 1.7% over 2013.²⁵⁸
- The median hourly wage in Toronto in May 2015 for all professions was \$20.77 (versus \$20.67 a year earlier).²⁵⁹
- Across the Region, both median and average hourly earnings were greater in 2014 (in current dollars, \$21.08 and \$24.90 respectively) than they were in 2013. Average hourly earnings in 2014 were above both the national and provincial rates, while median hourly earnings were above the national rate but below the provincial rate.
 - The median hourly wage has increased slightly but steadily over the past five years: \$20.10 in 2010, \$20.60 in 2011, \$20.88 in 2012, \$21.00 in 2013, and \$21.08 in 2014.²⁶⁰



According to [Wellbeing Toronto](#), in 2011 the Bay Street Corridor had the most with 185,891 jobs while the bottom three were Woodbine – Lumsden (558), Rustic (550), and Lambton Baby Point (438).

5,030 new businesses were established in the city in 2014, providing possible places of employment:

- Almost 16% more businesses opened in Toronto in 2014 than in 2013 (5,030 versus 4,340).²⁶¹

The office sector remains the largest in Toronto, accounting for almost 1 of every 2 jobs:

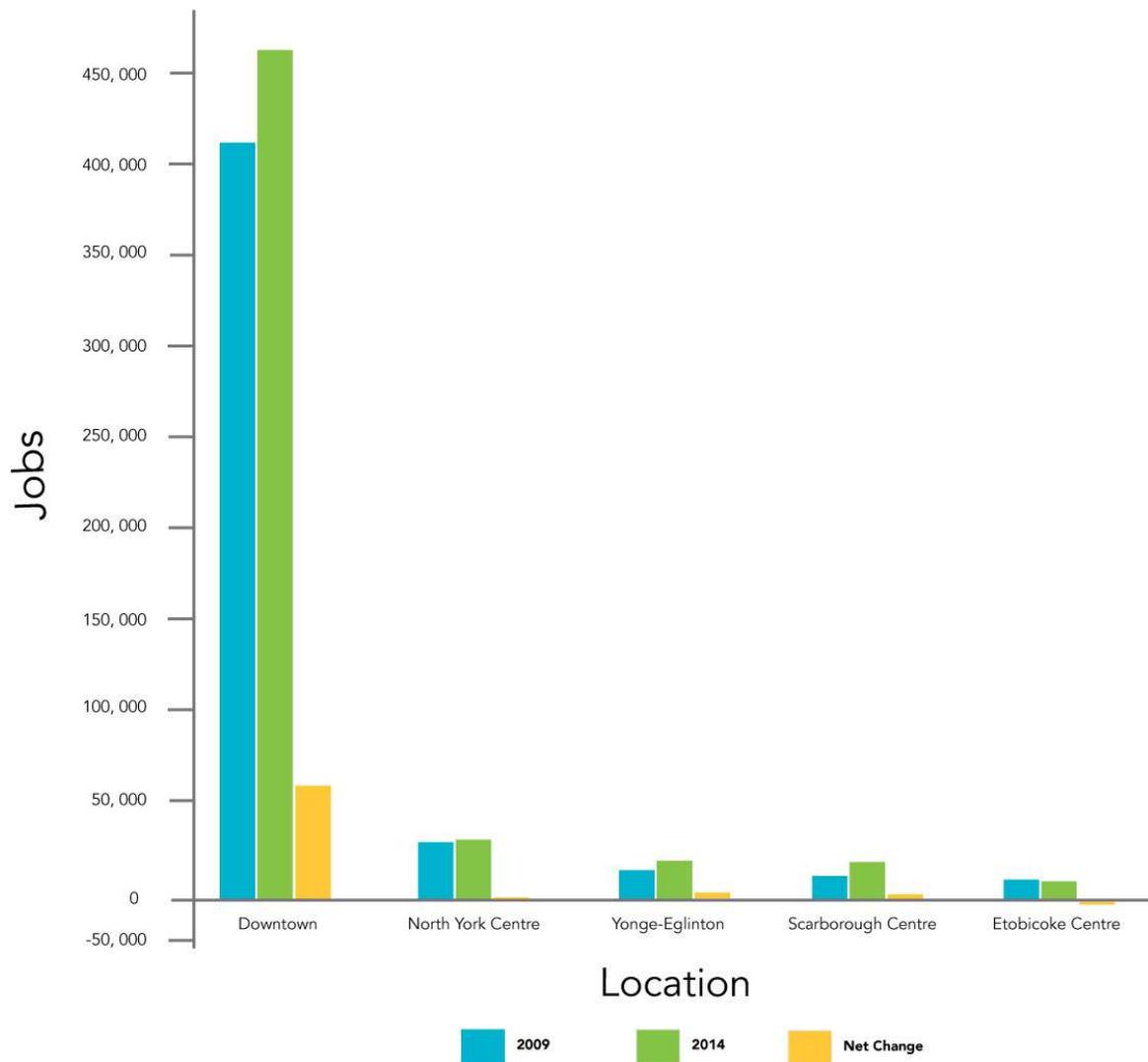
- The City of Toronto's annual [Employment Survey](#) reports on which sectors grew or flourished.
 - The institutional sector was the fastest growing in 2014, adding 11,010 jobs (an increase of 4.9%).
 - The service sector was next with 3.7% growth, followed by the "other" (+2.7%) and office (+1.0%) sectors.
 - Other sectors shrank: manufacturing lost 1.3% of its jobs, and the retail sector followed with a loss of 1.5% of jobs.²⁶²
- The survey also examined the city's major economic sectors (as defined by the North American Industry Classification System or NAICS) for employment growth or loss over 2014.
 - The largest gains—7.6% over the previous year—were seen in the real estate and rental and leasing sector, which added 2,710 jobs, and in the construction sector, which added 2,610 jobs.
 - The accommodation and food services sector also experienced a significant rate of growth, 4.7%.²⁶³

- The administrative and support, waste management and remediation services sector, on the other hand, experienced the largest net loss of 3,600 jobs (a loss of 5.8%).²⁶⁴

Employment in Toronto’s downtown in 2014 increased by 3.2% or 14,890 jobs. Its growth over five years (2009-2014) was 14.8%, or 62,250 jobs:

- Employment growth between 2013 and 2014 in the city’s several dense employment centres was greatest in Etobicoke Centre, at 7.9%.
- Other centres saw negative growth: Yonge-Eglinton, -3.8%; Scarborough Centre, -2.5%; and North York Centre, -1.5%. In the rest of the city, jobs grew by 0.9%.
 - Although the Centres shrank by 1.3% or 1,010 jobs in the last year, they have grown considerably over the last five, increasing by 7.3% or 5,430 jobs.²⁶⁵

Employment Change in Downtown and Centres, 2009-2014:²⁶⁶





Job growth in the Toronto Region is forecast to increase from 0.3% in 2014 to 1.5% in 2015 and 1.7% in 2016:

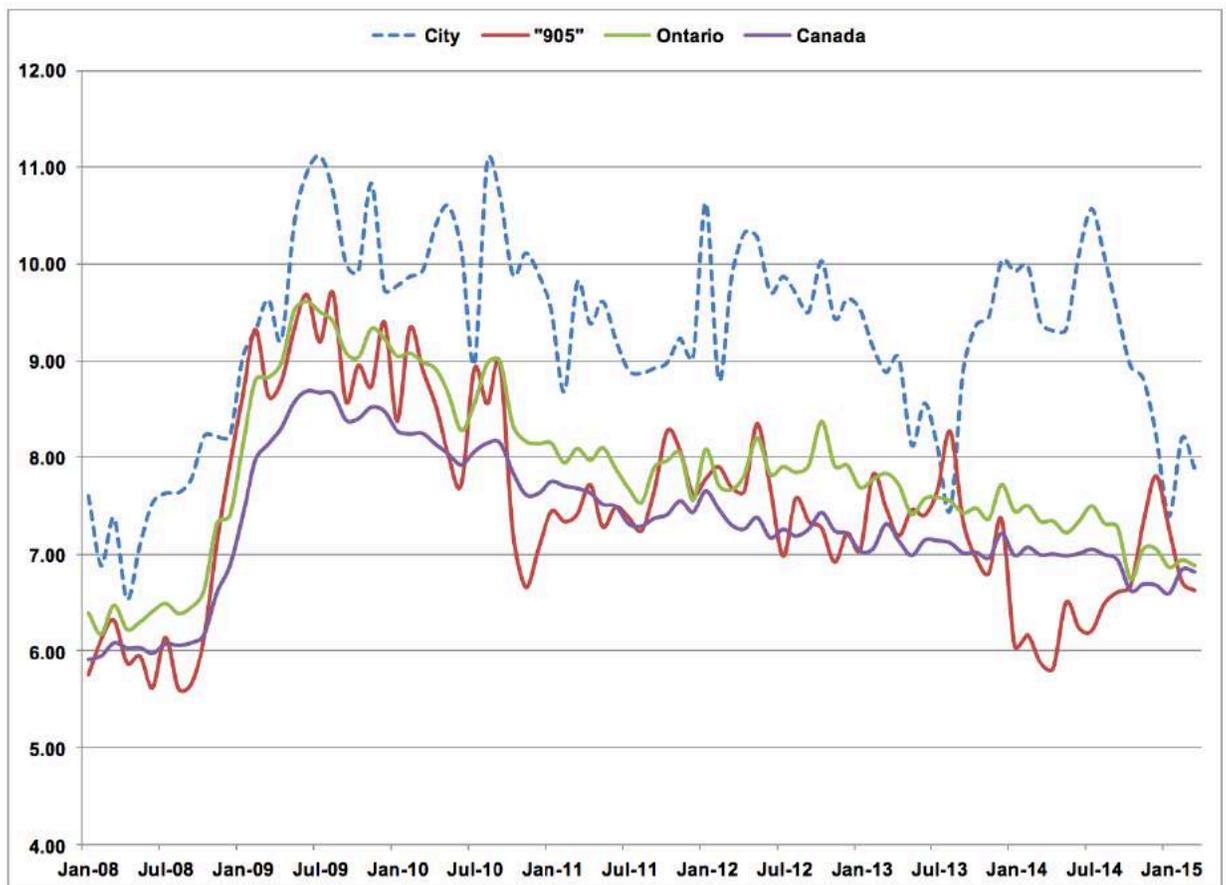
- This growth will be led by retail and wholesale trade, professional, scientific and managerial services, and health services.
- Growth will be much more slow in the finance-insurance-real estate and construction industries.²⁶⁷

Who is working in Toronto and who isn't?

The unemployment rate in the city of Toronto remains high, and grew in 2014:

- Toronto's unemployment rate was 9.5% in 2014, up from 8.8% in 2013 (but down slightly from 9.6% in 2012).²⁶⁸
- As shown in the graph below, Toronto's unemployment has historically tracked higher (for the most part) than for, the rest of Ontario, and the rest of Canada:²⁶⁹

City of Toronto Unemployment Rate: January 2008-January 2015:²⁷⁰



Source : Statistics Canada – Labour Force Survey – Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data – (March/2015)
*City of Toronto Series is Seasonally Adjusted by City of Toronto

- The average monthly number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries continued its downward trend, with 24,549 in 2014, down from 26,469 in 2013 and 26,998 in 2012.²⁷¹ It should be noted, however, that the declining number of EI beneficiaries does not

reflect the number of people who have given up actively looking for work, or those who are now ineligible due to the narrowing of EI qualifications.

**Employment Insurance Beneficiaries, Monthly Averages,
City of Toronto, 2012, 2013, 2014.²⁷²**

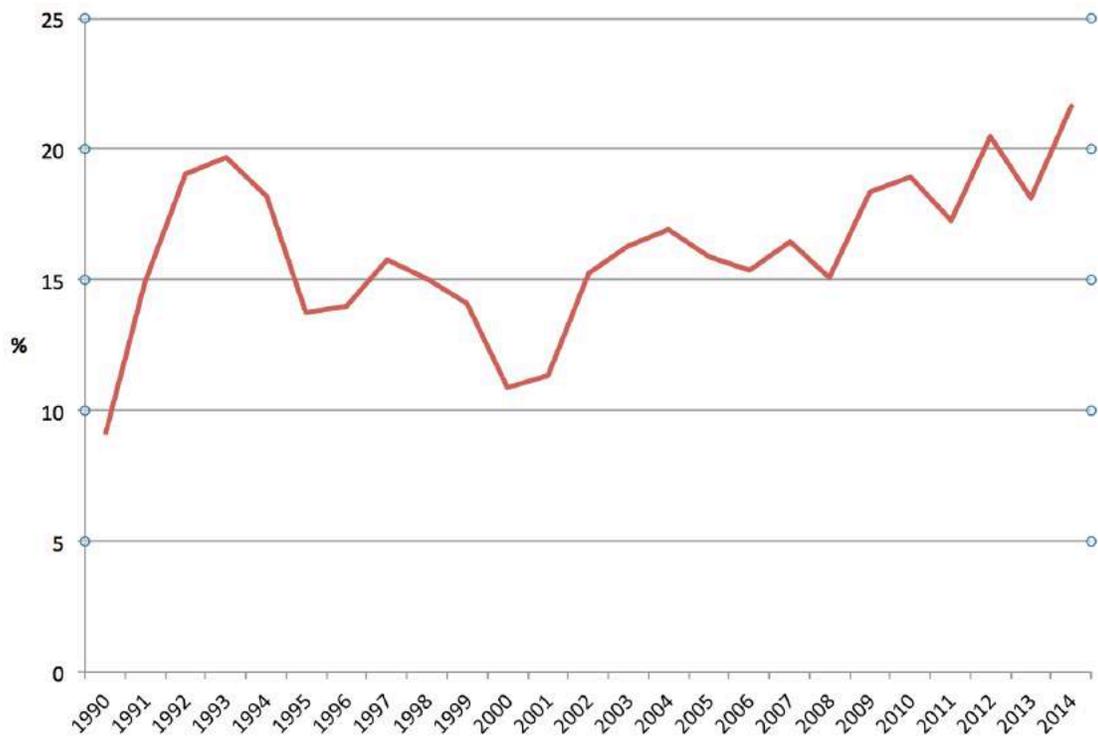


How are young workers, immigrants, and women affected by workforce trends in Toronto?

When it comes to employment, Toronto's youth face troubling long-term trends:

- After dropping to 18.12% in 2013, the Toronto youth unemployment rate in 2014 climbed again, reaching a staggering 21.65%.²⁷³

Youth (Aged 15-24) Unemployment in the City of Toronto, 1990-2014:²⁷⁴



Youth (Aged 15–24) Unemployment in Toronto and Across Canada, 2006 and 2013:²⁷⁵



Note: Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole per cent.

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

Many youth are not employed, nor in education or training, and the roots of this trend 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 (or NEET, a Statistics Canada category) in 2011.²⁷⁶
 - Many groups are over-represented 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.
 - Through extensive consultations with youth on the subject, [CivicAction](#) produced a 2014 [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 identified as facing NEET youth were:
 - systemic barriers that lead to weakened social networks, such as few mentors or role models;

- lack of opportunities to gain meaningful work-related experience;
- lack of accessible and affordable transportation; and
- racism and structural discrimination.²⁷⁷
- As of 2009, Canada had the second-lowest total NEET percentage (13.3%) of 15- to 19-year-olds among selected OECD countries. Germany had the lowest at 11.6%, France and the UK tied with 15.6%, the US had 16.9% and Italy 21.2%.²⁷⁸

The City is developing an action plan for youth employment to connect unemployed youth with jobs and work-based learning opportunities:

- An Economic Development Committee [report](#) sets out recommendations and directions for implementing a Youth Employment Action Plan for Toronto. It focuses on short-term actions that leverage the City's role as an employer, capitalize on existing connections with employer and sector partners, and increase support to youth job seekers. For example,
 - In 2015, about 1,000 youth from Neighbourhood Improvement Areas were helped to apply for summer jobs with the City.
 - The [Partnership to Advance Youth Employment](#), a joint initiative between private sector employers and the City, has connected hundreds of young people to job opportunities with employer partners since 2009.
 - The [Toronto Youth Jobs Corps](#) program, coordinated by Social Development, Finance and Administration and delivered by three community agencies, provides youth with a full-time, 21-week, paid employment preparation program.
- The City is also aiming to support Toronto's youth who are the most distant from the labour market—those on social assistance. A significant percentage of Toronto's youth (15-29) population (approximately 6%) and of the caseload of Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS) (24%) are youth recipients of Ontario Works. TESS serves approximately 33,000 youth through Ontario Works. Administrative data from TESS provide an interesting profile of these youth:
 - almost half are 21 or younger,
 - 54% are female,
 - approximately 60% have less than high-school education, and
 - more than one-third have been receiving assistance for three years or longer.²⁷⁹
- The report notes the importance of work-based learning (WBL) in successful responses to youth unemployment.
 - In WBL, learning takes place in a real work environment and through practice, and ranges from shorter and less formal activities up to more intensive internships and apprenticeships. The City reports that WBL benefits both youth and employers by boosting hard and soft skills, instilling positive work habits in youth, and by addressing the skills gaps and recruitment troubles felt by employers.²⁸⁰

Unemployment in the Toronto Region remains a more likely prospect for recent immigrants than for Canadian-born workers:

- As of June 2015, 48.4% of workers in the Toronto Region (some 1,659,900 people) were landed immigrants, while 49.4% (1,694,000 people) were Canadian-born.

- The unemployment rate (for workers aged 15 and over) for landed immigrants in the Region was 6.9% in June 2014, vs 7.3% for those born in Canada.
- Recent immigrants were more likely to be unemployed than established immigrants:
 - Recent immigrants (those entering the country within the previous five years) faced a 12.9% unemployment rate, while those in Canada 10 years or more fared better at 5.4%.²⁸¹
- In the city of Toronto, the unemployment rate for those 15 and over born in Canada was 9.0% in 2014 (up from 7.9% in 2013), while for recent immigrants (entered Canada within the last five years) it was 16.2% (up from 15.6% in 2013 and 14.9% in 2012). Immigrants who had been in the country longer, between five and 10 years, fared slightly better, with a 12.9% unemployment rate (up from 11.1% in 2013 and 9.7% in 2012).
 - Recent immigrant youth (15-24 years old) also faced higher unemployment rates (24.1% in 2014, down from 28.1% in 2013) than Canadian-born youth (21.5%, up from 16.4% in 2013).²⁸²

During the 2008 global recession, Toronto’s newcomers showed their resilience by developing small businesses. But inequities exist based on race, gender, and immigration status:



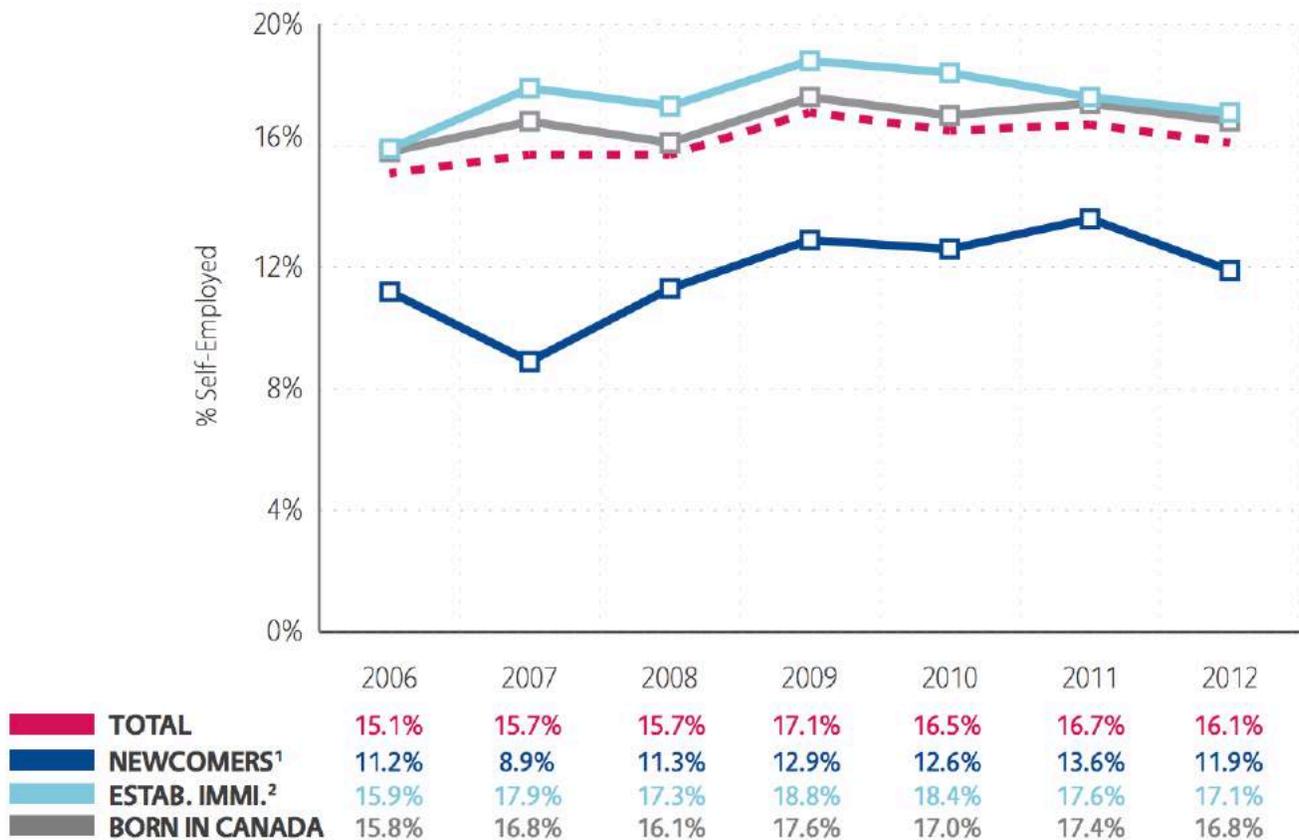
- In 2012, [Newcomer Women’s Services Toronto](#) and [Social Planning Toronto](#) collaborated on the Economy And Resilience of Newcomers ([EARN](#)), a community-based research project that examined how newcomer entrepreneurs (in Canada 10 years or less) fared throughout the recent recession.
- Many personal and economic “push” and “pull” factors influence newcomers to pursue entrepreneurship, including barriers to accessing the Canadian labour market such as
 - difficulty having foreign professional and educational credentials recognized,
 - language barriers or perceived “accent” problems,
 - employers demanding previous Canadian work experience,
 - lack of networks and contacts in their field, and
 - discrimination, both overt and covert.²⁸³

Examples of “Push” and “Pull” Factors in Newcomer Self-Employment:²⁸⁴

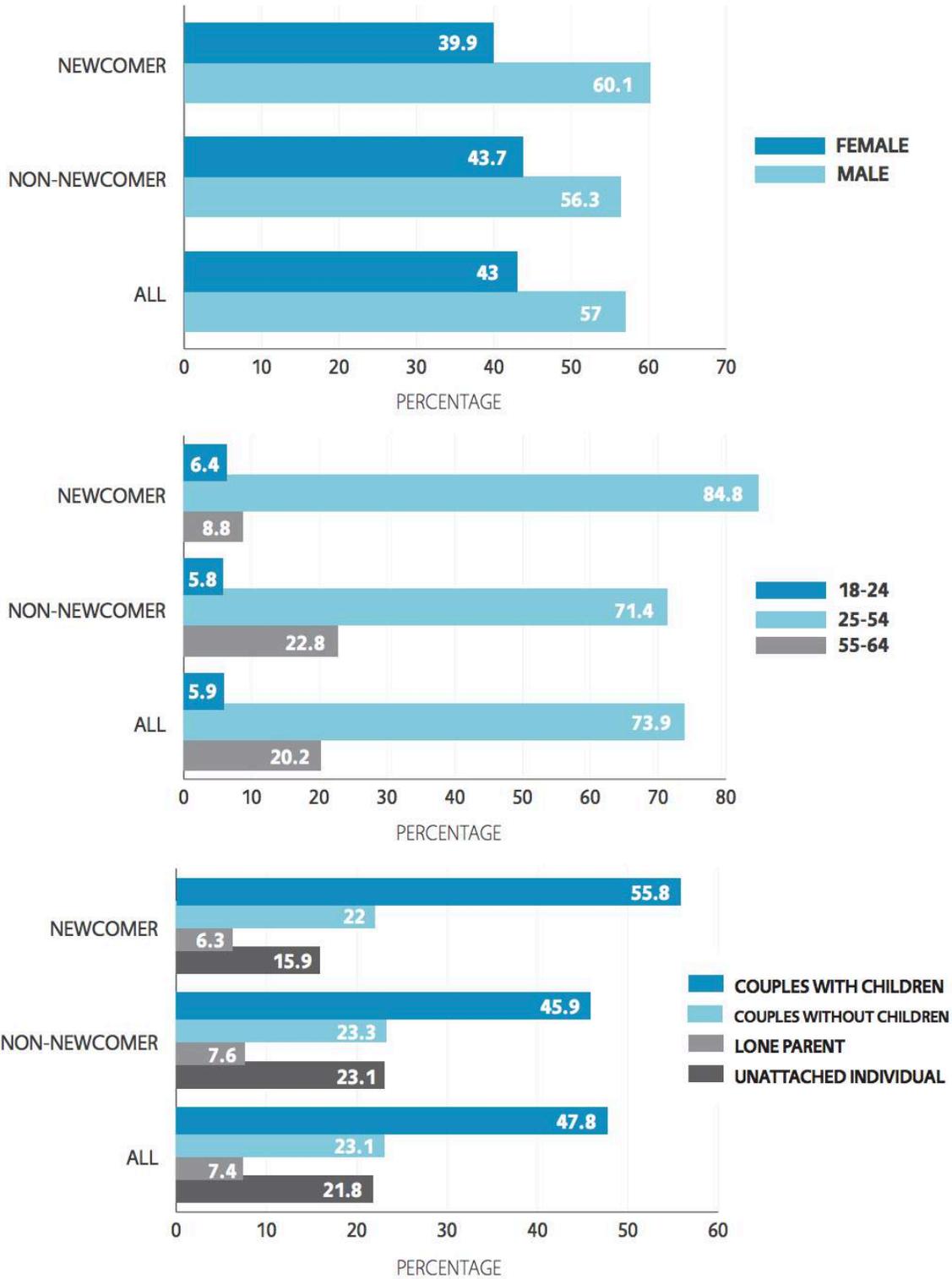
EXAMPLES OF PUSH FACTORS	EXAMPLES OF PULL FACTORS
Laid off from existing job due to restructuring and/or economic downturn.	Came to Canada specifically as an entrepreneur with a special visa.
A way to deal with long-term unemployment, completion of E.I. benefits.	Taking advantage of tax incentives to start a business.
To supplement income from existing part-time jobs.	Additional flexibility and choice around work arrangements.
Lack of child care and responsibilities around caring for elders and extended family as a driving force.	Due to government-sponsored training (Ontario Self-Employment Benefit, Second Career, Ontario Works training, etc).

- Although they have lower rates of self-employment as their main work activity than established immigrants and Canadian-born residents, Toronto’s newcomers, especially couples with children, were more likely to report self-employment income on their 2010 personal tax return.
- Most newcomers with self-employment income came to Canada under Family Class and Skilled Worker Class immigration categories rather than the self-employment, entrepreneur, or investor categories.²⁸⁵

Percentage of Self-Employed Population in Toronto by Immigration Status, 2006-2012:²⁸⁶



Toronto Residents Reporting Self-Employment Income, 2010 Tax Return:²⁸⁷



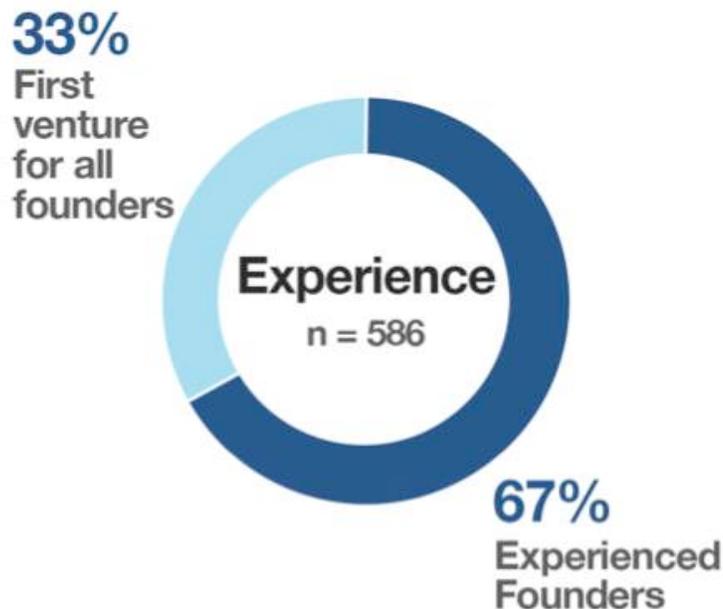
- Newcomer men are more likely to be self-employed than newcomer women (their self-employment rates were 15% and 9% respectively in 2012, 17% versus 9% in 2011, and 17% versus 8% in 2010).
- The report cautions that self-employment has come to be seen as the “new social safety net,” an overly simplistic answer to systemic issues such as precarious employment and labour market obstacles rather than a choice.
 - Between October 2008 and October 2009, self-employment increased 3.9% while the private and public sectors decreased 4.1% and 1.6% respectively.
 - Toronto has had higher rates of self-employment since 2007 than Ontario and Canada.
 - The report recommends programs and services to support newcomers’ economic development and labour market access.
- Newcomer self-employment rates were down slightly in 2012 (11.9% versus 13.6% in 2011).²⁸⁸

Is Toronto’s diversity reflected in its entrepreneurship?

The annual venture client survey from [MaRS Discovery District](#) provides insights about a sample of entrepreneurs, mostly from the GTA—who they are, the kinds of tech companies they start, their funding ecosystem, and who is making money and creating jobs:

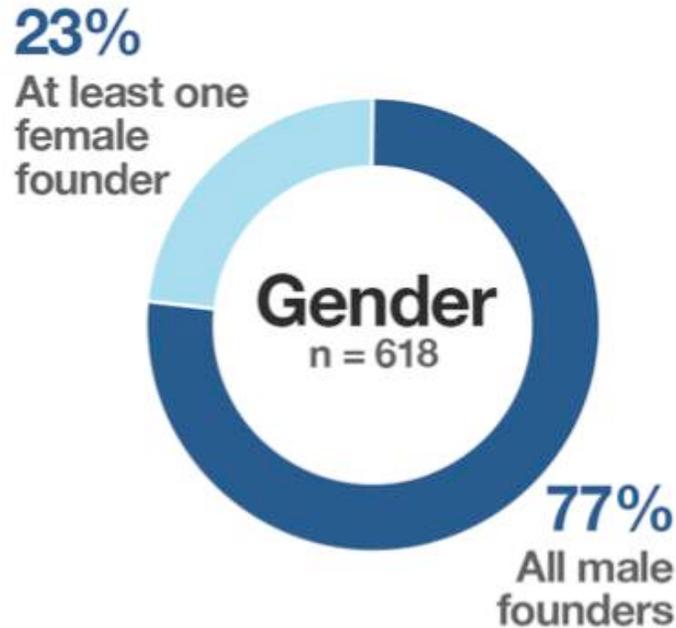
- Its 2014 survey of 680 ventures shows that founder experience and background continue to be very diverse in Toronto.
- “Repeat” entrepreneurs are common. Based on responses received from 586 founders, 67% of them reported that they were working on their second or third venture.

Repeat Entrepreneurship, MaRS Discovery District Clients, 2014²⁸⁹



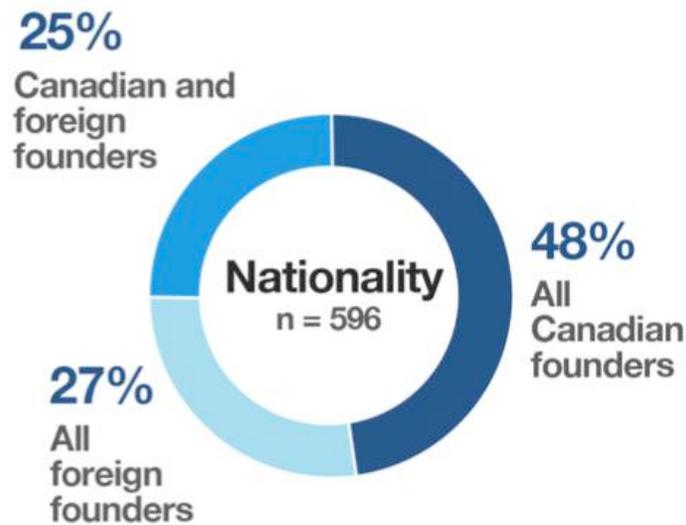
- While the number of startups with female executives continues to grow, there is still a long way to go to achieve gender parity. Based on responses received from 618 founders, only 23% of their ventures have at least one female founder.

Gender of Founders, MaRs Discovery District Clients, 2014²⁹⁰



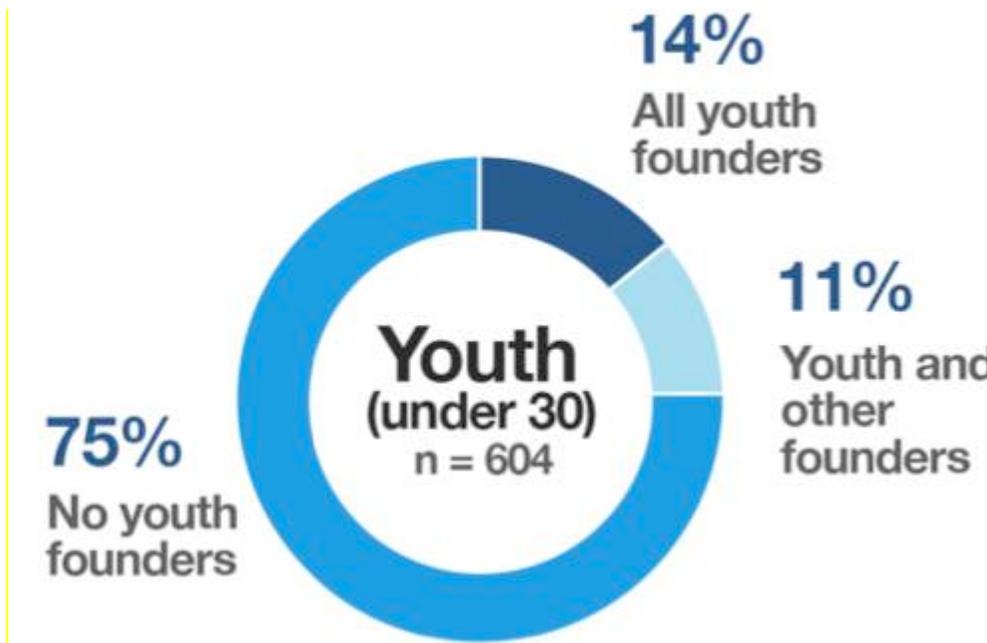
- In terms of the nationality of venture founders, based on responses received from 596 founders, the majority of ventures are led by either all-Canadian or a Canadian/foreign-born mix of founders. Only 27% of the ventures were founded exclusively by foreign-born entrepreneurs.

Nationality of Founders, MaRs Discovery District Clients, 2014²⁹¹



- Age continues to play a large role in the startup landscape, with older, more experienced founders leading the majority of ventures. Based on feedback received from 604 founders, 75% of ventures did not include youth founders (those under the age of 30).²⁹²

Youth Founders, MaRs Discovery District Clients, 2014²⁹³



How are Toronto’s vulnerable workers faring in an environment of increasingly precarious work?

Less than half of the GTHA’s workers enjoy the security of the “standard employment relationship” of permanent full-time employment with benefits:

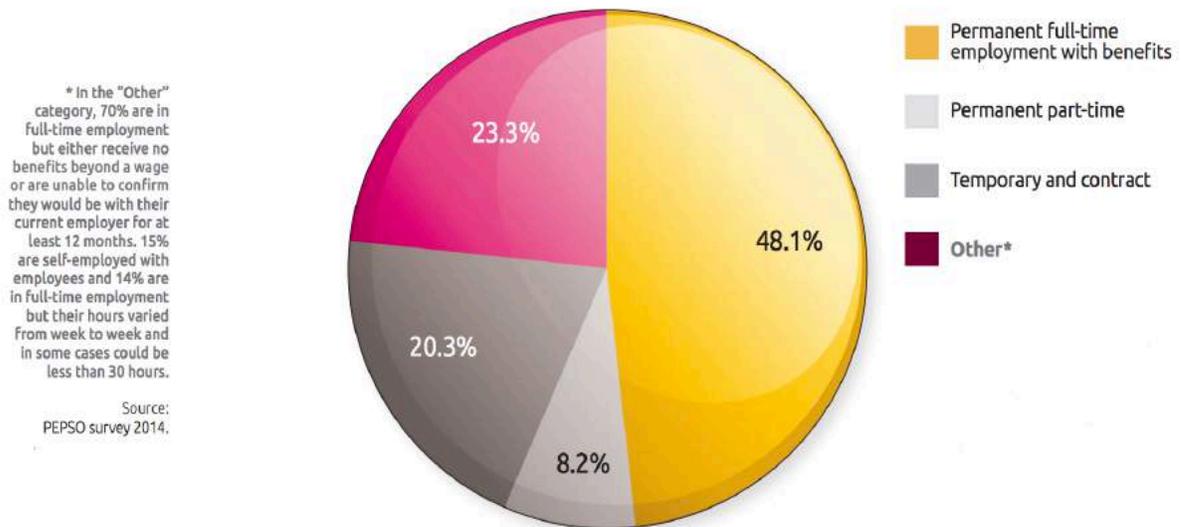
- Almost half (47%) of respondents in a recent Deloitte poll of Canadian firms planned to increase their use of “contingent, outsourced, contract or part-time” workers in the next three to five years. While the strategy allows firms to scale up or down as business needs fluctuate, such precarious employment is taking a toll on workers.²⁹⁴
- A report released in 2015 from the [Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario](#) (PEPSO) research group looks at the impact of rising precarious, or insecure, employment in the GTHA.²⁹⁵
- [The Precarity Penalty](#), which involved a survey and interviews with workers aged 25-65, is a follow-up to PEPSO’s [It’s More than Poverty report](#) of 2013.
- PEPSO has found that in 2011, 18.4% of workers in the GTHA worked in temporary or contract jobs and for workers in Toronto, the figure was 19.4%. In 2014, the percentage of

those having temporary and contract work in the GTHA had risen to 20.3%, and in Toronto, 22.7%.

- In 2014, less than half of the GTHA’s workers (48.1%) and Toronto’s workers (45.7%) had the most secure form of employment, i.e., the “standard employment relationship.” Only Hamilton’s workers fared worse (at 40.7%) within the Region.²⁹⁶

Employment Categories in the GTHA, 2014:²⁹⁷

Figure 1: Employment categories in the GTHA, 2014(%)



- Temporary employment increased by 17% in Toronto between 2011 and 2014. It decreased marginally only in Halton and York.

Forms of the Employment Relationship by Region, 2011 vs. 2014:²⁹⁸

* In the "Other" category, 70% are in full-time employment but either receive no benefits beyond a wage or are unable to confirm they would be with their current employer for at least 12 months. 15% are self-employed with employees and 14% are in full-time employment but their hours varied from week to week and in some case could be less than 30 hours.

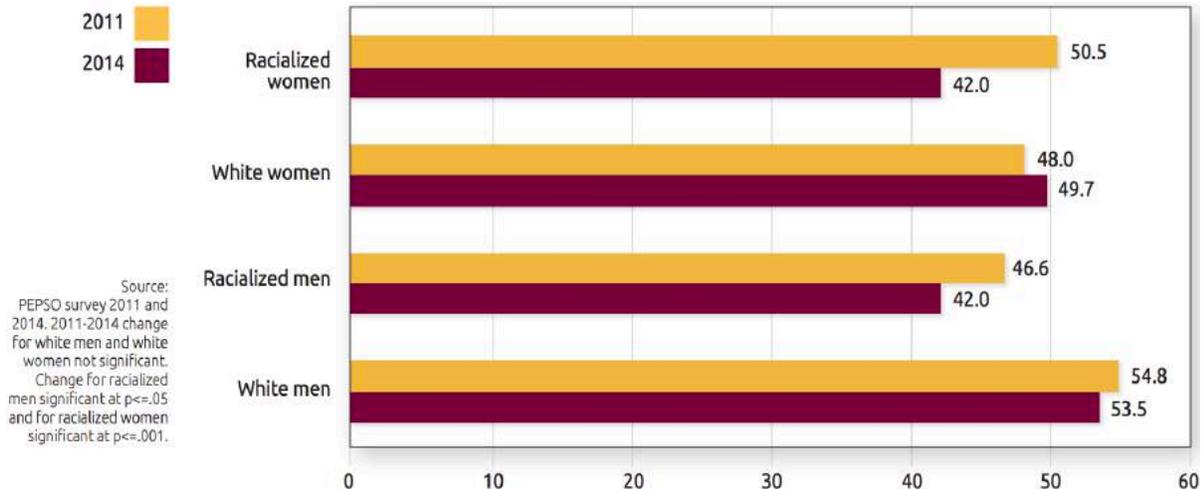
Source: PEPSO survey 2011 and 2014.

% working in	GTHA		City of Toronto		Hamilton		Halton		Peel		York	
	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014
Standard Employment Relationship	50.2	48.1	49.4	45.7	47.1	40.7	57.5	57.9	52.8	50.5	48.0	50.0
Permanent part-time	8.8	8.2	9.0	8.0	12.3	12.7	8.0	6.6	8.0	6.7	7.1	8.7
Temporary and contract	18.4	20.3	19.4	22.7	15.2	19.8	18.0	16.1	17.0	19.8	21.0	17.9
Other employment forms*	22.7	23.3	22.2	23.6	25.4	26.7	16.5	19.4	22.2	22.9	23.9	23.4

- White men have higher rates of permanent full-time employment with benefits than either women or racialized individuals in the GTHA. Rates have dropped since 2011 for

racialized men and women. They have grown for white women and have dipped slightly for white men.

Standard Employment Relationship by Sex and Race, GTHA, 2011-2014:²⁹⁹



- The precariously employed were far more likely to report perceived discrimination as a barrier. They were:
 - more than six times as likely to report discrimination as a barrier to getting work,
 - almost 12 times as likely to report it as a barrier to retaining work, and
 - more than twice as likely to report it as a barrier to advancing in work.³⁰⁰
- Once someone is in precarious employment, it is very hard to climb out of it. And this does not apply only to low-paying jobs—those in the middle class are struggling to hang onto their status.³⁰¹
- It is well documented that general health improves as income does. But the relationship between the two is complex, the report finds.
 - Even at middle- and high-income levels, GTHA workers whose employment was less secure were more likely to report poorer health than those whose work was more secure.
 - Conversely, workers at low-income levels whose jobs were more secure were the most likely to report poorer health.
- In 2014, workers in low-income/less-secure employment were more than twice as likely to report poorer mental health as those in high-income/more-secure employment (39.7% and 15.9% respectively).³⁰²
- The report authors recommend combatting precarious employment by:
 - building a dynamic labour market that better supports the precariously employed,
 - enhancing social and community supports for this new market, and
 - ensuring that jobs work as a pathway not only to income but also to employment security.³⁰³

Many Torontonians will be affected by Ontario's minimum wage increase, which is slated to take effect in late 2015:

- Currently \$11 an hour, Ontario’s general minimum wage (which applies to most employees) will increase to \$11.25, giving the province the second-highest minimum wage in the country, behind the Northwest Territories’ \$12.50.
 - Alberta and Saskatchewan tie for the lowest minimum wage at \$10.20.³⁰⁴

Minimum Wages Across Canada.³⁰⁵



Minimum wages for students under 18 and workers serving alcohol are not included.

* Indicates change will come into effect later this year.

Toronto Star graphic. Source: Canadian Press.



Commissioned by four of Ontario’s biggest pension plans, the Boston Consulting Group undertook a study to learn more about the relationship between the health of communities and different kinds of pensions:³⁰⁶

- The study found that most money from defined benefit plans is spent locally, and that seniors who have these plans are more confident consumers.
- Plans that are the responsibility of the employee to manage and invest, and that have no standard disbursement strategy, are unreliable and can cause stress.
- The study recommended that workplace pensions be mandatory.³⁰⁷

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.

[ACCES Employment](#) – Assisting job seekers from diverse background to integrate into the Canadian job market

[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

[Canadian Urban Institute](#) – Building wisdom and inspiring leadership for healthy urban development

[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

[Drum Artz Canada](#) – Encouraging creative expression through mentorship, percussion, and music

[Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre](#) – Serving a low-income, ethnically and socially diverse community

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

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

[Frontier College](#) – Elevating literacy through a wide range of 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

[Mosaic Institute](#) – Harnessing the diversity of Canada’s people to build a stronger, more inclusive nation

[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

[Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre \(PARC\)](#) - Working with members of the Parkdale community on issues of poverty and mental health

[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

[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](#) – Creating 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](#) – 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

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

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

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

Gap Between Rich and Poor

Why is this important?

Rising income inequality (rising twice as fast in Toronto than in the rest of the country)³⁰⁸ affects 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. The widening gap between rich and poor has an impact on the health of the economy.

What are the trends?

The median family income of low-income families (\$14,930 before taxes in 2013) doesn't come close to supporting a household. The rising cost of nutritious food is out of reach of these households—2014 saw a significant increase in the monthly cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four. In Toronto's inner suburbs visits to food banks have increased 45% since 2008.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
1. Percentage of seniors living in poverty in the Toronto Region	10.5% (2010)	9.5% (2011)	11.6% (2013) ³⁰⁹
2. Median total annual family income (before tax) of low-income families in the Toronto Region (based on the Low-Income Measure or LIM).	\$14,350 (2011)	\$14,630 (2012)	\$14,930 (2013) ³¹⁰
3. Monthly cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four in Toronto	\$762.04	\$792.82	\$835.91 ³¹¹
4. Number of visits to Toronto food banks	937,500 (April 2012 to March 2013) ³¹²	883,900 ³¹³ (April 2013 to March 2014)	890,000 ³¹⁴ (April 2014 to March 2015)
5. Percentage of food bank visitors who are children who go hungry at least once per week because of lack of money	20% ³¹⁵ (GTA)	16% ³¹⁶ (GTA)	16% ³¹⁷

What's new?

Toronto is by most measures Canada's richest city, but access to opportunity is increasingly out of reach for too many. The Region's gap between the richest 1% and the rest is the second biggest in Canada, and income inequality among Toronto's households is growing at twice the national average. We now have the dubious distinction of being Canada's capital of working poverty (moving increasingly into the outer suburbs). Two working parents with two young children each need to earn at least \$18.52 an hour to make ends meet. Meanwhile, with "epidemic" levels of child and family poverty in Toronto, the City is developing a Poverty Reduction Strategy.

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

Inequality appears to have narrowed in Canada over the past six years, but has it really?

- [Statistics Canada figures](#) show that the share of income (not adjusted for inflation) going to the top 1% of income earners in Canada declined between 2006 and 2012, from 12.15% to 10.3%. Median incomes of the other 99% rose nearly 5% (from \$28,900 to \$30,300) over the same period, marking the first prolonged period since 1982 where they gained any ground on the wealthy.
- However, the [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#) argues that this slight thinning of the inequality gap is due less to any structural economic changes to increase income for the bottom 99% and more to a fluctuation of income in the top 1%.
 - Despite the slight gain from 2006-2012, the median income for the bottom 99% of Canadians has risen by a paltry 3.6% between 1982 and 2012, while the top 1% have enjoyed an almost 50% increase in theirs.³¹⁸

Toronto's grade on equality of income distribution from the Board of Trade remained unchanged in 2014, after a year when it had improved:

- With a score again of 0.40 on the Gini coefficient, the Toronto Region retained its 11th place ranking out of 24 global metropolitan centres on the Toronto Region Board of Trade's 2015 [Scorecard on Prosperity](#), unchanged from Scorecard 2014 (when it had moved up from 14th place).
 - The Gini coefficient uses a spectrum to measure income distribution (it does not consider real levels of poverty or prosperity in society). 0 represents perfect equality, and 1 represents perfect inequality (or one person has all the income, and the rest of the population has nothing).
- The ranking keeps Toronto ahead of Calgary and Vancouver, and behind Halifax.
 - Montréal (0.39), Toronto, and Vancouver (0.42) all received "B" grades, and Calgary (0.43) a "C," while Halifax was the only city outside Europe to earn an "A."
- The top five cities, and six of the top seven, are European, while US cities continue to dominate the other end of the rankings, occupying seven of the bottom eight places this year.³¹⁹



The gap between the richest 1% in the Region and the rest of the Region's income earners remains the second biggest in Canada:

- In 2012 the top 1% (66,840 people versus 68,230 in 2011) of individual tax filers in the Toronto Region shared 17.4% of the total declared income.
- Although their share has dropped from 18.1% in 2011, their median incomes have continued to rise—to \$322,200 in 2012 (up from \$314,500 in 2011 and \$301,200 in 2010). Two-thirds of their income (65.2%) came from wages and salaries.
- Toronto's disparity is second only to Calgary. Although the median income of the top 1% is lower there at \$309,500, the wealth is even more concentrated at the top—30,655 people share 25.1% of declared income.³²⁰

Toronto Region's Top 1% vs. other Canadian Cities and Canada, 2012:³²¹

Area	Number in top 1%	Income share	Median income	% from wages/salaries
Toronto Region	66,840	17.4%	\$322,200	65.2%
Vancouver	20,355	12.3%	\$302,400	61.4%
Calgary	30,655	25.1%	\$309,500	77.4%
Regina	1,720	8.1%	\$295,900	66.8%
Montréal	28,875	10.4%	\$301,500	53.3%
Halifax	2,240	7.3%	\$292,800	56.1%
Canada	261,365	10.3%	\$299,000	63.4%

- Meanwhile, the Region's top 10% shared 43.1% of total declared income in 2012.³²² Their average incomes grew by 1.6% between 2011 and 2012.³²³

In what ways does income affect opportunities to "get ahead" in the city?

Two working parents with two young children need to each earn a minimum of \$18.52 an hour just to make ends meet in Toronto:

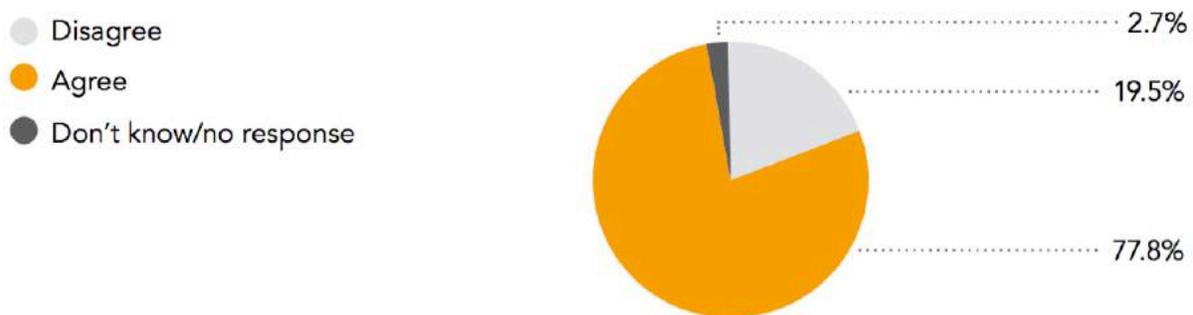
- A new Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives [report](#) updates Toronto's 2008 living wage by drawing on a national methodological framework (based on a hypothetical two-parent family with two children, aged 7 and 3).
- The Provincially calculated minimum wage of \$11 an hour leaves workers far below the poverty line, especially if they have dependants, because it does not take into account the expenses necessary for a family to meet its basic needs.
- While a living wage counts both employment and government transfer income, it also recognizes that things like rent, transportation, childcare, food, clothing, internet, and laundry costs are basics.
 - It does not, however, consider any "extravagances" like saving for childrens' post-secondary education, and it does not acknowledge that many working families are carrying debt.
- Since 2008 (when the living wage was estimated at \$16.60 per hour), the cost of childcare in Toronto increased by 30%, rent 13%, and public transit 36%.
- To afford just the basics in Toronto in 2013, each parent in the hypothetical four-person family needed to earn \$18.52 per hour (working 37.5 hours per week). Their expenses for one year totalled \$65,870.55 and included (among other things):
 - \$7,639.29 for food,
 - \$14,220.00 for rent (two-bedroom apartment),
 - \$8,189.10 for transport (\$6,506.50 for a car and \$1,682.50 for public transit),
 - \$16,999.45 for childcare,
 - \$1,200.00 for cellphone bills,
 - \$1,037.16 for laundry,
 - \$1,036.76 for a family vacation, and
 - \$2,533.48 in "contingency" money.
- More than 1.5 million people in the Toronto Region earned less than \$21 an hour in 2013.

- A living wage of \$18.52 an hour would make a huge difference particularly in the lives of families who work in the retail and service sectors, where lower-waged workers are concentrated. In 2013 the median wage was \$12.95 an hour in the retail sector, \$14 an hour in administrative support services, and \$11.50 an hour in accommodation and food services.³²⁴

Income inequality among Toronto households is growing at twice the national average, placing access to opportunity increasingly out of reach for too many who live here, shifting the way our city works, and compromising our reputation as “Toronto the Good”:

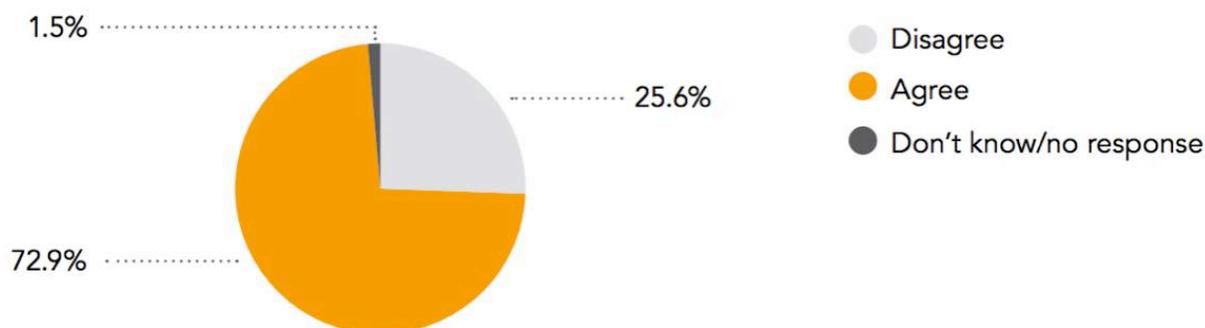
- A United Way Toronto and York Region [report](#) examining growing income inequality and what it means for access to opportunity shows that at 31%, Toronto’s income inequality growth over 25 years (1980-2005) was double the national rate (14%) and almost double the province’s (17%).
 - Toronto fares worse than other major Canadian cities. Although Calgary is not far behind at 28%, Vancouver (17%) and Montréal (15%) have much lower rates of inequality growth.
 - Average household incomes in the poorest 10% of neighbourhoods increased by only 2%, while those in the richest 10% of neighbourhoods rose by 80%.
- The concentration of poverty in Toronto is also growing. The income divide between neighbourhoods has grown by 96% between 1980 and 2010.
- In light of deteriorating job quality, 38% of Torontonians surveyed in 2014 for the report believe that good opportunities are not available to everyone.
 - A third of those surveyed feel worse off relative to the previous generation and to where they thought they would be 10 years ago.
 - Almost 80% believe that many people are disadvantaged because of their background and have to work much harder than others of equal talent to overcome the obstacles they face.³²⁵

Background has a Real Impact on Life Chances:³²⁶



- A majority (73%) believe that hard work and determination are no guarantee that a person will be successful in Toronto.³²⁷

Hard Work is Not Enough to Get Ahead:³²⁸

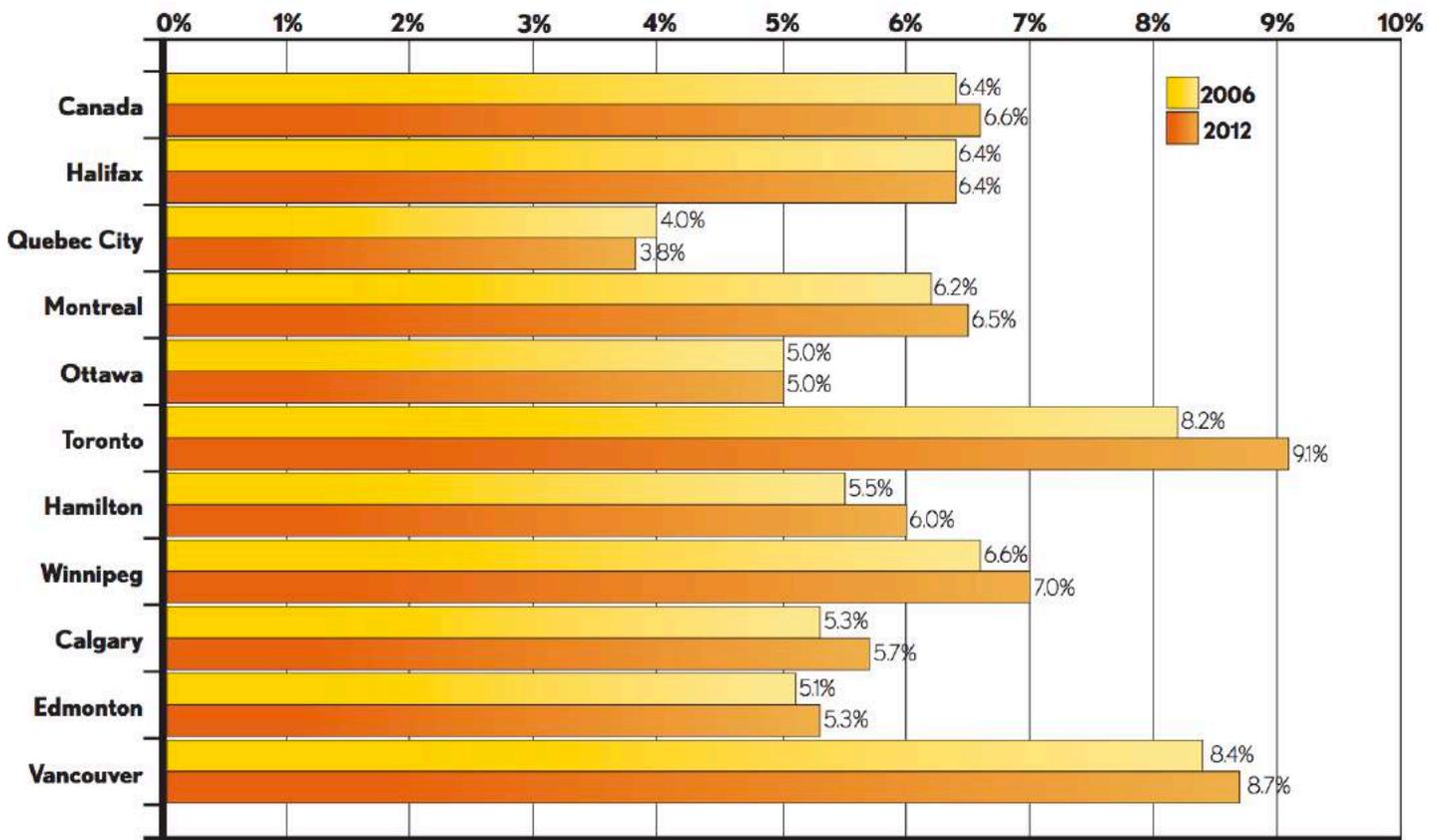


- Troublingly, inequality is generating pessimism about the future. Only 17.4% of those surveyed think the next generation will be better off. A majority (52.1%) think they will be worse off.
 - Youth are already in trouble: Toronto's youth unemployment rate for 2014 was almost 22%,³²⁹ significantly higher than the national rate (of about 14%³³⁰).
- Despite the pessimism, 95% of respondents believe they can make a difference where they live—24.4% believe they can make "a small impact," 40.2% "a moderate impact," and 30.6% "a big impact."
- The report offers a blueprint for action based on three goals:
 - ensuring young people have the opportunities they need to build a good future,
 - promoting jobs as a pathway to stability and security, and
 - removing barriers to opportunity based on background and circumstances.³³¹

Toronto is now being called "the Downton Abbey of Canada," with a growing class of working poor serving the needs of a well-to-do knowledge class³³²:

- A new [report](#) from the Metcalf Foundation finds that while Toronto is by most measures Canada's richest city, we also have the dubious distinction of being its working poverty capital.
- Between 2006 and 2012, working poverty increased from 9.9% to 10.7% of the working-age population in the city of Toronto, and from 8.2% to 9.1% in the Toronto CMA—the highest among Canada's 10 largest CMAs.³³³

Percentage of Working Poor Individuals Among the Working-Age Population,
Canada and 10 CMAs, 2006 and 2012:³³⁴

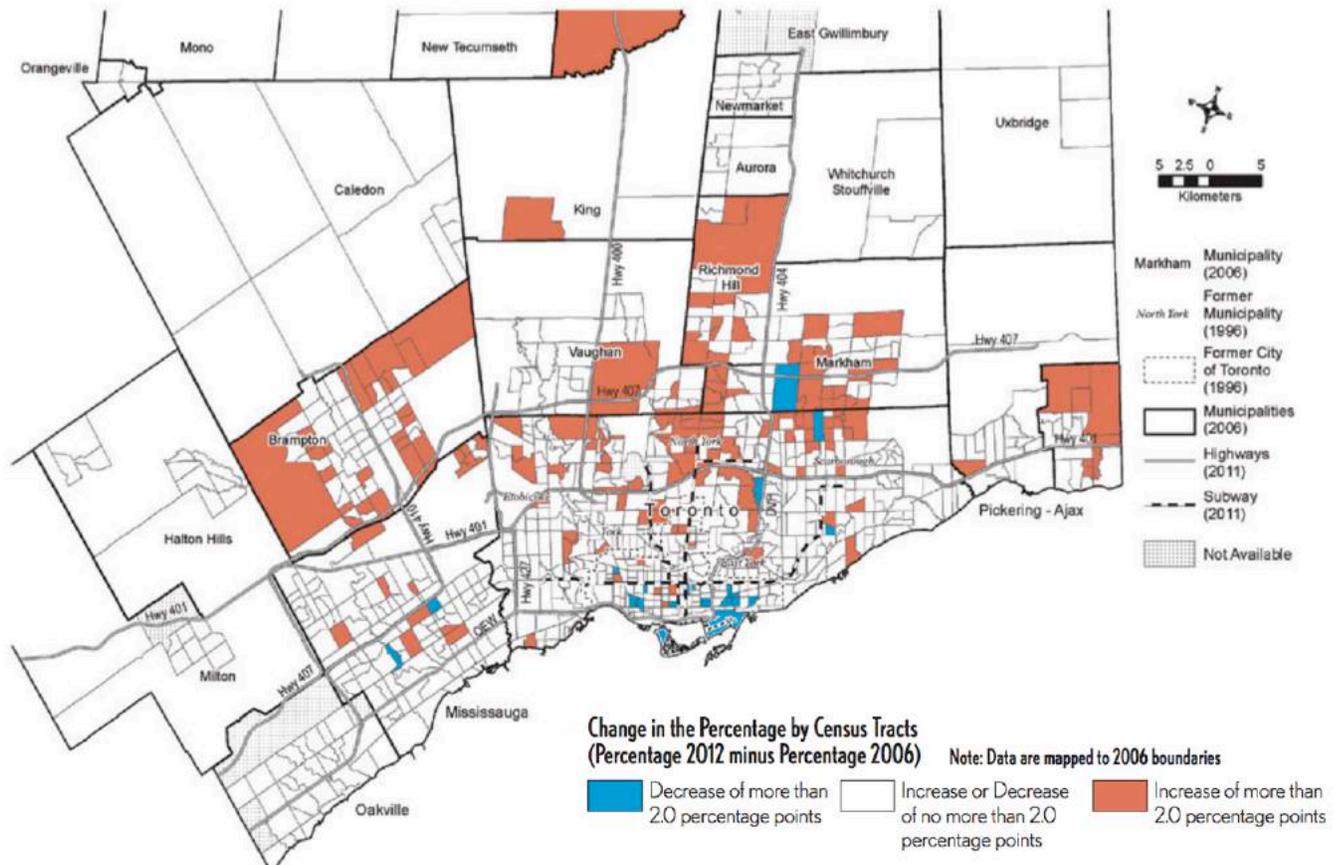


Note: Working age population defined as individuals who are between 18 and 64, non-students and living on their own. Working status refers to persons having earnings no less than \$3,000. Poor status refers to individuals with census family income below the Low Income Measure (50% of adjusted after-tax median income of all Canadians). Working poor status 2006 and 2012 determined from taxfiler data (T1FF).

- Although the rate of increase of working poverty has moderated—10.7% in 2006-2012 compared to 39% in 2000-2005—the increase is actually still “perplexing and troubling” because increasing incomes, declining employment figures, and government interventions between 2006 and 2010 should have helped offset growth of the working poor:
 - the minimum wage increased by 37.6%,
 - three new income supplements were introduced (the Working Income Tax Benefit, the Ontario Child Benefit, and the Universal Child Care Benefit), and
 - overall employment rates fell (by 2.7%, from 63.8% in 2006 to 61.1% in 2012) while the number of individuals collecting welfare increased.
- Rising property values, long wait lists for subsidized housing, and higher private market rents are resulting in the “Manhattanization” of Toronto, with working poverty moving northward away from the downtown core and increasingly into the outer suburbs. Mapping working poverty in the Toronto CMA from 2006 to 2012 shows that:
 - North York and Scarborough have the highest levels; and
 - While the area south of the Bloor-Danforth corridor saw reductions in working poverty in 17 census tracts and increases in only four, between Highway 401 and Steeles Avenue 39 census tracts saw increases and only one saw a reduction.

Working poverty grew by 26% in Markham, 22% in Brampton, and 21% in Richmond Hill.

Change in Percentage of Working Poor Individuals Among Working-Age Population, After-Tax, Toronto CMA, 2006–2012.³³⁵



- The report concludes that higher wages, better job stability, and more effective support programs are needed to respond to the trend towards working poverty and to create both the labour market and the society Torontonians want. Toronto could reduce and even eventually eradicate working poverty.³³⁶

Is Toronto on its way to becoming an “elite citadel”?

- Toronto ranks 14th on a list of global cities with the most ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), defined as those with \$30M or more in net assets.
- [The Wealth Report](#), published by independent real estate consultancy Knight Frank, maps the global super-rich and finds Toronto has a total of 1,216 of these individuals within the city, representing 0.7% of the total global UHNWI population.
- Controlling for population, i.e., on a per capita basis of 100,000 residents, Toronto shifts to 13th place with 20.1 UHNWIs per 100,000 residents.
- Toronto has not evolved beyond gentrification to “plutocratisation,” in which “global cities...are turning into vast gated communities where the one percent reproduces itself” (a phenomenon being experienced by the “superstar cities” topping the list:



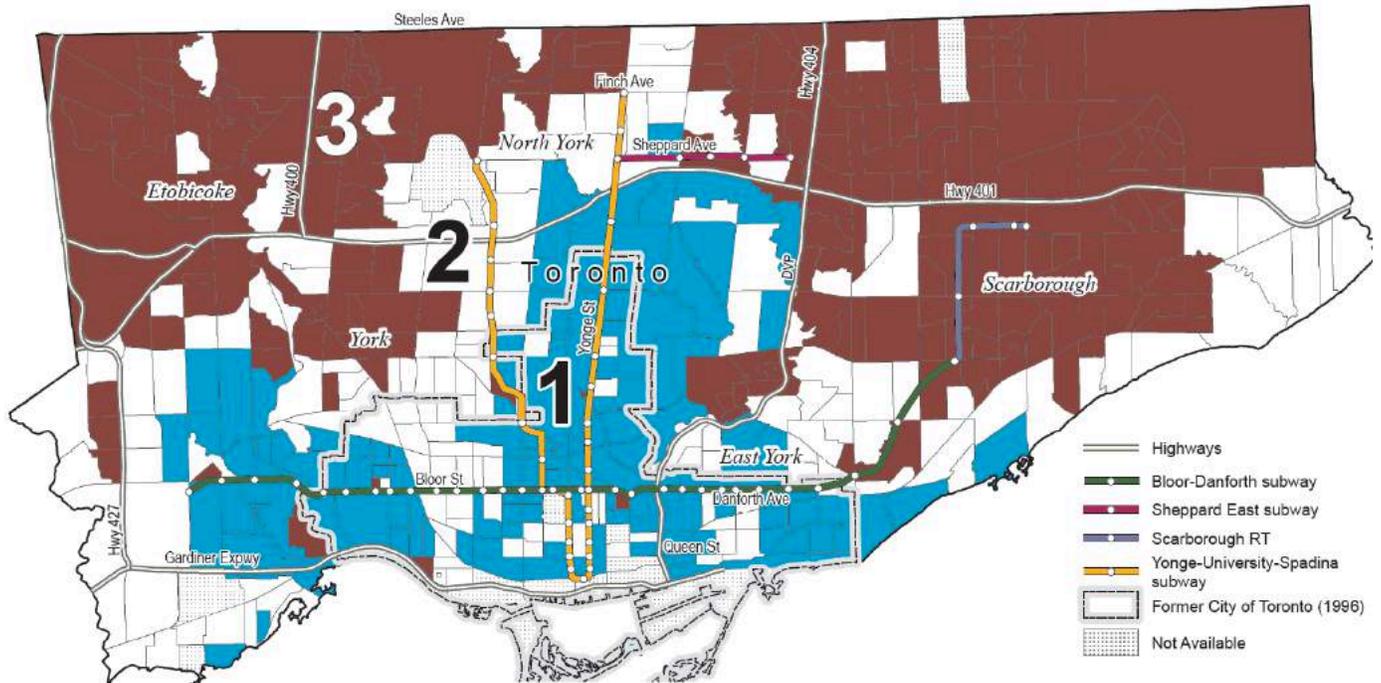
London, Singapore, New York, Hong Kong, and Paris). However, as in other global cities, our growing divide threatens the creativity and diversity that underpin growth.³³⁷

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

Toronto is an increasingly divided city. Our middle-income neighbourhoods are continuing to disappear as polarization continues to grow:

- Research from the University of Toronto documenting the 40-year pattern of income trends that transformed the mostly middle-income Toronto of the 1980s into “[Three Cities](#)” was first highlighted in Toronto’s Vital Signs Report in 2009.
 - The trend was identified as being not limited to Toronto, so since 2012, the research has continued through a new [Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership](#) (NCRP) at the University’s [Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work](#). The researchers continue to examine income inequality and polarization, spatially expressed at the neighbourhood level (using census tracts as the units of analysis).³³⁸
- New analysis of 2012 tax filer data shows the long-term trend saw average incomes increase significantly in 28% of census tracts (“City 1”), especially in the core, while they decreased dramatically in 40% of census tracts, mostly in the inner suburbs—particularly northwest Etobicoke and northeast Scarborough (“City 3”).
 - In between is a shrinking swath of middle-income earners with no significant increase or decrease in income (“City 2”). In 1990, 68% of the city’s census tracts had this profile. In 2012 just 32% did.
- Just under half of Toronto’s population lives in neighbourhoods that are low-income, 21% high-income, and only 30% middle-income.³³⁹

Neighbourhood Income Change: City of Toronto, 2012 vs. 1970



Data Sources:
 Statistics Canada, Census Profile Series 1971
 Canada Revenue Agency, Taxfiler data, 2012

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHANGE | Research Partnership
www.NeighbourhoodChange.ca

Change in census tract average individual income compared to the Toronto CMA average, 2012 versus 1970

- Increase of 20% or More (146 CTs; 28% of the City)
- Increase or Decrease is Less than 20% (165 CTs; 32% of the City)
- Decrease of 20% or More (207 CTs; 40% of the City)

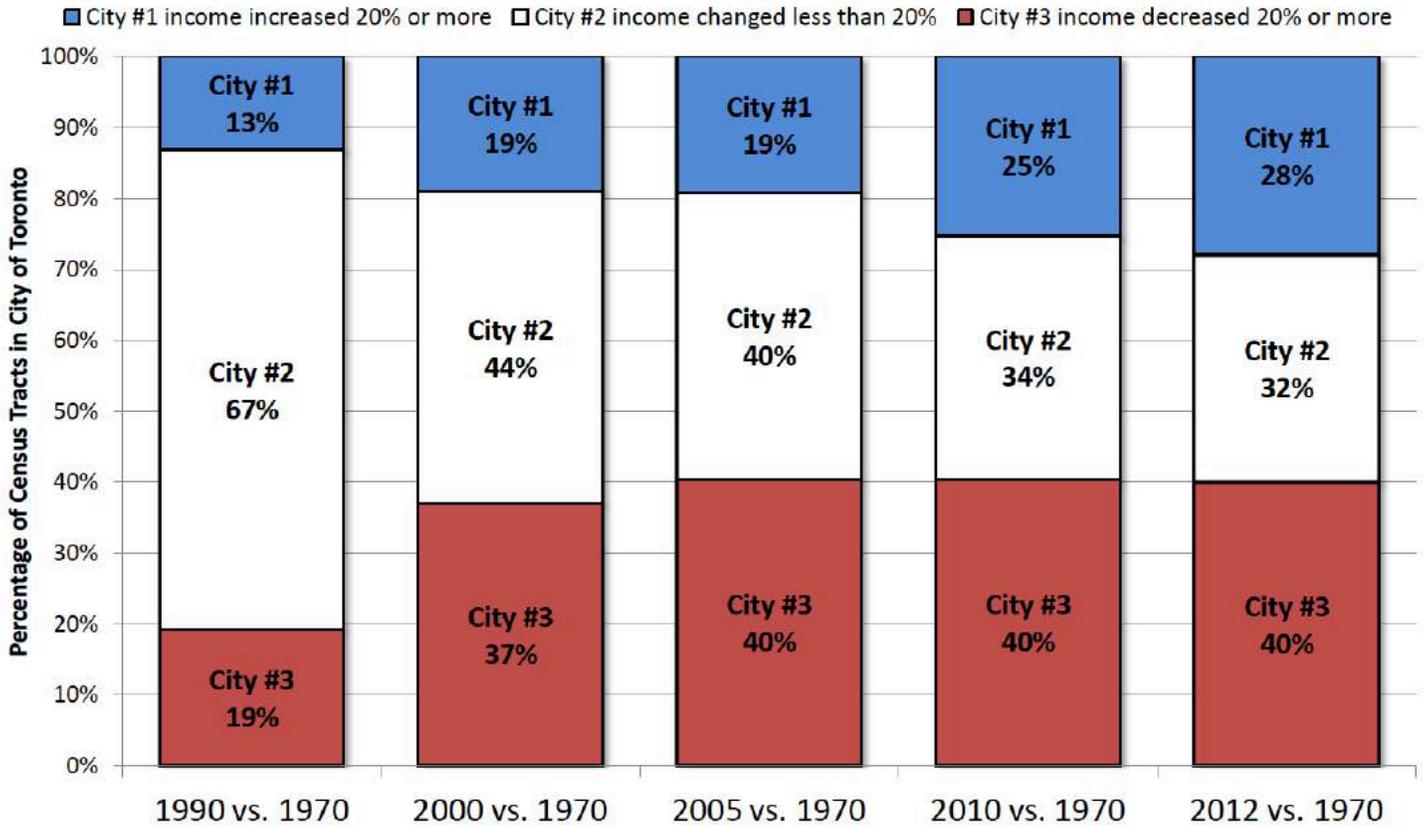
Individual income for persons 15 and over, from all sources, before-tax.

Change is in terms of percentage points. The 2012 average individual income of the census tract is divided by the metropolitan area average for that year and the same is done for 1970. The difference (2012 minus 1970) is multiplied by 100 to produce the percentage point change for each census tract.

Census tract boundaries are held constant to Census 2001 (518 CTs).

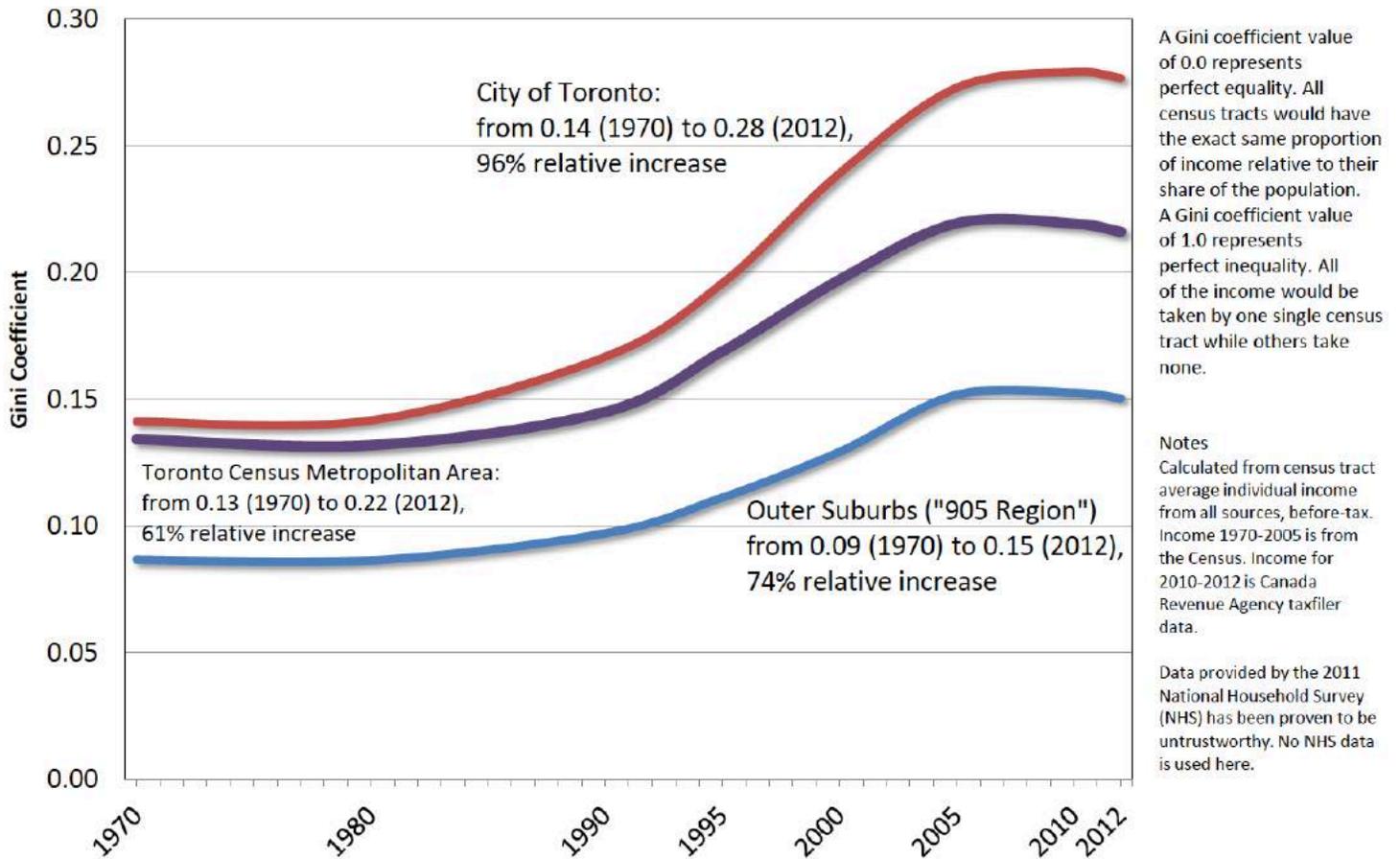
December 2014

Neighbourhood Income Change in Toronto's Three Cities, 1990-2012 vs. 1970:



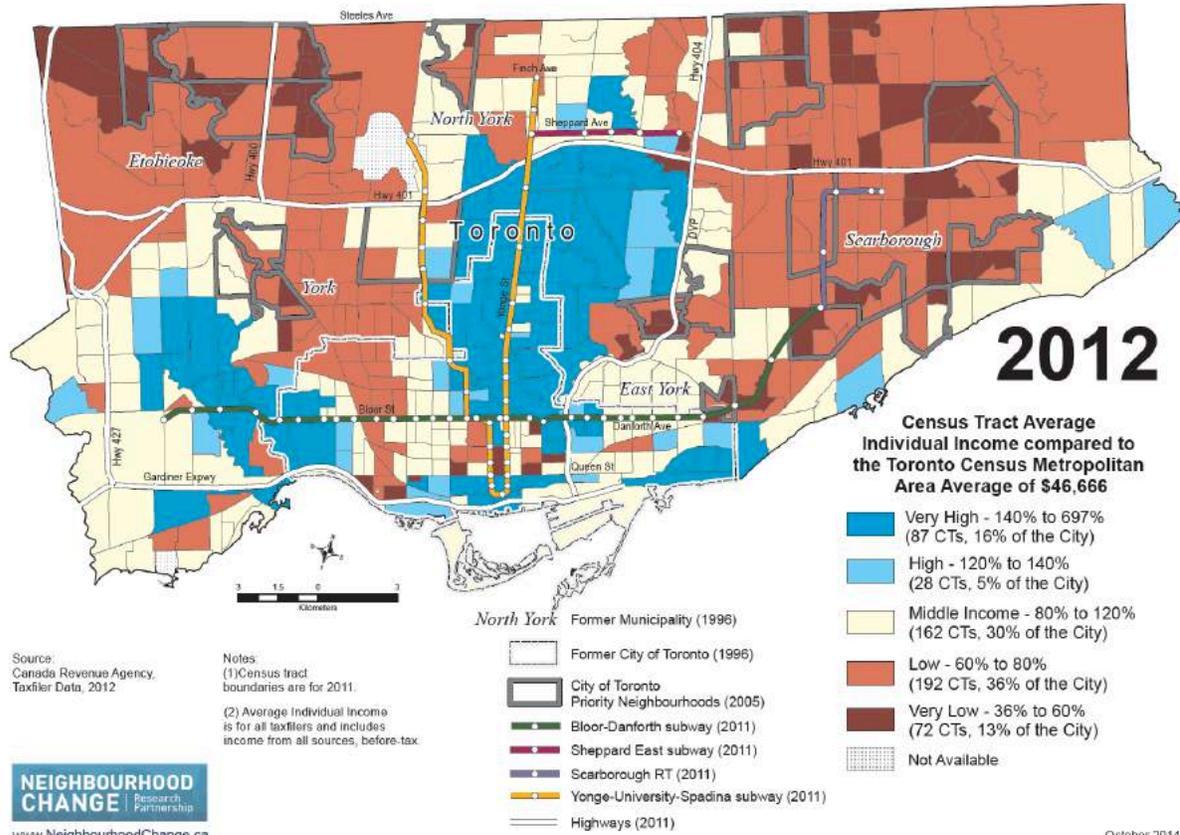
Based on census tract average individual income from all sources, before-tax. City #1 defined as census tracts which increased in average individual income relative to the metropolitan average by 20 percentage points or more. City #2 census tracts changed less than 20 percentage point increase or decrease. City #3 census tracts decreased by 20 percentage points or more. Census tract boundaries are held constant to census 2001 for all years. Taxfiler incomes used for 2010 and 2012.

Income Equality Between Census Tracts Using Gini Coefficient, 1970-2012:



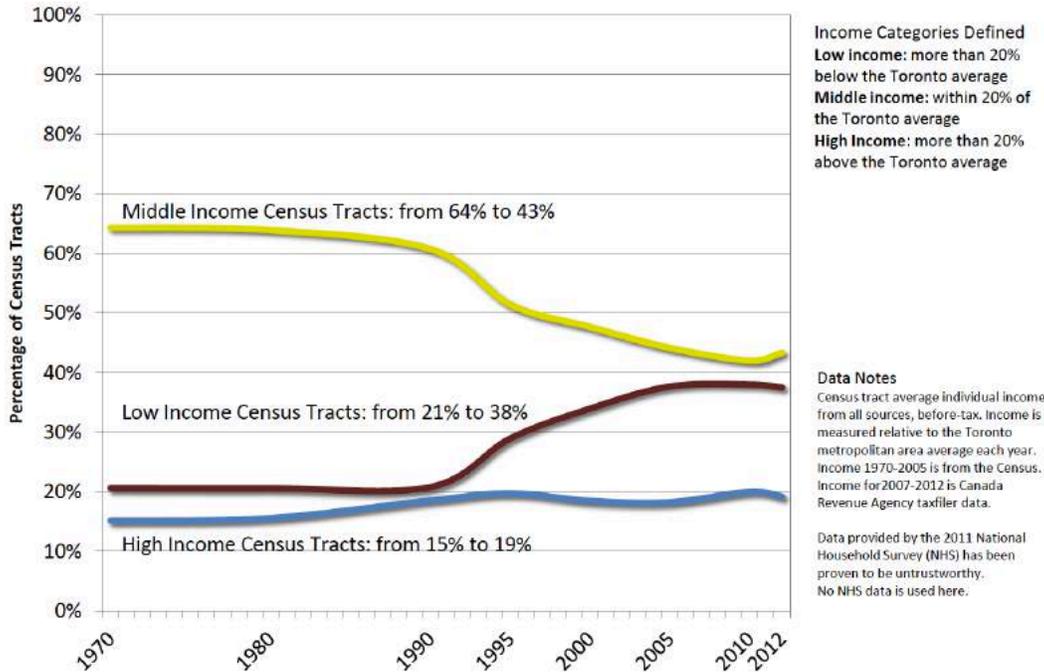
- Between 1970 and 2012, income inequality between census tracts grew 74% in the outer suburbs, 61% in the CMA, and an astounding 96% in the city of Toronto.

Average Individual Income, City of Toronto, 2012:



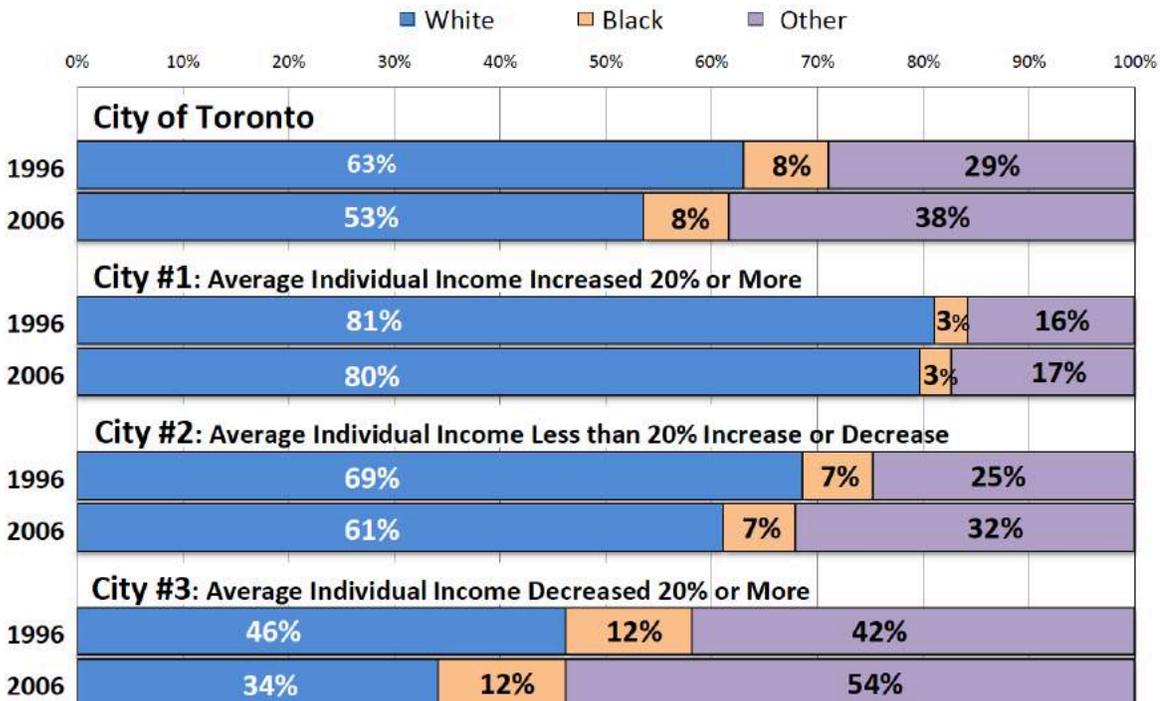
October 2014

Changing Income Distribution in the Toronto Metropolitan Area, 1970-2012:



- Income inequality is racialized. Whites comprise ever-smaller proportions of Cities 2 and 3, while their numbers have remained relatively stable in City 1, where incomes are growing.

Three Cities Population by Visible Minority Status, 1996 and 2006:

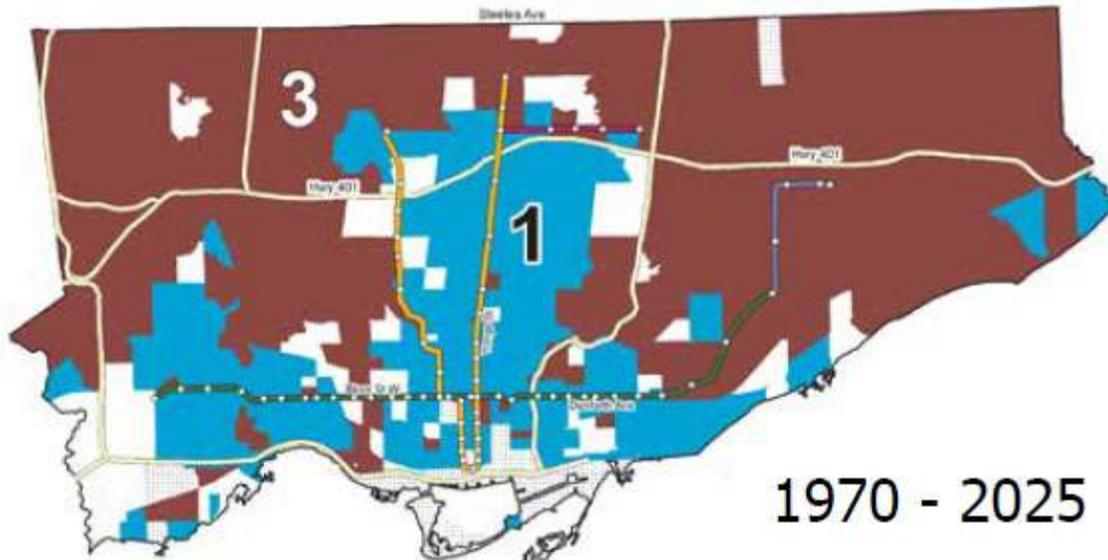


Notes: Income is census tract average individual income for persons 15 and over, before-tax. Income is measured relative to Toronto average, and change is in terms of percentage points, 2010 versus 1970. Income 2010 is for all taxfilers. Constant 2001 census tracts boundaries.

The researchers warn that if nothing changes—that is, if the trends of income equality and partitioning of urban space and resulting socio-spatial and ethno-cultural divides continue—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.³⁴⁰

What Toronto’s Three Increasingly Distinct “Cities” Could Look Like by 2025:³⁴¹



Note: Projections dependent on 2005 data and no future policy changes.

How are Toronto’s children and youth and their families faring, and are we making any progress in reducing poverty?

Median incomes of low-income families in the Region have risen:

- 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 \$14,930 in 2013, up 9.2% from 2010 (\$13,670), 4% from 2011 (\$14,350), and 2% from 2012 (\$14,630).³⁴²
 - Comparatively, the median total annual family income of all census families in the Region in 2013 was \$72,830 (an increase of 31.7% from \$55,300 in 2000 but 4.9% lower than the national level of \$76,550) and 4.8% lower than the provincial level of \$76,510).³⁴³

Social assistance caseloads in the city of Toronto continue to drop, but they have still not reached pre-recession levels:

- The average monthly social assistance caseload for January to October 2014 was 92,771. As of October 2014 the social assistance caseload totalled 90,202 cases, 5.6% less than a year earlier, and well below budgeted levels.

- Although the trend is positive, the total caseload remains much higher than before the recession. Cases numbered 76,867 in December 2008.³⁴⁴

Child poverty rates are decreasing nationally and provincially:



- Canada's child poverty decreased 2.44% from 2008-2012, placing us 11th out of 41 OECD countries on a UNICEF [index](#) measuring change in child poverty levels.
 - Child poverty increased in the US and the UK (they ranked 27th and 25th respectively, with increases of 2.06% and 1.6%).³⁴⁵
- Between 2008 and 2011, Ontario's poverty reduction strategy made some headway in meeting its child poverty reduction goal of 25%, by lifting 47,000 children and their families out of poverty. It prevented 61,000 children and their families from falling into poverty in 2011 alone.³⁴⁶

Building on the success of its previous five-year strategy, the Province's new Poverty Reduction Strategy has set a long-term goal of ending homelessness in the province, beginning with examining ways to define and measure homelessness:

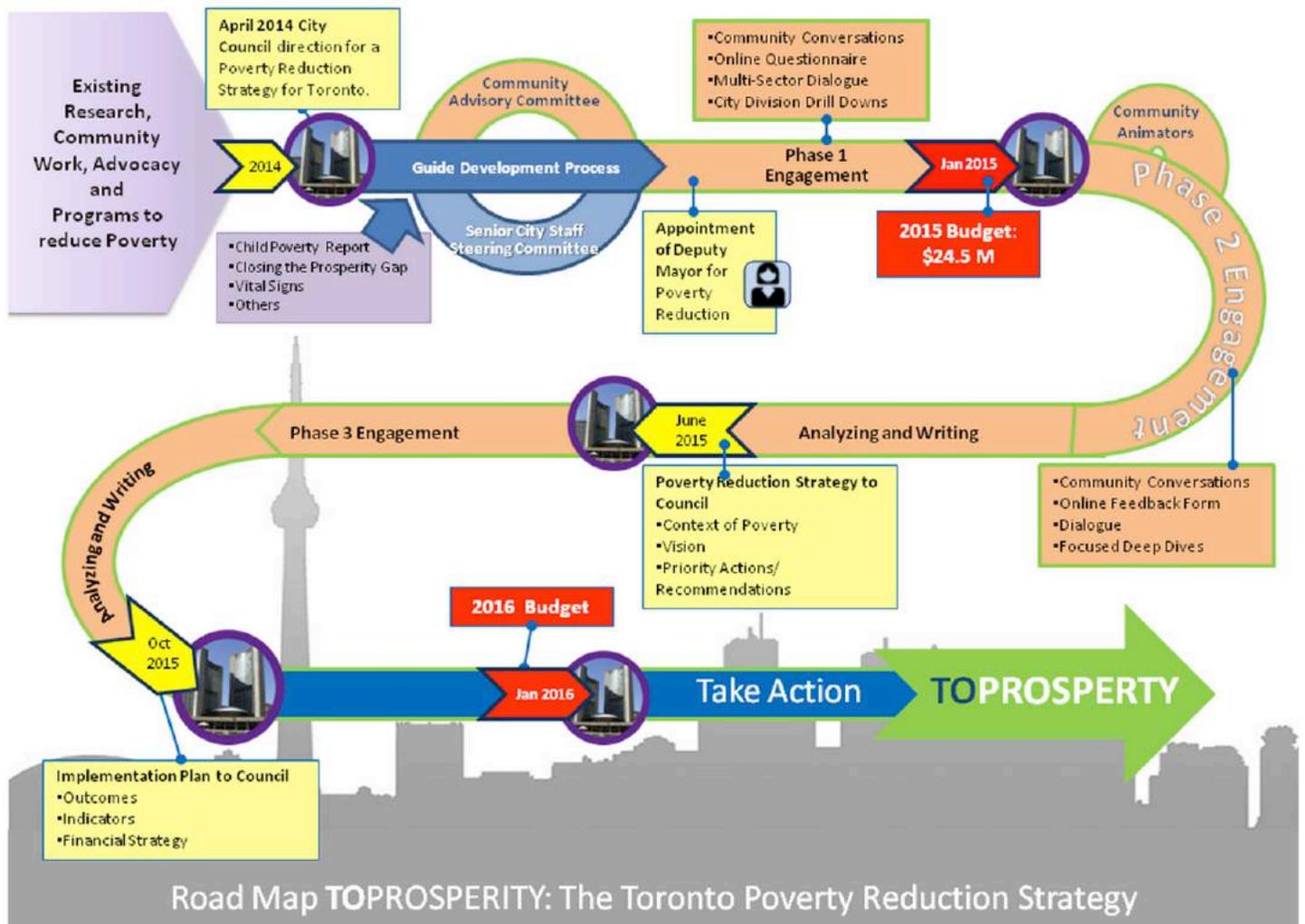
- The first step in Ontario's [Poverty Reduction Strategy 2014-2019](#) will be to try to measure the homelessness scenario in the province by working with researchers and experts, including people with lived experience, to set a baseline and establish a future homelessness target.
- The strategy emphasizes employment and income security by focusing on support systems—employment opportunities, income supports, and education—for those who are homeless or at high risk of becoming so, including youth and people with addictions and disabilities. For example,
 - Programs targeting youth at risk, such as summer programs that boost learning and programs that build community in urban high schools, will tackle obstacles to educational achievement.
 - The Province is proposing to index the minimum wage to the Ontario Consumer Price Index to ensure that it keeps up with the cost of living. Meanwhile, it invests \$1B annually in the Ontario Child Benefit, which makes it easier for working parents to avoid turning to social assistance (the benefit provides some support to the families of about a million children in over 500,000 low-to-moderate-income families).
 - The strategy also aims to connect more people with employment, especially vulnerable populations.
- Since 2003, the Province has committed over \$4B to affordable housing initiatives and promises to continue the process by working with the federal government to build and renovate affordable units.
- The Province reports that since the first Poverty Reduction Strategy was launched in 2008 its indicators have trended in a positive direction.³⁴⁷

The City is implementing its own Poverty Reduction Strategy:

- In April 2014, Toronto City Council voted unanimously to develop a poverty reduction strategy, and in the City's 2015 Budget process devoted \$24.5M to it.³⁴⁸
- In July 2015, Council approved an amended Interim Poverty Strategy (called TOProsperity) which included a vision, three overarching objectives, six issue areas, 24 recommendations and 74 actions. Throughout the summer and fall of 2015, City staff will create plans to implement the three key objectives identified in the strategy:

- Address immediate needs: ensure that essential services are effective, well funded, coordinated, and meet the needs of those living in poverty.
- Create pathways to prosperity: improve the quality of jobs in the city, attract investments to low income areas, and ensure that City programs and services are integrated, client-centered, and focused on early intervention.
- Drive Systemic Change: create a more accountable and participatory government, where reducing poverty and inequality is an integral part of day-to-day business.³⁴⁹

Roadmap to Reducing Poverty in Toronto³⁵⁰



Housing First—credited to Canadian psychologist Sam J. Tsemberis—is an innovative approach to end homelessness that is increasingly gaining interest from policy makers and throughout the service delivery sector:

- The concept is premised on the following understandings:
 - The majority of people experiencing homelessness have mental health issues that are often coupled with substance abuse, and thus the only way to eradicate

homelessness is to provide all-encompassing mental health and addiction support services.

- The best way to reach people with services is to go to them, in their own home. The efficacy of the stabilizing factor of housing works only in an environment where sobriety is not a requirement (aligned with the best practice of harm reduction).
- Giving people housing first (“Housing first, as advocates like to say, but not housing only”) allows for sobriety and reintegration into society.
- Multiple [studies](#) have shown that this approach is among the most effective.³⁵¹
- Medicine Hat, Alberta, has become the first city in Canada to claim that it has nearly eliminated homelessness by using a Housing First strategy. Of course hidden homelessness, housing precarity, and other critical social challenges continue to plague many members of that community.³⁵²



[The Homeless Hub](#) is a leading Toronto-based resource working to address homelessness in Canada, including youth homelessness:

- Along with [Covenant House](#), the Homeless Hub, has created a [Youth Transitional Housing Toolkit](#) as a resource for shelters, housing providers, youth-serving agencies and others that help at-risk and homeless youth move towards independence.³⁵³
- The Homeless Hub is also working to develop an in-depth [national youth homelessness survey](#), the first of its kind in Canada, to gather informative local data from community agencies and their clients from across the country to better understand the problem and to design permanent and effective solutions.

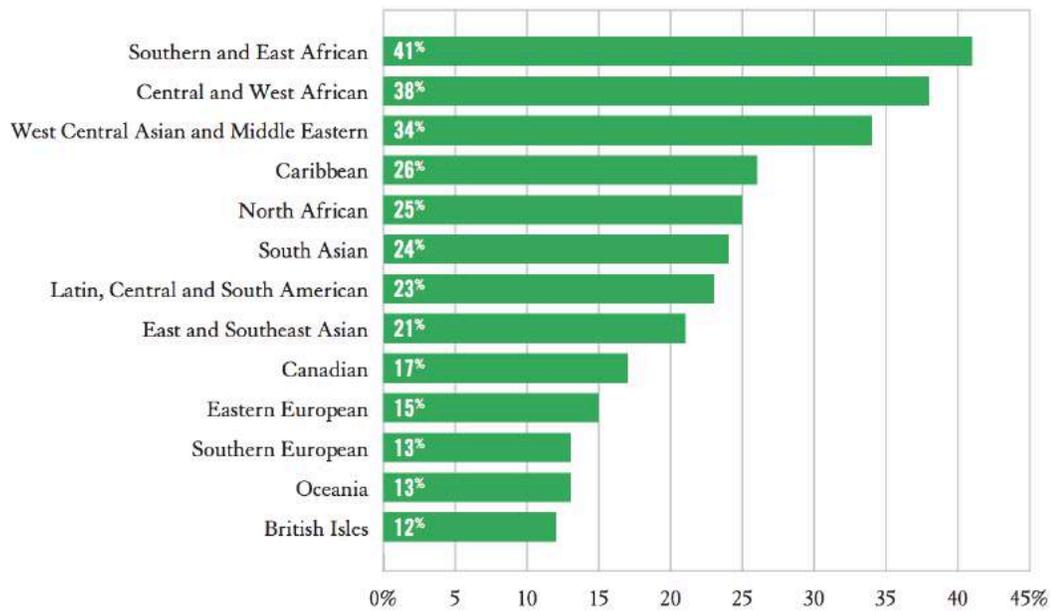
A 2014 [report](#) from [The Alliance for a Poverty-free Toronto](#) and [Social Planning Toronto](#) revealed that Toronto is experiencing a “hidden epidemic” of child and family poverty that varies significantly by race and ethnicity:

- The number of children living in low-income families increased by over 10,000 between 2010 and 2012, to 145,890—almost one third (29%) of Toronto’s children, the highest rate in the GTHA. But poverty varies significantly by where in the city these children live, and by their race and ethnicity.
 - People of African, Asian, Middle Eastern, Caribbean, and Latin American backgrounds are much more likely to be living on low incomes. Those of African and Middle Eastern backgrounds are about three times more likely to experience poverty than those of European backgrounds, based on calculations using the After Tax Low-Income Measure (LIM-AT).³⁵⁴

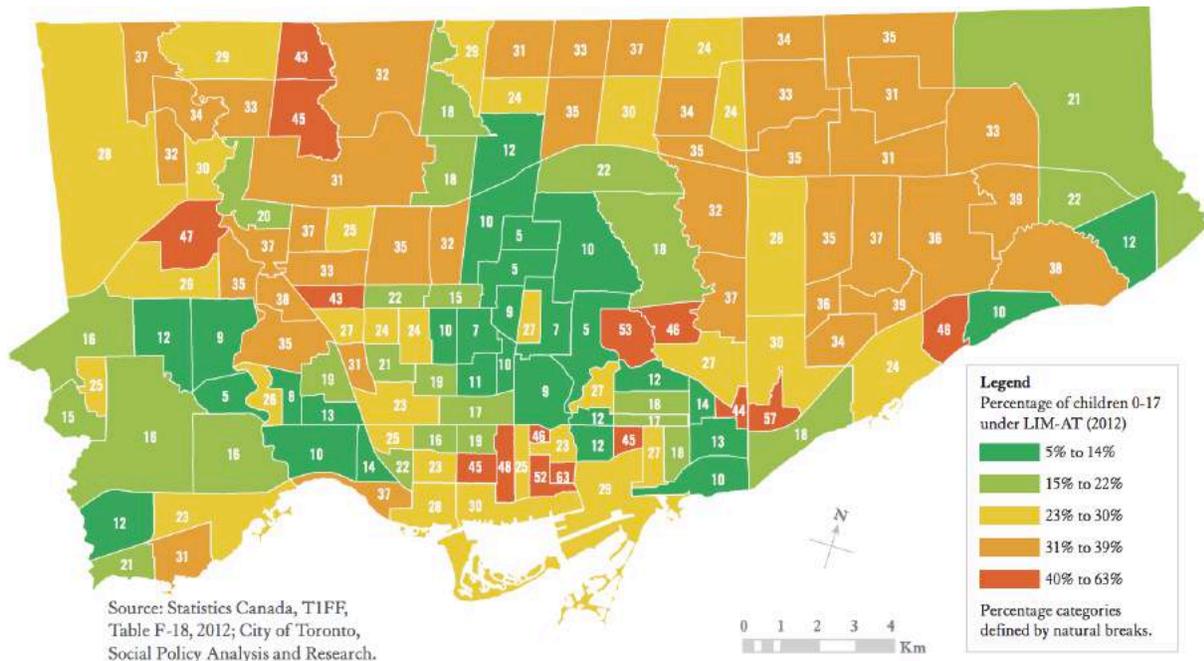


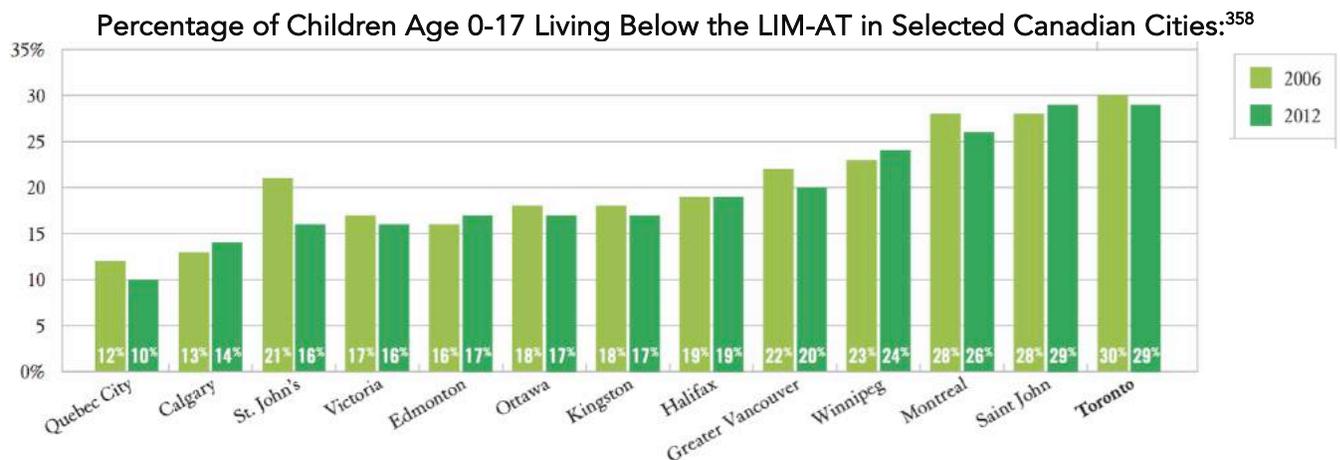
[The Alliance for a Poverty-free Toronto](#) and [Social Planning Toronto](#) report that in 2012, less than 5% of children in Lawrence Park North and South, Leaside-Bennington, and Kingsway South lived in low-income families. But in some neighbourhoods—Regent Park, Moss Park, Thorncliffe Park, and Oakridge—poverty was 10 times worse, with over 50% of children living in low-income families.³⁵⁵

Percentage of Individuals by Ethnic Origin Living Below the LIM-AT in Toronto:³⁵⁶



Percentage of Children (0-17) under the LIM-AT Living in Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 2012:³⁵⁷





City of Toronto, Statistics Canada T1FF, 2006 and 2012.
 Cities were selected based on population size and regional distribution across Canada.

What does food insecurity look like in Toronto?

Lack of income and an unsustainable food system deprive Torontonians of access to the safe, healthy and affordable food that is their basic right, but Community Food Centres (CFCs) are changing lives by bringing people together to grow, cook, share, and advocate for good food:

- Household food insecurity and diet-related illness disproportionately affect the poor and have enormous social, economic, environmental, and health-related costs.³⁵⁹
- A [report](#) from Community Food Centres Canada demonstrates the impact of CFCs by reporting on four established locations—[The Stop](#) and the [Regent Park Community Food Centre](#) in Toronto, [The Local](#) in Stratford, and [The Table](#) in Perth.
- In 2014, these four CFCs alone served 143,419 healthy meals during 1,053 meal sessions and hosted 136 affordable market sessions.
 - 92% of 348 adult program participants surveyed said their CFC was an important source of healthy food and 82.5% said these community meals have helped them eat more fruits and vegetables.
- The CFCs also held 414 community kitchen sessions teaching basic cooking and food preparation skills and nutrition, and 1,030 community garden sessions (with the thousands of pounds of produce yielded shared between participants and programs). 846 children participated in these educational programs.
 - 79.3% of those surveyed said they had made healthy changes to their diets, and 82.4% of community cooking participants said they have increased confidence in the kitchen.
- 88.7% of respondents with one or more health conditions said participating in CFC programs has helped them manage their condition, 54.5% said involvement has contributed to improvements in their health over the past year, and 60.5% of respondents who participated in the community garden program said they have seen a positive change in their physical fitness level as a result.
- Increased social interaction is a large benefit of CFC programs. 80.8% of people surveyed said they have made new friends at their CFC, and 87.9% say they feel a

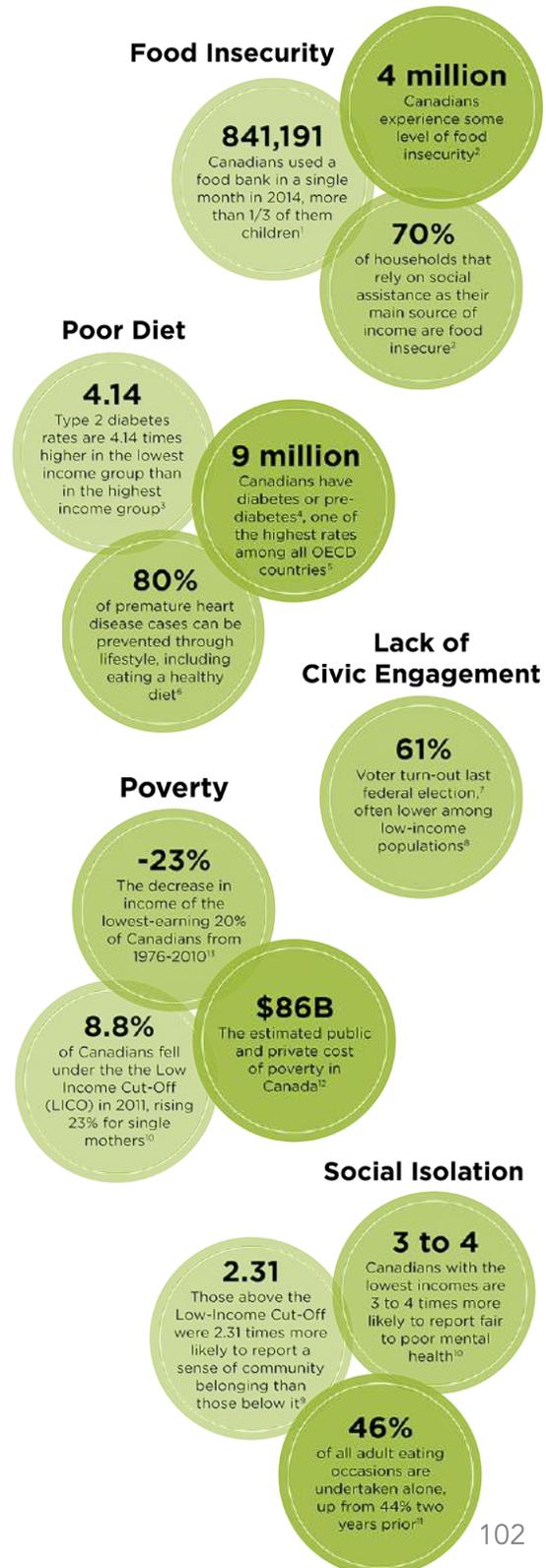
community atmosphere there. 65.4% say they have met at least one person they feel they can go to for advice and would be able to count on in a time of need.

- o 1,217 volunteers contributed 64,394 volunteer hours.³⁶⁰

The monthly cost of a Nutritious Food Basket in 2014 for a family of four in Toronto reached \$835.91, an increase of 5.4% over 2013:³⁶²

- 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 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:
 - o the cost of transporting, storing, and cooking food;
 - o the cost of convenience foods to households that lack the time or skills to plan and prepare meals from scratch; and
 - o the added expense for households of one (it is cheaper to buy food in larger quantities).³⁶³
- o Data available for recent years show the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket has increased steadily: it was \$633.78 in 2009, \$715.28 in 2010, \$748.40 in 2011, \$762.04 in 2012, and \$792.82 in 2013.³⁶⁴
- o 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.

Canada's Complex, Interconnected Food Issues:³⁶¹



Nutritious Food Basket Scenarios, City of Toronto, May 2014:³⁶⁵

(monthly)	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	\$2,320.00	2,955.63	2,116.00	756.00	1,198.00
Average rent (may or may not include hydro)	(3 Bdr.) \$1,444.00	(3 Bdr.) 1,444.00	(2 Bdr.) 1,241.00	(Bachelor) 857.00	(1 Bdr.) 1,050.00
Nutritious food	\$703.96	703.96	532.60	236.06	236.06
Total food and rent	\$2,147.96	2,147.96	1,773.60	1,093.06	1,286.06
Funds remaining*	172.04	807.67	342.40	(337.06)	(88.06)
% income required for rent**	62%	49%	59%	113%	88%

- 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 2014:³⁶⁶

(monthly)	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	\$2,147.96	2,147.96	1,773.60	1,093.06	1,286.06
Cost of TTC Metropass	\$133.75	133.75	133.75	133.75	133.75
Funds remaining	38.29	673.92	208.65	(470.81)	(222.81)

In 2014-2015, visits in Toronto's inner suburbs increased 45% since 2008:

- The [Daily Bread Food Bank's](#) 2015 "Who's Hungry" [report](#) showed that there were 896,900 visits to food banks across the city between April 2014 and March 2015.³⁶⁷ This is an increase from the 883,900 visits between April 2013 and March 2014³⁶⁸ (but still lower than the 937,500 visits between April 2012 and March 2013³⁶⁹)
- Here's what hunger looked like in Toronto in 2014-2015:
 - 32% of food bank users were children (and of those users who are children, 16% go hungry at least once per week because of their family's lack of money).
 - 48% were from single-person households
 - 38% were university or college graduates, and
 - 51% were disabled

- Food banks in Toronto have seen decreasing numbers of newcomers to food banks since 2008, in 2014-2015, 25% of users have been in Toronto four years or less (whereas in 2008, that number was 40%). These trends may be indicative of other data that has been reported in various issue areas of Toronto's Vital Signs Report the last few years which all suggest that Toronto is becoming less of an arrival city for newcomers.³⁷⁰

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](#) – Offering hands on, community and school based arts education

[Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders](#) – Increasing 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 youth experiencing homelessness

[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

[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](#) – Elevating literacy through a wide range of programming

[FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners](#) - Fostering the creation of sustainable communities

[Greenest City](#) - Building healthy neighbourhoods through gardening and the celebration of food

[The Good Neighbours' Club](#) – Welcoming homeless men into a safe space through a drop-in centre

[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](#) - Gathering community together in a place focused on social justice

[John Howard Society](#) – Supporting rehabilitation and re-integration of those in conflict with the law

[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

[Law in Action Within Schools \(LAWS\)](#) – Engaging high school students through education in the legal profession

[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

[Lost Lyrics](#) – Providing alternative education through arts to racialized youth in ‘priority neighbourhoods’

[Lumacare](#) – Providing essential programs and services for the support of seniors

[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](#) – Helping to integrate immigrants and refugees

[Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre \(PARC\)](#) - Working with members of the Parkdale community on issues of poverty and mental health

[Pathways to Education Canada](#) - Helping underserved youth graduate from high school and transition to further education

[PEACH: Promoting Education and Community Health](#) – Transforming the lives of young people through youth-centred, social and educational programs

[Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario](#) - Championing childhood cancer care

[Ralph Thornton Centre](#) - Building the potential of the Riverdale community

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

[Regent Park Focus](#) - Bringing best practices in training and mentorship of youth to broadcasting and digital arts

[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

[Second Harvest](#) - Feeding hungry people by picking up, preparing and delivering excess fresh food to social agencies

[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](#) – Creating a safe space for arts and creativity for young, marginalized people

[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](#) – 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](#) – Giving 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](#) – Providing recreation through basketball for young people 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

Housing

Why is this important?

Safe and affordable housing is key to the 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.³⁷¹

What are the trends?

The City is not living up to its commitment to build 1,000 new units of affordable housing annually between 2010 and 2020. After progress in 2011 and 2012, fewer than 700 new units (rental and affordable ownership) were opened in 2013 and 2014. There are still close to 80,000 Toronto households on the wait list for social housing, and in 2014, family use of the city's shelters increased by 7.9%. 2014 also saw an unusually high number of deaths in shelters. Meanwhile, Toronto housing purchase prices have nearly tripled since the 1970s; the average price remains over half a million dollars.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
1. Number of households on the active waiting list for social housing (Q4)	72,696	77,109	78,248 ³⁷²
2. Number of households housed from the waiting list	3,890	3,698 ³⁷³	3,118 ³⁷⁴
3. Emergency shelter use by single people (average number of individuals per night)	2,917	2,975	3,038 ³⁷⁵
4. Emergency shelter use by families (average number of individuals per night)	928	947	1,022 ³⁷⁶
5. Average market rents (2-bedroom apartment) (October of the year)	\$1,194 ³⁷⁷	\$1,225	\$1,264 ³⁷⁸

What's new?

A decade-long housing boom brought considerable economic benefits to the GTA, but masks structural problems that will take a regional policy approach to tackle. The GTHA Growth Plan failed to strategically direct intensification to areas where it would have the most benefit, a new study concludes. Three-bedroom condos meant to keep people in the core once they started families are too expensive and too small for them. There are some bright spots on the housing horizon, however. Toronto's largest social housing provider has a 10-year plan for investment and revitalization, we've opened Canada's first transitional housing for LGBTQ* youth, and a zoning change will allow Toronto's "apartment neighbourhoods" to transform into healthy, vibrant, and more equitable communities.

How much does it cost to call Toronto home?

Toronto housing purchase prices have nearly tripled since the 1970s:

- A Toronto Real Estate Board [survey](#) of Toronto housing prices has found that a home in 2014 cost almost three times as much as it did in 1971 (in constant 2014 dollars).
- In the 43 years between 1971 and 2014, prices rose an average of 3% each year (today they are triple what they were in the 1970s). After a drop in the first half of the 90s, prices have been rising since 1997 (other than a recession-related anomaly in 2008).³⁸⁰

Home sales in Toronto remain below 2011 levels as the average price remains over half a million dollars:

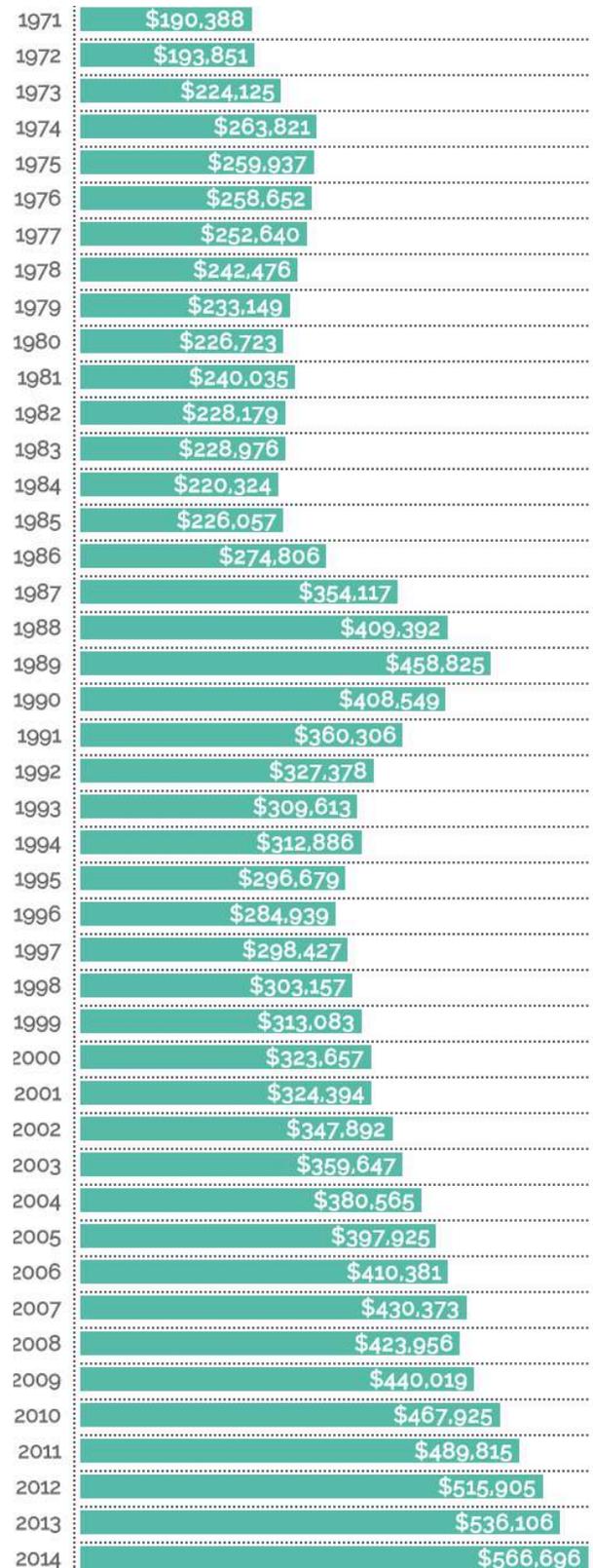
- In December 2014, the average price for a home in Toronto was \$574,539, up 6% from \$541,771 in 2013 (itself an increase of 9.6% from December 2012).
- Total sales numbered 35,054, compared to 33,143 in 2013, 33,414 in 2012, and 36,771 in 2011.³⁸¹
- In 2013, housing sales in the Toronto Region accounted for 19.4% of the national total (457,761) and 44.8% of the provincial total (198,675).³⁸²

What are the housing trends in relation to the growing gap between rich and poor?

Toronto is the hottest real estate market in the world—for the ultra-rich:

- In its annual [Luxury Defined](#) report, Christies' International Real Estate (owned by auction house Christie's) analyses trends shaping the luxury residential real estate market globally.
- Toronto was ranked "hottest" amongst global cities for its "Luxury Temperature."

Average Toronto Housing Purchase Price by Year, in 2014 Dollars:³⁷⁹



- The rating evaluates both growth and demand, and determines which was the hottest luxury housing market in a particular year (taking into account annual sales growth, time on market, and other independent city rankings).
- 2014 marked a return to normalcy for most of the world's top property markets. Toronto was the only Global Economic Hub city to see a faster year-on-year pace, with a 37% increase in 2014 in luxury home sales compared to 4% the previous year.³⁸³
- According to the report, the low supply of homes in Toronto has pushed prices up to \$1M to \$2M for average homes and up to \$2M to \$4M for larger homes or those located in the most desirable parts of the city. Even luxury condo prices were pushed above \$1M in 2014.³⁸⁴
- A weak Canadian dollar also contributed to Toronto topping growth in demand among more than 80 global markets.
- Toronto is believed to have become attractive to wealthy foreign buyers who not only want to increase their real estate holdings and park their money, but also relocate their families here because of quality universities and Canada's stable government.³⁸⁵
- Toronto's sales pace was also the fastest. Luxury homes stay on the market for only a month on average.
- Christie's also releases a Luxury Index, which evaluates overall prices and the relative "luxuriousness" of a market (i.e., top sales prices, high average prices per square foot, and number of luxury sales). Toronto ranked 10th on this 2015 index (London was first and New York second).³⁸⁶



Average Days on the Market for \$1M+ Homes, December 2014.³⁸⁷



While the wealthiest find homes at a rapid pace, many cannot afford homes at all:

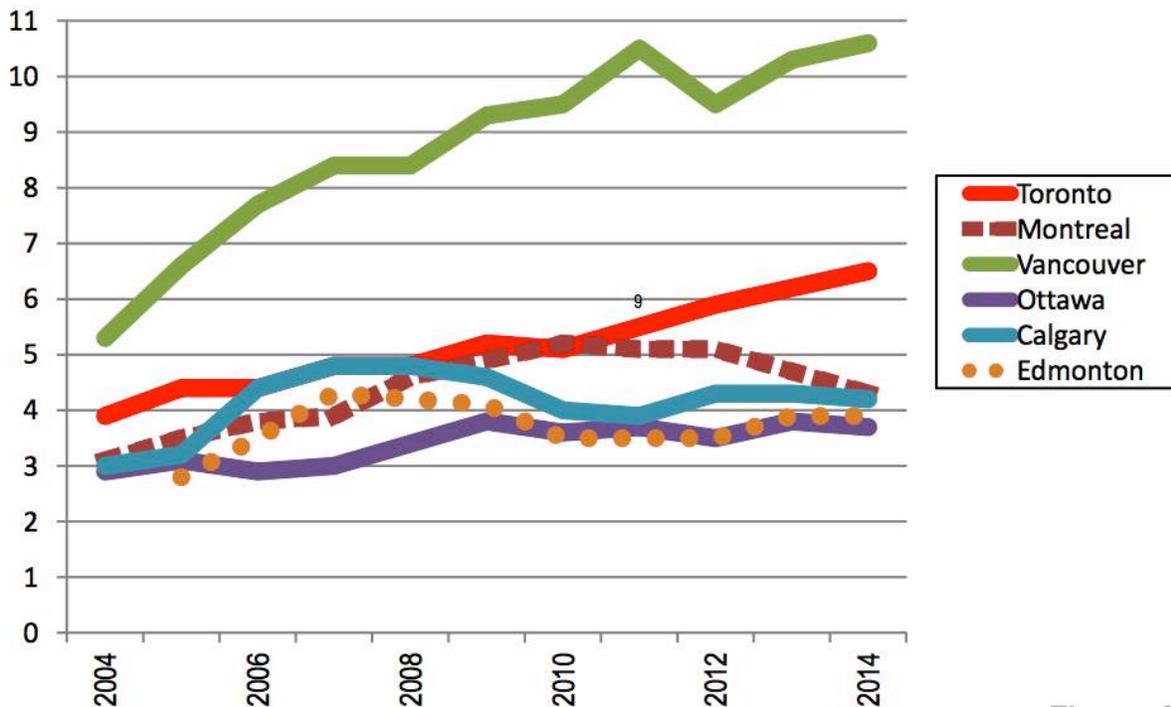
- In its 11th annual International Housing Affordability Survey, [Demographia](#) measures the affordability of 378 metropolitan markets in nine countries by measuring the “median multiple,” a measure of median house prices to median household incomes. A median multiple of 3.0 or less is considered affordable.
- Canada’s “major market” (which includes only cities with a population over one million) in 2014 was “seriously unaffordable,” with a median multiple of 4.3. In the major market ranks, Toronto is the 13th least affordable of 86 global cities while Vancouver remains second least affordable and Hong Kong least.
- Canada’s market overall had a less severe but still unaffordable median multiple of 3.9.



- In 2013, Toronto ranked as “severely” unaffordable, with its worst-ever median multiple of 6.2. In 2014, it climbed to 6.5—a 65% increase over the 11 years of the Demographia report—with a median house price of \$482,900 and a median household income of \$73,900.
 - Toronto is Canada’s third least affordable market. The least affordable was Vancouver with a median multiple of 10.6, far above the second-least affordable market, Victoria, with a median multiple of 6.9. Canada’s most affordable housing market was Moncton, with a median multiple of 2.2.
- Toronto is the 35th least affordable city worldwide. Vancouver remains second-least affordable after least affordable Hong Kong, which has a staggering median multiplier of 17.³⁸⁸



Housing Affordability Trend in Canada’s Major Markets, 2004-2014:³⁸⁹



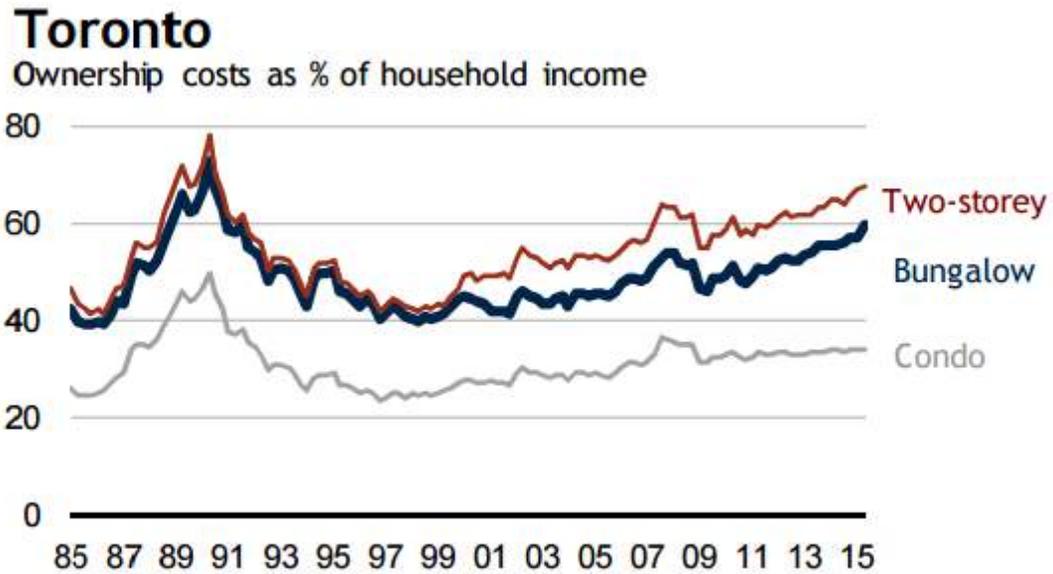
Meanwhile the affordability of home ownership continues to worsen. RBC’s [affordability index](#) measures the percentage of median pre-tax household income needed to cover the cost of home ownership (including mortgage, utilities, and property taxes) at current market prices:

- Toronto remains the second-most unaffordable housing market in Canada:³⁹⁰
 - The affordability for a two-story home in Q2 2015 was 67.5%, an increase of 0.7 percentage points from Q1 2015, 2.8 percentage points from Q2 2014, and 4.9 percentage points over 2013’s overall rate of 62.6%.
 - The affordability of a bungalow increased 2.1 percentage points to 59.4%, and that of condos remained the same at 33.8%.³⁹¹
- Compared to Vancouver, however, Toronto is still much more affordable:
 - The affordability of a two-story home in Vancouver rose 5.2 percentage points from Q2 2014 to Q2 2015 to an incredible 90.6% of a household’s income.

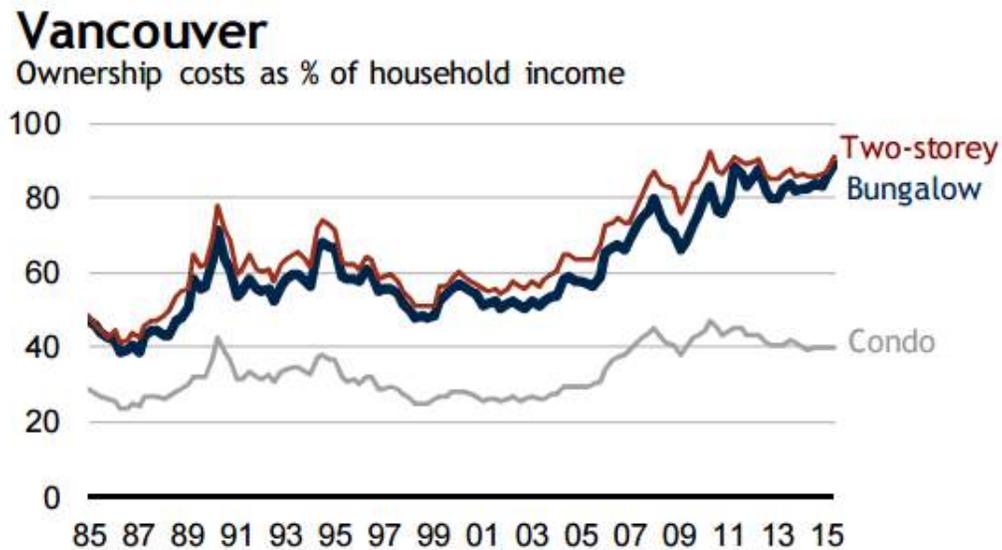
Affordability of single detached bungalows increased by 6.5 percentage points, to 88.6% (versus Toronto's 59.4%, Montréal's 36.0%, Ottawa's 35.4%, Calgary's 32.4% and Edmonton's 32.5%).

- Condos are the most affordable option in Vancouver. Their affordability increased 0.5 percentage points from Q1 2015 and 0.9 percentage points from Q2 2015 to 40.1%.³⁹²

Ownership Costs as a Percentage of Household Income, Toronto, 1986-2015:³⁹³



Ownership Costs as a Percentage of Household Income, Vancouver, 1986-2015:³⁹⁴



Toronto is the fifth most expensive of 30 communities across Canada in which to buy a home:

- Toronto-based website [RentSeeker](#), which specializes in services for the apartment industry, has produced an infographic showing what kind of income a person needs to afford an average-priced home across Canada.
- An annual income of \$126,530 is needed to afford the average home in Toronto, which in 2014 cost \$630,858. Three Vancouver communities and a GTA city top Toronto's prices:
 - In West Vancouver it takes an annual household income of \$320,932 to afford the average home, with a price tag of \$1,757,700. In Vancouver, the average price is \$810,600 and required income \$152,145. And in North Vancouver, \$133,478 is needed to afford the average home at a price of \$704,700.
 - Vaughan is the 4th most expensive community, with an average home price of \$717,414 and an annual household income of \$140,804 needed to afford it.
- Least expensive is Fredericton, where the cost of the average home is \$156,000.
- British Columbia unsurprisingly has the highest average home price at \$562,000, followed by Ontario at \$446,000, and Alberta at \$398,000.
 - Quebec has the least expensive average home price (\$268,000).³⁹⁵

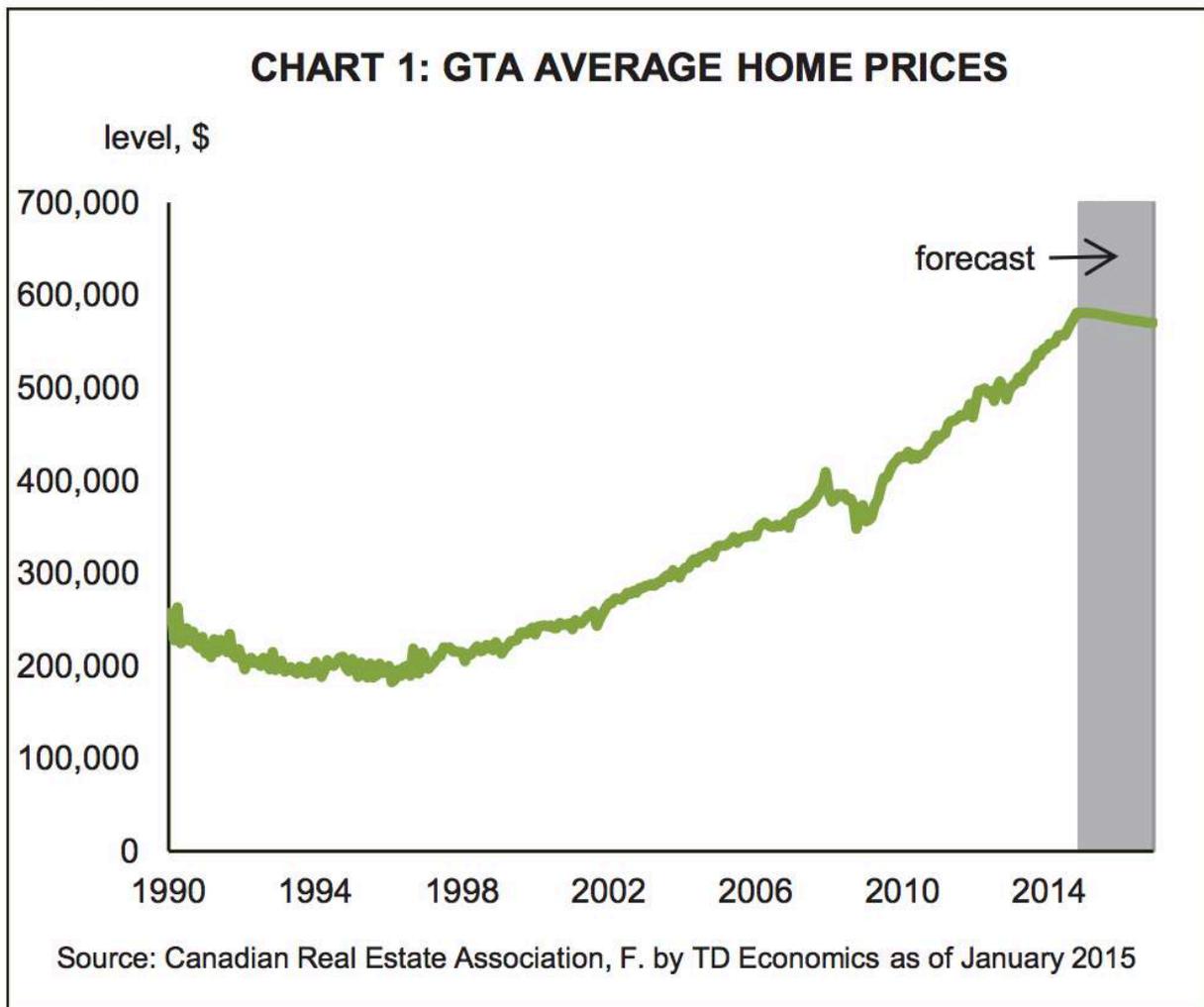
Salary Needed to Buy a Home in Cities Across Canada, 2014:³⁹⁶



While a decade-long housing boom brought considerable economic benefits to the GTA, it masks structural problems that will take a regional policy approach to tackle:

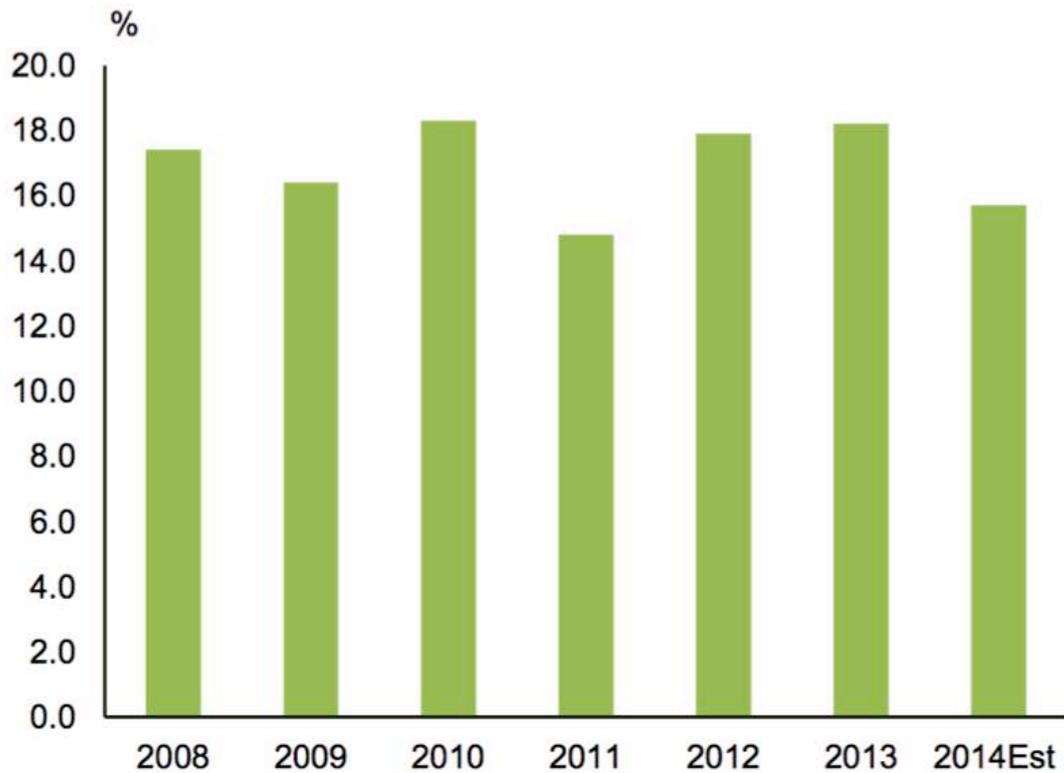
- As much as a quarter of Toronto’s job creation over the past 10 years has resulted from the direct and indirect effects of healthy housing activity and prices. But the GTA faces serious and growing structural challenges, says a TD Economics [report](#), like deteriorating affordability, lack of housing choice, and a strained transportation system.
- Housing affordability, traditionally an issue for low-income residents in the rental market, has begun to affect even higher-income residents in the real estate market.³⁹⁷

GTA Average Home Prices, 1990-2014:³⁹⁸



- While home ownership rates have soared (across all age cohorts) due to favourable mortgage rates, an estimated 16% of GTA households have debt service payments in excess of 30% of their income. And an increase to interest rates of just 2 percentage points would push that proportion of the population to 20%.

Share of Households with Debt Service Payments in Excess of 30% of Income:³⁹⁹



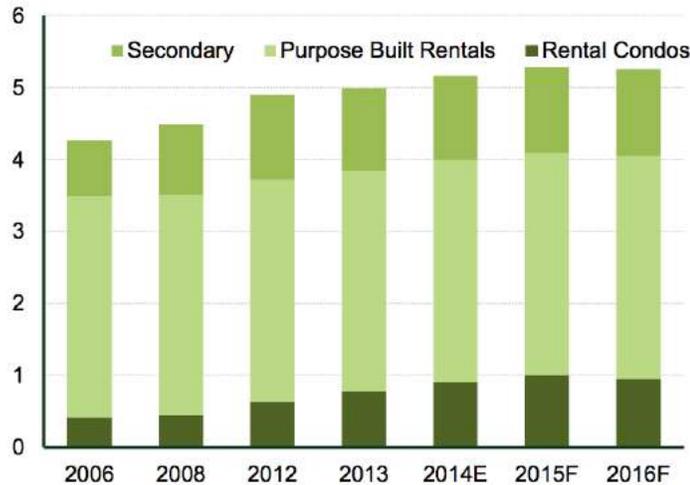
- Developers continue to favour ever-shrinking condos, and the lack of affordable townhouses or detached homes is preventing more young people and young families from eventually moving into larger properties, and pushing more people into the rental market.
 - For the bottom 40% of GTA earners, nearly half of their household income is spent on rent,⁴⁰⁰ and their incomes and rental costs are increasingly diverging.⁴⁰¹



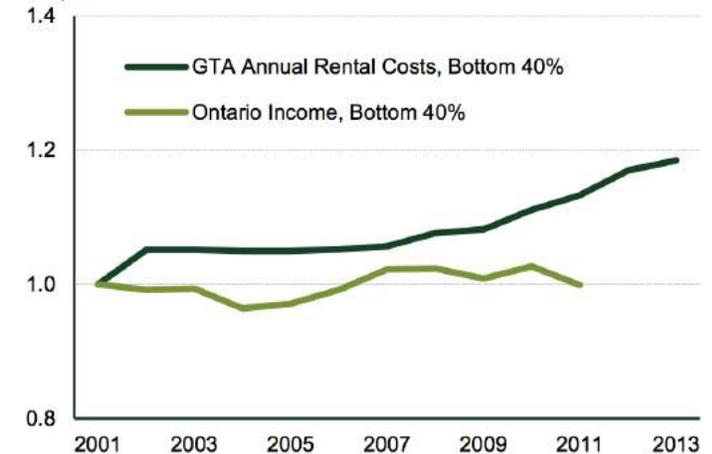
GTA Rental Supply:⁴⁰²

Rent Growing Faster than Income for Low-Income Earners:⁴⁰³

100,000 of Units



Index, 2001=1



- Transit might be compounding the problem. A better transit system and greater transit equity could help, for example, to direct residents to where costs might be cheaper.⁴⁰⁴
 - Our inadequate regional transit system is contributing to growing congestion that, by some estimates, could cost the Region \$15B in lost productivity by 2031 if nothing is done in the meantime.
 - During the peak morning rush hour more than two million automobile trips are made. In a car the average morning commute is about 20 minutes; on public transit it's between 50 minutes and an hour.⁴⁰⁵
 - The solution, TD says, is not building along existing corridors but building more transit corridors.⁴⁰⁶

A heated housing market is not exclusive to the city of Toronto and its downtown. The outer suburbs has seen substantial price increases:

- A spring survey of homes in the GTA performed by Toronto's [Realosophy Realty Inc.](#) for the Globe and Mail found that house prices in the GTA increased 8% overall in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the first quarter of 2014, while days on market generally decreased. For example,
 - In the Centennial neighbourhood, the average price increased by 26% (from \$275,962 to \$347,593) and days on market dropped to 13 from 18.
 - In Southwest Ajax, the average price was up 23% (from \$300,082 to \$370,417) and days on market dropped to 18 from 26.
 - In Dunbarton, the average price increased 38% (from \$608,167 to \$838,375), although the days-on-market trend differed (increasing rather than decreasing, to 30 from 18).
- The Globe reports that, according to US-based statistical rating organization [Fitch Ratings](#), Canada's real estate market is overvalued by about 20% based on long-term economic fundamentals (such as income growth, population growth, unemployment rate, and housing starts).

- According to Fitch, risk factors looming large include the trend towards lower participation in the labour force (as well as an increase in part-time work), an “overhang” in the high-rise condo inventory, and the record 163.6% debt-to-income ratio reached by Canadians in the fourth quarter of 2014.⁴⁰⁷

Are people saving money by choosing the suburbs?

The “sticker price” of a house in the suburbs can be significantly less than one downtown, but the total costs may not be that different once commuting costs are factored in:

- In 2012 and 2014 surveys by the Royal Bank of Canada and the Pembina Institute, 82% of respondents cited price as the primary determinant of where they lived. Many homeowners found themselves pushed out of the downtown core to the car-dependent suburbs where homes are cheaper.
- But a [report](#) from RBC and Pembina considers what happens when location-related costs—car ownership, fuel, and the costs associate with commuting such as time wasted in congestion and lost wages—are added to the price of a home.⁴⁰⁸
- The analysis used four different Toronto-area buyers as case studies, finding five housing options for each, all in different locations and with different commuting and driving considerations.
 - A family of five wanting a large home and a big yard closer to Toronto for under \$900,000, for example, could make their dream a reality by sacrificing one vehicle. The researchers estimate that getting rid of one vehicle could save the family a minimum of \$200,000 over the lifetime of a mortgage.⁴⁰⁹

The city of Toronto far outstripped the other GTA regions in condo sales:

- 70% of condo sales in the GTA in the first quarter of 2015 were in Toronto.
 - Peel accounts for another 14% of sales and York 11% (the remaining 5% are in Durham and Halton).
- Toronto’s condo sales increased by 11.1% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period a year before, with 4,940 units sold (versus 4,447 the year previous).
- The average price was also up (3.6%), reaching \$363,973 in Q1 2015 compared to \$351,213 in Q1 2014.⁴¹⁰

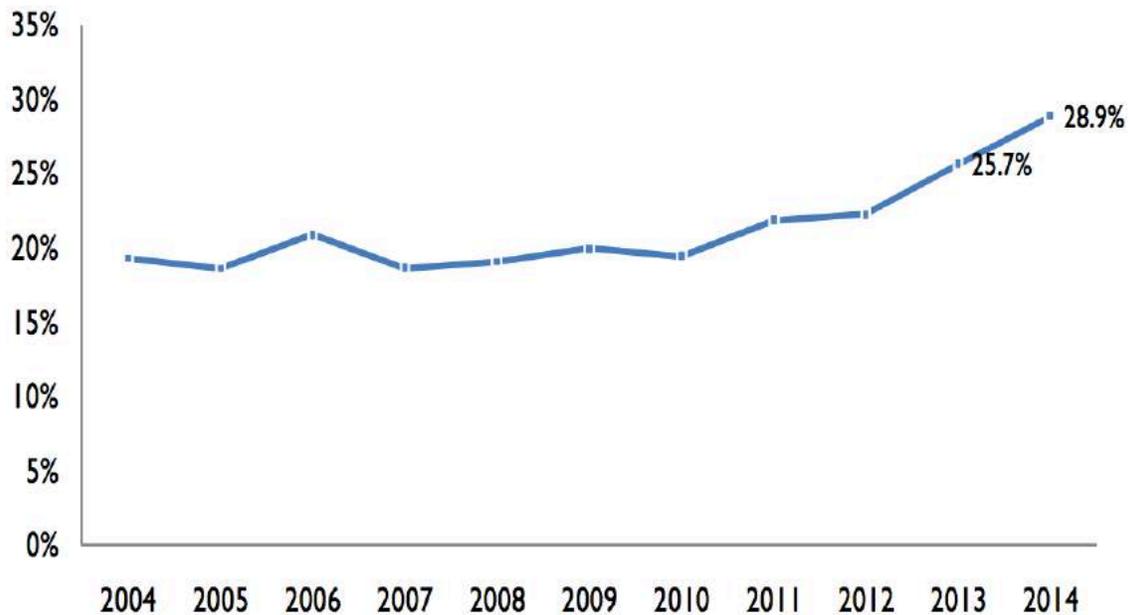
How well can the average family afford to live in Toronto?

Three-bedroom condos meant to keep people in the core once they started having children are too expensive and too small for families:

- The City’s mandate that a certain number of three-bedroom condos be included in towers under construction was meant to create new downtown dwellings for families. But high prices and cramped quarters mean these units are instead being bought by investors who rent them out, often creating “student rooming houses in the sky.”
- As of January 2015, only 29 of the 93 condo projects under construction in the city included three-bedroom options, and only 45 three-bedroom units were listed on realtor.ca—and they ranged in price from \$547,500 to \$7.9M (for a penthouse).

- The least expensive three-bedroom unit advertised was only 742 ft², under the average condo size of 797 ft² and well below the 1,200 ft² common for two-bedroom units among the older stock of condos from the 1980s.⁴¹¹
- The percentage of condos that are rented out in the GTA is increasing year by year. In 2014 it reached almost 29%, up from about 26% a year earlier.⁴¹²
 - Toronto had the highest percentage (31.3%) of rented condos in the GTA in October 2014, followed by Peel (25.6%), York (23.8%), Durham (15.5%), and Halton (13.7%).⁴¹³

Percentage of GTA Condominiums Rented Out, 2004-2014:⁴¹⁴



Strong demand for condominium living outstripped increased supply, driving the vacancy rate for rented condominium apartments in the GTA below that of purpose-built rental accommodations:

- The vacancy rate for rented condominium apartments in the GTA decreased from 1.7% in fall 2013 to 1.3% in October 2014.
- The vacancy rate in Toronto in Q1 2015 was 1.3% (down 0.4 percentage points from Q1 2014).⁴¹⁵
- Although the supply of rented condominium apartments increased by more than 17.6% (13,792 units) between Fall 2013 and October 2014, all new units added to the market were rented out in 2014.⁴¹⁶
- Rental condo units tend to have higher rents than purpose-built rental accommodations, but the low supply of new purpose-built rental units and condos' newer finishes, better amenities, and central locations have put condo rentals in high demand.⁴¹⁷
- The average rent for condominium rental apartments (of all sizes) in Toronto was up 0.92% in October 2014 over October 2013, at \$1,758.⁴¹⁸
- Although condos are the only affordable option to many home buyers, it is still much cheaper to rent than buy or mortgage a condo, keeping many young professionals and

downsizing baby boomers willing to pay increasingly higher rents for shrinking spaces.⁴¹⁹

Toronto is the most expensive place to rent in Canada, and has the fourth-lowest vacancy rates.

- Toronto-based website [RentSeeker](#), which specializes in services for the apartment industry, used data from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation to produce its 2015 rental market infographic showing the average costs of renting and the percentage of apartments vacant in major Canadian cities.
- With an average two-bedroom renting for \$1,596 and an average rent (across bachelor, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments) of \$1,510.25, central Toronto (the former City of Toronto)⁴²⁰ is the most expensive place to rent, followed by Vancouver, where the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,571 and the average across apartment sizes is \$1,403.25.
 - Widening the scope from central Toronto to the GTA sees the average two-bedroom fall to \$1,238 and the overall average to \$1,160.25. Comparatively, neighbouring Hamiltonians pay \$884 and \$804.75 respectively.
- Toronto's vacancy rates sit at 1.3% for a bachelor, 1.6% for a one-bedroom, 1.4% for a two-bedroom and 0.6% for a three-bedroom, which are all slightly lower than GTA figured which are 1.6%, 1.7%, 1.5% and 1.4%, respectively.⁴²¹

The vacancy rate for one-bedroom rental apartments in the Toronto Region increased by half a percentage point in 2014, reaching 2.2%:

- Although an improvement over the previous two years (the vacancy rate was 1.7% in both 2013 and 2012),⁴²² vacancy rates that fall consistently below 3% are generally linked to increases in rental rates.⁴²³
- The vacancy rate for two-bedroom apartments increased very slightly to 1.6% (up from 1.5% in 2013), but for three bedrooms it fell from 2% to 1.7%.⁴²⁴

Renting in Toronto is unaffordable for many households and the trends indicate the problem is getting worse over time:

- Almost half of Toronto households rent, and 43.5% of renter households spend more than 30% of pre-tax income on rent.⁴²⁵
- The average monthly rent (across all apartment sizes) in Toronto was \$1,166 in October 2014, an increase of 2.82% over October 2013.
- Halton Region continues to have the highest average rental rates in the Toronto Region, at \$1,189 in October 2014 (an increase of 4.12%). Rents are lowest in Durham Region at an average of \$1,000 (an increase of 2.04%).⁴²⁶
 - The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the Region in 2014 took up 42.7% of the average wages of a full-time employed youth (aged 15-24), an increase of 9.2% (from 39.1%) since 2009.⁴²⁷
 - The average market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the city of Toronto in October 2014 was \$1,264 (up from \$1,225 in 2013 and \$1,194 in 2012).⁴²⁸
- To be considered affordable, housing must not exceed 30% of gross household income (a threshold defined by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation).⁴²⁹
- 41% less purpose-built rental housing was completed by mid-2014 than a year earlier.

- 1,104 purpose-built rental units were completed in the GTA in the 12 months prior to June 30, 2014 (the cut-off for a CMHC survey), 41.7% below the 1,896 units recorded in the same period a year earlier.⁴³⁰

Rent for seniors' housing has decreased slightly, but remains close to \$5,000 a month:

- The average monthly rent for a senior's heavy care space (in which the resident receives 1.5 hours or more of care per day) is \$4,744 in 2015, a decrease of 3.6% over 2014, when it was \$4,923.⁴³¹

What about the people without housing options?

The number of homeless remained "stable" in Toronto from 2009 to 2013:

- The City's [2013 Street Needs Assessment](#) estimates that 5,253 people were homeless in Toronto on the night of April 17, 2013.
- The figure was 1.6% higher than the estimate for 2009 (5,169), and any rise in homelessness is undesirable. Nonetheless, the number was below the projected population growth rate (4% to 5%) for the period, leading the City to assess 2013's homeless number as "stable" with that of 2009.
- The needs assessment counts Toronto's homeless population, both those with shelter and the street population. An estimated 9% of the homeless population (approximately 447 individuals) were estimated to be sleeping outdoors on the night of the count—24% higher than in 2009, but 39% below 2006 levels.⁴³²

Although the number of single people accessing emergency shelters remained relatively stable in 2014, family use increased by 7.9%, and shelter use in general has been rising in recent years:

- An average of 3,038 single people occupied emergency shelter beds in Toronto every night in 2014, representing a small increase from 2,975 in 2013. In general, their shelter use has been increasing (2,917 singles used Toronto's shelters in 2012, and 2,879 in 2011).
- An average of 1,022 members of families used shelters every night in 2014, up from 947 the previous year (and from 928 in 2012 and 856 in 2011).⁴³³
- Of course, shelter numbers underrepresent homelessness because they do not account for those who do not access the shelter system (e.g., those who "couch surf," "sleep rough," etc.).

Average Nightly Occupancy by Month,
Toronto Permanent Emergency Shelters, 2013-2015⁴³⁴:

Average nightly census of City of Toronto permanent emergency shelter system



Year	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	3711	3745	3794	3846	3957	3937	3926	3954	4031	4017	4039	3976
2014	4031	4067	4037	4002	4017	4016	4061	4053	4094	4147	4129	4078
2015	4137	4191	4077	4104	4074	4095	4071	4076				

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.

Meanwhile, the numbers of shelters and shelter beds in Toronto have been dropping:

- The number of emergency homeless shelters dropped by 9% between March 2009 and March 2013, when there were 41 shelters. During the same time period, shelters decreased by 12% across the province, and 21% nationally.⁴³⁵
 - The number of shelter beds decreased by 4.7% over the same time period (versus 0.6% provincially and 7.6% nationally), although they increased between 2012 and 2013, from 3,119 beds to 3,217.⁴³⁶
- The number of beds for youth remained stable between 2010 and 2013. In 2013 there were 10 youth shelters with 398 beds. The number of beds for women declined from 551 in 2011 to 498 in 2012. As of 2013, there were still 498 women's beds, in 10 women's shelters.⁴³⁷

The number of deaths in shelters almost doubled in 2014:

- 30 people died in Toronto's shelters in 2014—an increase of 87.5% over 2013, and the highest number of deaths in a single year between 2007 and 2014 (the second-highest was 26 in 2008).
 - Of those who died, 26 were male and 4 were female. Their average age was 57.3 years.

- 172 people died in shelters between 2007 and 2014, representing a yearly average of 21 deaths.
- 2014 ends a long trend of downward progression from 21 deaths in 2010 and 2011 to 18 in 2012 and 16 in 2013.⁴³⁸
- 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.⁴³⁹

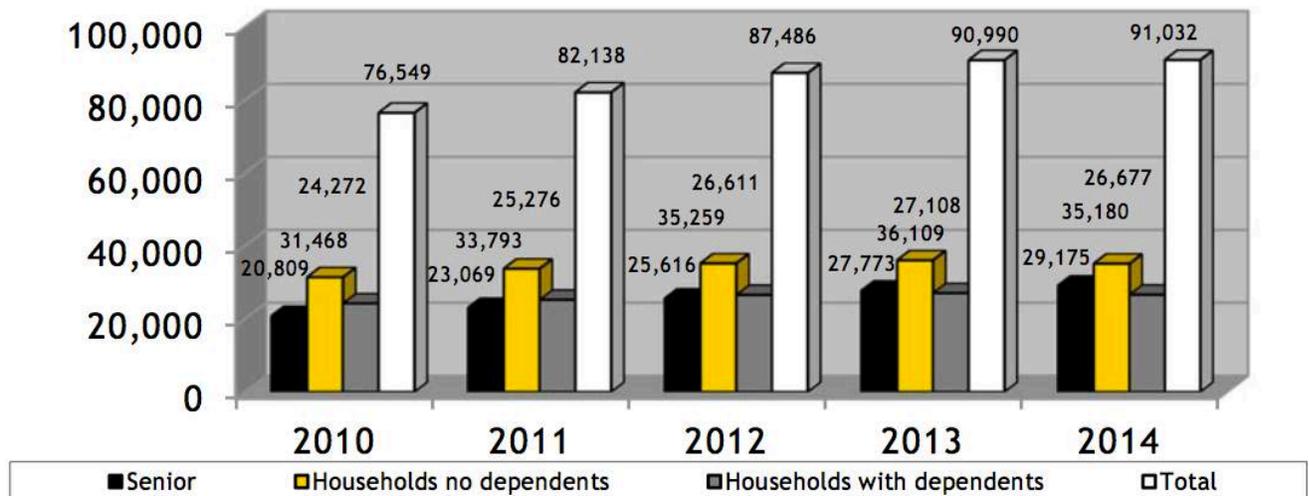
Although the “active” waiting list grew by only 1.5% in 2014, there are still close to 80,000 Toronto households waiting for affordable housing:

- As of Q4 2014, there were 78,248 families and individuals on the active waiting list (eligible and waiting to move into L) for social housing in the city, 1,139 more than in 2013.⁴⁴⁰
- 3,118 applicants were housed in 2014, 571 fewer than in 2013—a decrease of 15% and the lowest total in the past six years.⁴⁴¹

The number affordable rental housing units opened in 2014 remained low:

- The 260 units of affordable rental housing opened in 2013 represented a drop of 77% from 2012 (and 66% from 2011), and 2014 saw no percentage increase, with another 260 units opened.
- The City did improve, however, on units built for affordable ownership, completing 98 in 2014 compared to only 54 made available in 2013 (which was 77% fewer than in 2012).⁴⁴²

Five-year Total Waiting List for Social Housing, City of Toronto, 2014.⁴⁴³



Racialized, immigrant, and newcomer youth are over-represented among the “hidden homeless” population, and many feel a sense of “shattered expectation”:

- Language and cultural barriers, and lack of status, personal ties, and history in Canada make newcomer youth amongst the most vulnerable of homeless youth.
- A 2009 [survey](#) of 244 homeless youth in the city found that nearly a quarter had been born outside of Canada. A 2014 [report](#) from the Centre for Addiction and Mental

Health and the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto paints an interesting portrait of Toronto’s homeless newcomer youth:

- More than one in three participants identified as “LGBTTIQ”, compared to one in five homeless youth in a 2013 City of Toronto study.
- The average age at which they first experienced homelessness was 17.
- Two-thirds cited family conflict as the main reason for their homelessness.
- One in four (25.9%) reported having experienced some form of trauma.⁴⁴⁴
- One in four are parents.
- Over a quarter held Refugee Claimant status.
- Many experienced a sense of “shattered expectation” after arriving in Canada — their experiences did not live up to their hopes and their settlement experiences were not positive.
- Almost half (46.9%) reported Ontario Works as their main source of formal income, while another third (32.8%) reported income through paid employment.

Homeless Youth Survey Participants’ History of Abuse, and Physical and Mental Health History:⁴⁴⁵

History of physical and mental health	Share of participants (n=74)
Stress	57.4%
Addiction to cigarettes	48.6%
Anxiety	38.7%
Depression	32.3%
Attempted suicide	26.7%
Chronic health issue	24.2%
Mental health needs	22.0%
History of Abuse	
Physical abuse	45.0%
Sexual abuse	33.3%
Trauma	25.9%

- Both newcomer youth and service provider survey participants put forward ways to prevent and reduce homelessness among newcomer youth:
 - help them obtain an “insider’s perspective” on life in Canada,
 - make peer-support networks more widely available,
 - advocate for their housing needs,
 - perform intensive case management and follow-up on their arrival in Canada, and
 - make homeless newcomer and youth a priority service population.⁴⁴⁶

What is needed to build and maintain affordable housing, and what are the key challenges?

The City's Affordable Housing Office struggles to provide affordable housing as its Federal Government funding decreases:

- Although Canada's population has increased by almost 30% over the past 25 years, the federal government's annual investment in housing has decreased by over 46% and their spending on low-income housing (per capita) dropped \$115 (adjusted for inflation) to \$60 over the same period.⁴⁴⁷
- The reduction in the investment in, and overall supply of, affordable housing in Canada (including private sector rental and social housing) is the societal shift that has had the most profound impact on homelessness.
- While government funding for social housing has declined, the private sector has 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 decline in affordable housing, combined with stagnating or declining incomes, benefit reductions, and economic changes contribute to the creation of Canada's homelessness problem.
- While affordable housing is not the only solution to homelessness, an adequate supply of it is a vital component in the quest to end homelessness.⁴⁴⁸
- August 2014 saw the extension of the Federal-Provincial [Investment in Affordable Housing](#) agreement to 2020. In December 2014 the Province announced the City's funding allocation would be \$197M over the six-year term.⁴⁴⁹

With over a third of its aging properties in poor condition, Toronto's largest social housing provider has come up with a 10-year plan for investment and revitalization:

- The city's largest provider of social housing stock is facing some serious challenges.
 - Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) provides 61% of Toronto's social housing stock, housing approximately 109,000 people in 59,700 homes throughout the city.⁴⁵⁰
 - More than three-quarters of TCHC households have total incomes of less than \$20,000 per year. 25% of residents are 59 and older, and 29% of households have a member living with a disability.⁴⁵¹
 - As of January 1, 2015, TCHC had an \$896M capital repair backlog and needed \$2.6B for capital repairs over 10 years.⁴⁵²
 - Only 64% of its properties are in good, or even fair, condition; 35% are in poor condition, and 1% are in critical condition.
 - The [Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis](#) (CANCEA) predicts that by 2023, 91% of TCHC properties will be in poor or critical condition, or even closed.⁴⁵³
 - In 2014 alone, TCHC completed over 300,000 work orders in response to service requests.⁴⁵⁴
- TCHC developed a revitalization program to try to fix its buildings, with approximately \$5B worth of projects included. However, these projects cover only a fraction (10% to 12%) of the work that needs to be done.



- To fund the other 90%, TCHC developed a 10-year capital financing plan with the City of Toronto involving an investment of \$2.6B split between the three levels of government. TCHC and the City have managed to fund just over one third (\$919M).⁴⁵⁵

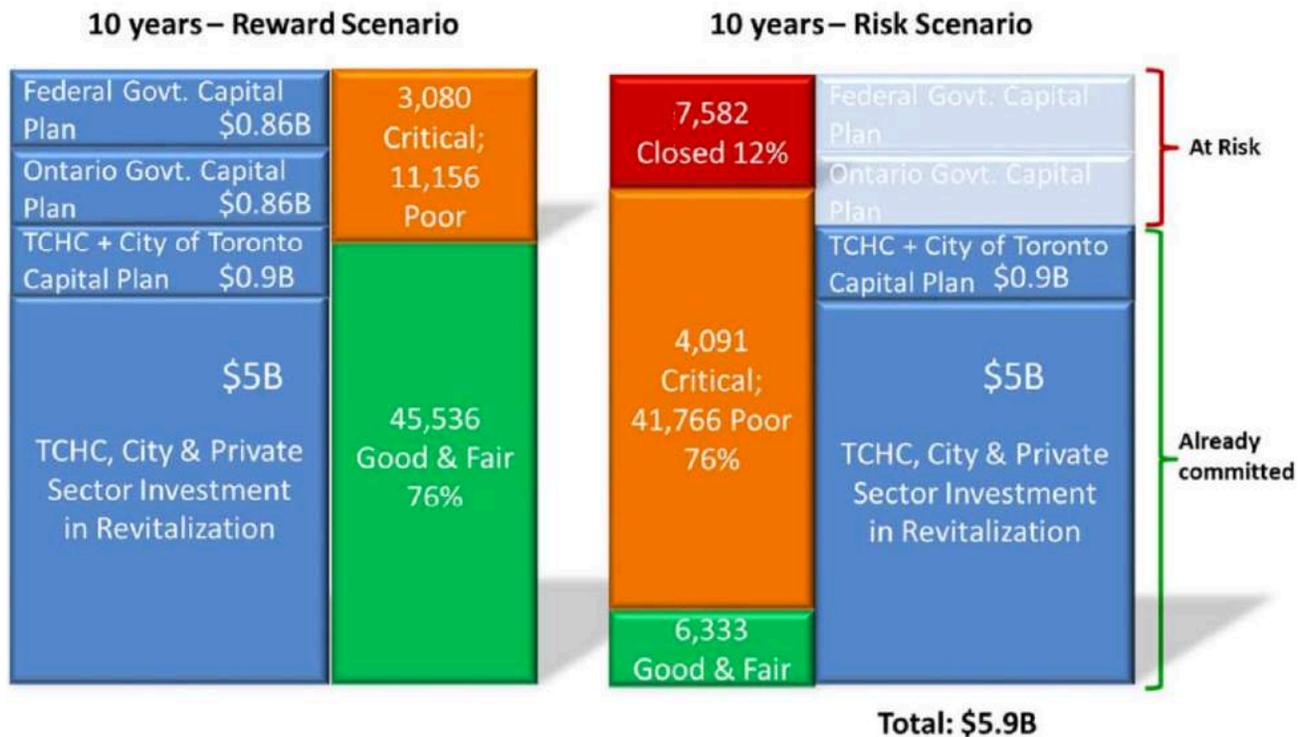
Where the Money Will Come From:⁴⁵⁶

	Annual Capital Funding Over 10 Years (Operating Budget)	\$567-million
	Property Tax Exemption Over 10 years (Education Portion)	\$91-million
	Development Charge Reserve Allocation (One Time)	\$10-million
	Sale of Stand Alone Units (One Time)	\$65-million
	Mortgage Refinancing	\$186-million
SUB-TOTAL:		\$919 million



- The City of Toronto and TCHC are now requesting \$864M from both the provincial and federal governments through their [Close the Housing Gap campaign](#).⁴⁵⁷
- CANCEA has weighed the socio-economic risks and rewards of TCHC’s capital investment plan and revitalization and found that failing to make the investment would create significant social, economic, environmental, and financial risks. Its [report](#) concludes that if the provincial and federal governments do not contribute, there will be significant negative consequences:
 - A \$4.2B boost to the GDP will be lost, as will 62,700 employment years (roughly 2,000 jobs a year for 30 years).
 - Poorer-quality housing will cost \$1.55B over 30 years, the result of an estimated 312,000 instances of illness and 1.1 million additional uses of the healthcare system.
 - Poor energy efficiency will result in an 11% rise annually in energy costs (about \$240) for each TCHC home and a 10% increase in greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The “community wealth” of Toronto neighbourhoods will drop by an estimated \$5.7B as the value of market-rate rentals near decaying TCHC housing declines.⁴⁵⁸

TCHC Housing Conditions in 10 Years, Reward and Risk Scenarios:⁴⁵⁹



In what ways are other cities doing better with housing issues similar to Toronto?

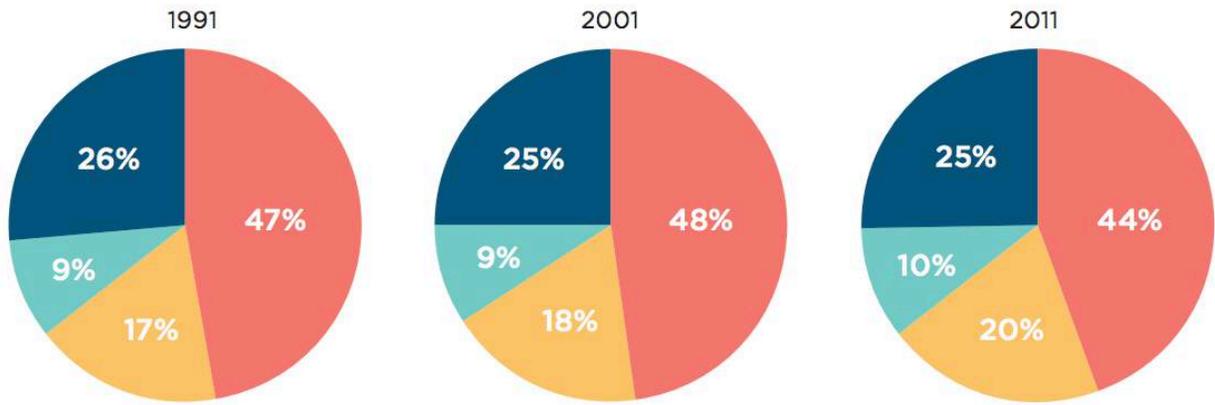
When it comes to growth, the GTHA has much to learn from Metro Vancouver. Despite its challenges, its regional planning strategy has proven more effective than the GTHA’s Growth Plan:

- The [Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#), released in 2006, required that 40% of all housing development occur in the form of intensification. But a Neptis Foundation [study](#) comparing the growth of the GTHA and Metro Vancouver from 2001 to 2011 concludes that the Growth Plan failed to strategically direct intensification to areas where it would have the most benefit.
- Neptis found three important differences between Metro Vancouver and the GTHA that the Toronto Region could learn from:
 - While Metro Vancouver is intensifying, the GTHA is growing mostly through greenfield development.
 - Between 2001 and 2011, 69% of Metro Vancouver’s new residents were accommodated by intensifying existing urban areas, compared to only 14% of GTHA residents. The other 86% were housed in new suburban subdivisions developed on greenfield sites.
 - Neighbourhoods in the older established urban areas of the GTHA are experiencing a loss of population; those in Metro Vancouver are not.
 - Both regions are “running hard to stand still”—building more housing than necessary to accommodate the population. Housing stock has

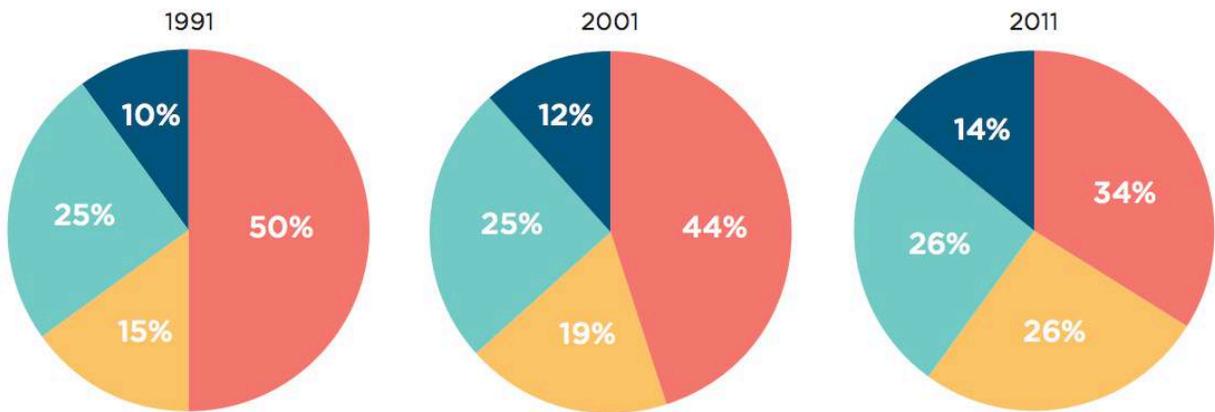
- continued to grow faster than the population, resulting in a decrease in household size and an increase in the proportion of one-person dwellings, a trend fairly consistent across Canada.
- Metro Vancouver is achieving transit-oriented development, while growth in the GTHA is going to areas without transit.
 - Only 18% of new residents in the GTHA settled near frequent transit routes and only 10% within 1 km of a GO station. Comparatively, 50% of new Metro Vancouver residents are located near a frequent transit route and 23% are within 0.8 km of a SkyTrain Station.
 - The report suggests that Metro Vancouver's land use and transportation planning are more in sync while the GTHA's are "on separate tracks"—although GTHA municipalities began planning in conformity with the Growth Plan in 2006, it was two years later before Metrolinx's 'The Big Move' appeared.
 - Metro Vancouver has created a more balanced housing stock over the past 20 years, while the GTHA offers a limited range of housing choices.
 - Housing stock in the GTHA has remained surprisingly stagnant from 1991 to 2011, negatively affecting both intensification and affordability. In Metro Vancouver, the housing stock, once dominated by single detached homes, is now more balanced.⁴⁶⁰

Composition of Housing Stock, GTHA and Metro Vancouver, 1991, 2001, and 2011.⁴⁶¹

GTHA



METRO VANCOUVER



- The study discusses three corresponding implications for policy:
 - establishment of a hard urban boundary to manage growth (the GTHA lacks a policy such as Metro Vancouver’s [Urban Containment Boundary](#), which provides a “hard edge” for urban sprawl);
 - better coordination of planning for land use (the Growth Plan) and transportation (The Big Move); and
 - regional growth management, including co-operation and monitoring.⁴⁶²

The “Gateway Cities” project of the Institute Without Boundaries at George Brown College compares Toronto’s housing challenges to those of New York City and Chicago:

- The [Institute](#) evaluated quality of life indicators and data in the New York-Chicago-Toronto “Delta” and published the results in its *Atlas of One Delta*.
- The Atlas notes that when it comes to housing, Toronto is experiencing rapidly increasing prices, diminishing availability, fierce competition in the rental market, and a booming, but arguably overdeveloped, condo market.
- The average price for a home in Toronto has increased by 80% in the past decade, according to the *Atlas*.⁴⁶³

Housing Sale Prices and Number of Homes Sold in 2012, GTA vs. NYC and Chicago:⁴⁶⁴





- While Toronto's rental prices are nowhere near NYC's, renters can get more space for less money in Chicago.⁴⁶⁵

Average Monthly Home Rental and Average Size for a One-Bedroom Apartment in New York, Toronto, and Chicago:⁴⁶⁶

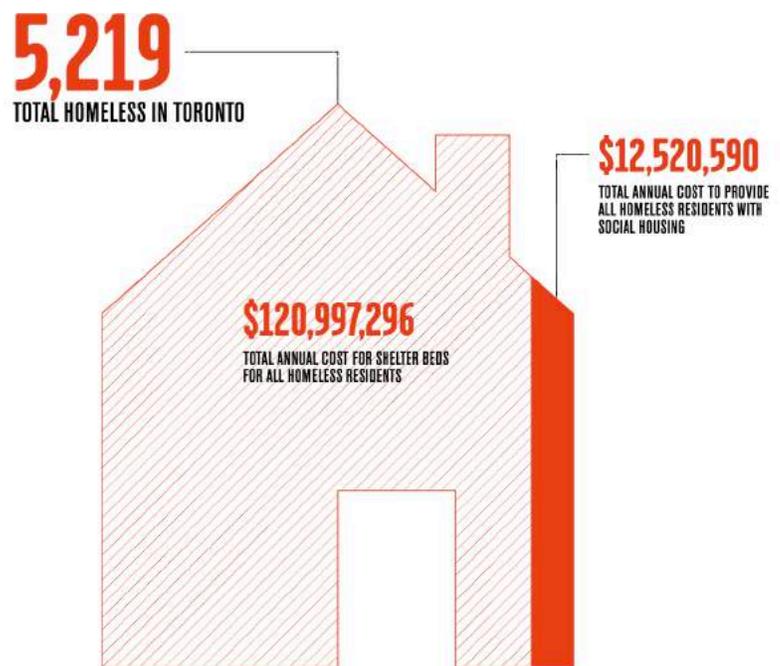


- The one thing all three cities have in common is residents without housing options.
 - On any given night, over 65,000 people in the three cities are homeless.
- 6.5% of the population in the city of Toronto is either living in or waiting for affordable housing. Wait lists for affordable housing are lengthy in both the city and the suburbs of the GTA, but the situation for those in the suburbs is especially precarious, with far more people waiting than there are spaces available.
 - The total wait list in the suburbs is nearing 26,000 for fewer than 20,000 (currently occupied) units. In some areas, there are almost twice as many applicants as units.
- Emergency shelter is in even worse supply. Only 15% of the GTA's shelter beds (770 beds) are in the suburbs, meaning vulnerable populations may be forced to seek emergency shelter downtown.
 - Shelter beds in Toronto are nearly 10 times more expensive than social housing.⁴⁶⁷

Toronto's Wait Lists for Affordable Housing:⁴⁶⁸



Toronto's Costs for Social Housing vs. Shelter Beds:⁴⁶⁹



Where are there bright spots in Toronto's housing landscape?

A zoning change will allow Toronto's "apartment neighbourhoods" to transform into healthy, vibrant, complete, and more equitable communities:

- After nearly two years of research, public consultation, policy development, and advocacy by the United Way, the City, and Toronto Public Health, Council approved the proposed [Residential Apartment Commercial \(RAC\) zone](#) in June 2014. The city-wide zoning change is the first of its type for Toronto.

- Toronto contains the second-largest concentration of high-rise buildings in North America. The RAC zoning will take effect in nearly 500 apartment properties that form dozens of apartment neighbourhoods in Toronto’s inner suburbs and across the city. Additional sites, such as those downtown, will move forward in subsequent phases.
- Many of these apartment neighbourhoods were zoned five decades ago, when Toronto’s suburbs were planned with a strict separation of residential, commercial, and institutional land use and with amenities a short car ride away. This worked for the car-centric suburbs of old, but communities’ needs and aspirations have changed, and the lack of local services, fresh food, employment opportunities, childcare amenities, and more has affected health outcomes.
- The new bylaws will allow a full range of uses within apartment neighbourhoods, providing residents better access to things like banks, coffee shops, clothing stores, drug stores, and places of worship—amenities that most Torontonians take for granted.
- Approval of the RAC zone was just a first step. It is now up to landlords, residents, and communities to bring to life the potential for Toronto.⁴⁷⁰

Toronto is now home to Canada’s first LGBTQ* transitional housing program:

- LGBTQ* youth experience higher rates of harassment and violence and are over-represented in the shelter system.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - In Toronto’s 2013 Street Needs Assessment, one in five respondents in youth shelters identified as LGBTQ*. The number may be higher, however, because stigma may encourage under-reporting.
- A 2014 City staff [report](#) recommended that Council explore community interest in operating a standalone emergency shelter or transitional housing for homeless LGBTQ* youth.⁴⁷¹ In March 2015 the City allocated \$600,000 of the 2015 budget to fund 54 beds for LGBTQ* homeless youth.
 - The second location has yet to be announced, but YMCA’s Sprott House will provide 25 of the beds and transitional programming specifically targeted to LGBTQ* youth—making it the first LGBTQ* shelter in Canada.



YMCA’s Sprott House in the Annex is slated to be the location of Canada’s first LGBTQ* youth shelter.

- Advocates say this is a good start but that more funding is necessary due to a disproportionate number of LGBTQ* youth attempting to access shelter services and a “deeply...homophobic and transphobic culture” within the shelter system.⁴⁷²

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](#) – Creating shared space for non-profit and arts based orgs through urban development

[Canadian Urban Institute](#) – Building wisdom and inspiring leadership for healthy urban development

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

[Covenant House](#) - Serving youth experiencing homelessness

[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](#) - Working 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](#) – Welcoming homeless men into a safe space through a drop-in centre

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

[Homes First](#) – Providing affordable stable housing and support services to help people break the cycle of homelessness

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

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

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

[Neighbourhood Information Post \(NIP\)](#) - Empowering marginalized and socially isolated people

[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

[Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre \(PARC\)](#) - Working with members of the Parkdale community on issues of poverty and mental health

[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](#) – 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

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 GTHA more than \$6B annually in lost productivity. Focusing on building good, affordable transit and active transportation networks is also good for our health and for our environment, and ensures that all have the ability to get from A to B.

What are the trends?

The number of commuters who take transit, walk, or bike to work continues to increase. Still, the Toronto Region remains rare among the world's top cities in having both long commute times and a low percentage of commuters who use something other than a car to get around. The average Torontonian spends more time getting to work than the average commuter in any other municipality in the country.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
1. Percentage of commuters who take transit, walk or bike to work rather than driving	44.2% (2006 census)	47.2% (2011 NHS) ⁴⁷³	--
2. Annual TTC ridership (rate of increase over previous year)	514,007,000 (2.8% increase)	525,194,000 (2.2% increase)	534,815,000 (1.8% increase) ⁴⁷⁴
3. Pedestrian collision fatalities	18 (2011) ⁴⁷⁵	24 (2012) ⁴⁷⁶	40 (2013) ⁴⁷⁷
4. Cyclist collision fatalities	3	4 ⁴⁷⁸	0 ⁴⁷⁹ *As of June 17, 2015, there were 3 cyclists killed in 2015.
5. Number of GO Transit passengers (boardings)	61 M	65.6 M ⁴⁸⁰	68.2 M ⁴⁸¹

What's new?

The city's mayor introduced a six-point strategy to fight gridlock, and in February 2015, Council approved funding to study an accelerated SmartTrack work plan. Council is also moving towards policies to reduce vehicle speeds to make active transportation safer. New analysis by Toronto Public Health shows that pedestrians and cyclists are at greater risk of injury or death in motor vehicle collisions than are people in cars or on transit, and Toronto has been named the fifth most dangerous city in Canada (out of 10) to ride a bike. Meanwhile, cycling volumes have tripled and vehicle travel times have been positively impacted on Richmond, Adelaide, and Simcoe Streets since bike lanes were installed. But barriers to getting around remain for

some—and the Toronto Transit Commission is in danger of missing its deadline for full accessibility by 2025.

How congested is Toronto’s traffic and what can be done?

The Region remains rare among the world’s top cities in having both long commute times and a low percentage of commuters who use something other than a car to get from A to B:

- Transportation continues to be one of the key weaknesses in Toronto’s labour attractiveness, the [Toronto Region Board of Trade](#) argues. Our low percentage of commuters who take some form of transit other than the car to work again earned the Region a 14th place ranking and a “C” grade on the Board’s 2015 [Scorecard on Prosperity](#).
 - Only 29.0% of Toronto’s employed labour force uses some form of transit other than the car to get to work. Most of the other ranked North American cities do not fare any better—only New York (in 11th with 40.6%) and Montréal (in 13th with 29.3%) bettered Toronto. Vancouver is just behind Toronto (in 15th place with 27.8%).
 - Hong Kong placed first, where 88.5% use a mode other than the automobile to get to work.
- The Scorecard also placed Toronto 15th (unchanged from 2014) out of 22 global metropolitan cities for average round-trip commute time.
 - It found that Toronto has the longest round-trip commute time (66 minutes, earning a B grade) of any North American city in the rankings except New York (in 18th place with 69.8 minutes). Chicago is 12th with 61.9 minutes and received an A grade.
 - Calgary took the top spot, with a shorter commute of 52 minutes.⁴⁸²
 - Increasingly longer commute times have a negative effect on health and intensify the “time crunch” that one in five Ontarians feels caught in, with less time for family, leisure, and community.⁴⁸³



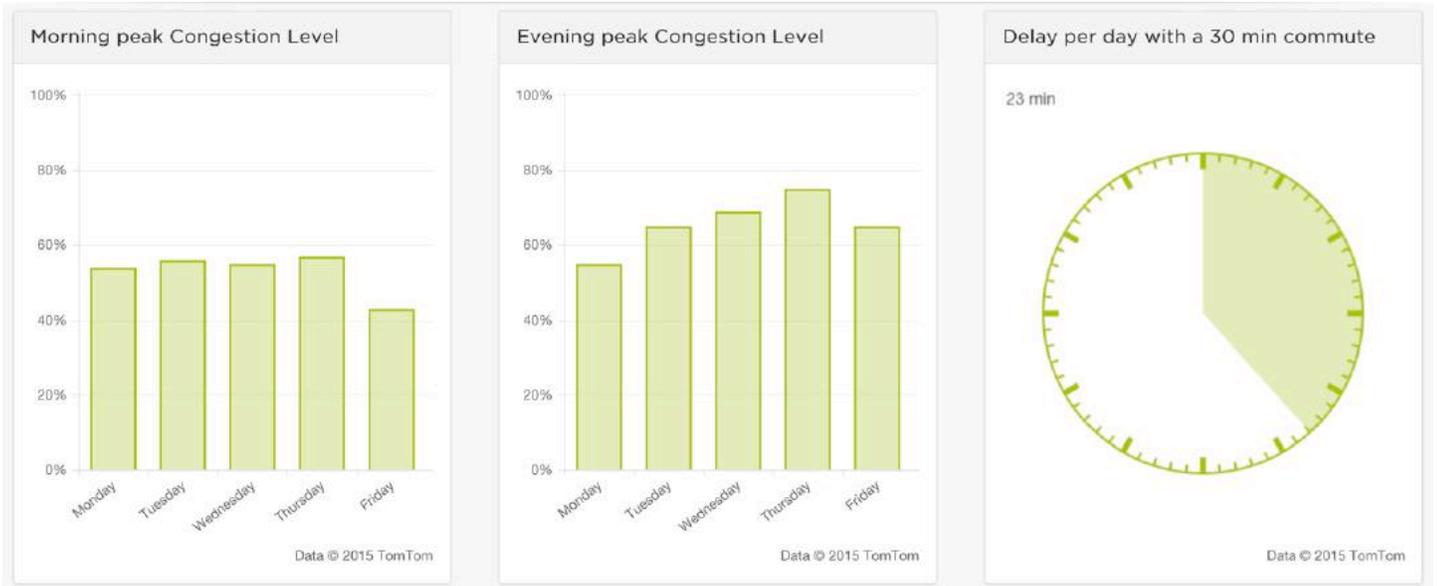
The GTHA’s congestion crisis continues to threaten the economy of Canada’s largest city-region and the quality of life of its six million residents:

- Toronto is the 47th most congested city in the world, the eighth most congested in North America, and the second most congested in Canada.
- The fifth annual [traffic index](#) from TomTom, a Dutch company that specializes in navigation and mapping products, is based on travel times across the day and for peak versus non-peak periods. Toronto ranks 47th of 146 cities around the world.
 - New York, by comparison, is only two spots ahead at 45th. The three most congested cities in the world are Istanbul, Mexico City, and Rio de Janeiro in first, second, and third respectively.
- The three most congested cities in North America are Mexico City (55%), Los Angeles (39%), and Vancouver (35%), which is the most congested city in Canada. Toronto is close behind Vancouver, however. Toronto’s congestion level is 31%, with an average morning and evening peak of 53% and 66% respectively.
- Toronto drivers experience a 23-minute delay per half hour driven in peak period—adding up to 87 hours per year. Comparatively, commuters in the most congested city in the world, Istanbul, are delayed 110 hours per year.



- Toronto's most congested morning of the week is on Thursday and the most congested evening is also Thursday, when congestion nears 80%.⁴⁸⁴

Toronto's Congestion and Commute-Related Delay Per Day:⁴⁸⁵



Toronto's Congestion and Commute Statistics, 2014:⁴⁸⁶

World rank compared to other large cities	47/146
Congestion Level on highways	24%
Congestion Level on non-highways	35%
Delay per day with a 30 min commute	23 min
Delay per year with a 30 min commute	87 hr
Most congested specific day	Thu 11 Dec 2014
Total network length	27 783 km
Total network length highways	935 km
Total network length non-highways	26 848 km
Total vehicle distance	32 053 265 km

The average Torontonian spends 32.8 minutes getting to work, more than any other municipality in the country. Soon after Toronto's new mayor was elected, he outlined a 6-point strategy to fight gridlock:

- "No stopping" enforcement—as of January 1, 2015, the City implemented a "zero tolerance" policy for drivers who block major routes during rush hour, and parking enforcement officers were reassigned from residential areas to major thoroughfares during peak hours.
- Better road closure reporting—updated methods for reporting road closures to the City and to residents will be implemented to better coordinate road closures with events in Toronto.
- Increased traffic enforcement team—members of the Toronto police traffic unit, parking enforcement, and Transportation Services have been tasked with developing a comprehensive new plan, including 40 new traffic cameras installed along major routes with another 80 to be installed in 2016.
- Increased traffic signal re-timing—350 traffic lights will be re-timed over 2015.
- Clampdown on private construction—Transportation Services will prepare a report for the City on how to handle lane closures caused by private construction contractors.
- Speed-up of public construction—public construction projects will be permitted to operate from 6am to 11pm to expedite their completion, and early completion will be rewarded with cost premiums where financially feasible.⁴⁸⁷

In February 2015, Council approved \$1.65M in funding to study an accelerated [SmartTrack](#) work plan.⁴⁸⁸

- The SmartTrack line would provide service from the Airport Corporate Centre in the west, southeast to Union Station, and northeast to Markham in the east, with 22 new stops and five interchanges with the TTC's rapid transit network. The original plan promised completion in seven years, with service starting in 2021.⁴⁸⁹
- The plan builds on the provincial [Regional Express Rail](#) (RER) initiative and the line would operate on provincially owned GO Transit rail corridors. It will require approval from both Council and the Province.
- Council also adopted a series of recommendations related to the public transit proposal, addressing finances, design, number of stations, frequency of service, electrification plans, and public outreach.⁴⁹⁰
 - In particular, it passed a motion to include additional elements on the Stouffville/Lakeshore East GO corridor from Unionville to Union Station (including seven additional stations), and on the Kitchener GO corridor from Mount Dennis to Union Station.
- Meanwhile, Metrolinx announced it would work with the City to integrate Regional Express Rail planning with the SmartTrack plan. A tender was issued in early 2015 to expand and improve a 17 km section of the Stouffville line between Scarborough Junction and Unionville Station.
 - Metrolinx is moving forward with the construction of a second track on a 5-km stretch of the Stouffville-Union line. Double-tracking for the remainder of the 17 km and additional station upgrades on the Stouffville line are still in the planning and design phases, with construction expected to begin in 2016.⁴⁹¹



Washington State's "Commuter Trip Reduction" program is an innovative approach to reducing drive-alone commutes.

- The program targets big employers in heavily populated areas, requiring them to incentivise reducing single-occupant vehicle commuting at major worksites. The program was adopted into law in 1991.
- Specific incentives that have been offered by Seattle corporations and organizations have included flexible work hours, the option to work from home, mortgage discounts to move closer, transit pass programs, and cash to use transportation modes other than driving.⁴⁹²



Launched in September 2015, [StudentMoveTO](#) is a student-led initiative out of four of Toronto's universities (OCADU, University of Toronto, York University, and Ryerson University) that is collecting data and surveying students about their commutes. Participants from across the GTHA will provide evidence to compel decision makers that students need improved transportation options to get to, and from, school and that long-commute times have major ramifications on quality of life and educational outcomes.

How are Torontonians experiencing our public transportation system?

The number of commuters who take public transit continues to increase:

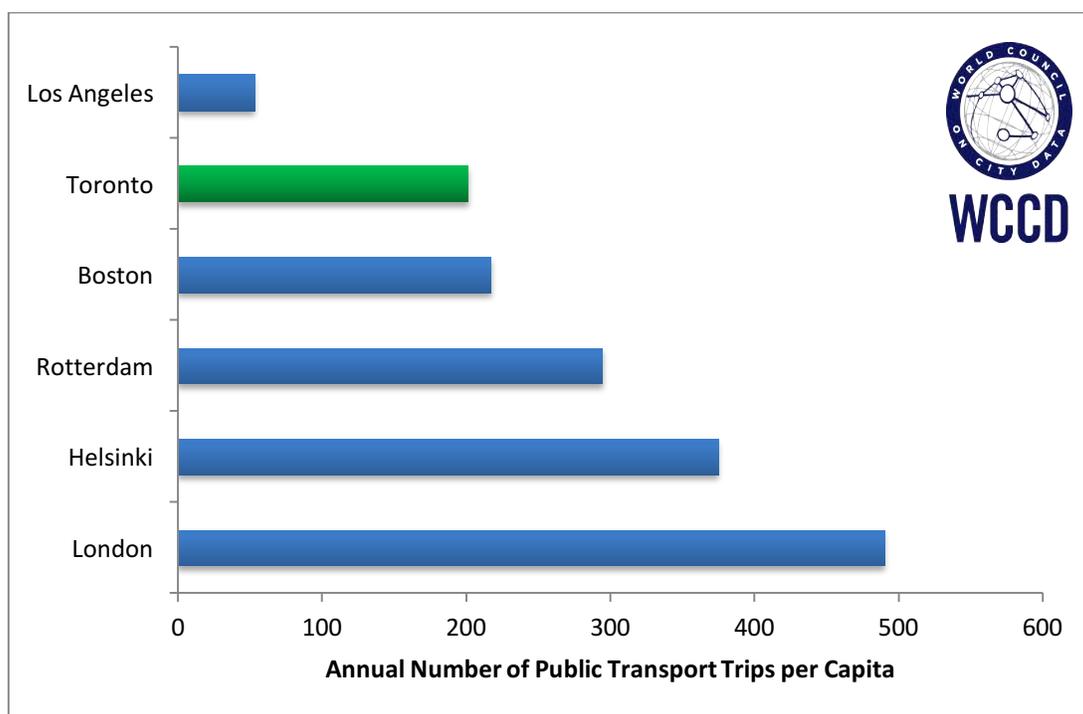
- Over 534 million passenger trips were made on all TTC vehicles in 2014—approximately 9 million more than in 2013.⁴⁹³
 - GO Transit boardings numbered 68.2 million in 2014, up from 65.6 million the previous year.⁴⁹⁴



The number of public transit trips per capita in the city of Toronto is less than half that of London, and substantially lower than many other world cities:

- As reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) in 2014, Torontonians take almost four times as many public transit trips per capita than people who live in LA—201.11 vs. 53.07. However, Toronto's public transit usage pales in comparison to several other international cities: 217.00 trips per capita were reported in Boston, 294.64 in Rotterdam, 374.80 in Helsinki, and 490.17 in London.⁴⁹⁵

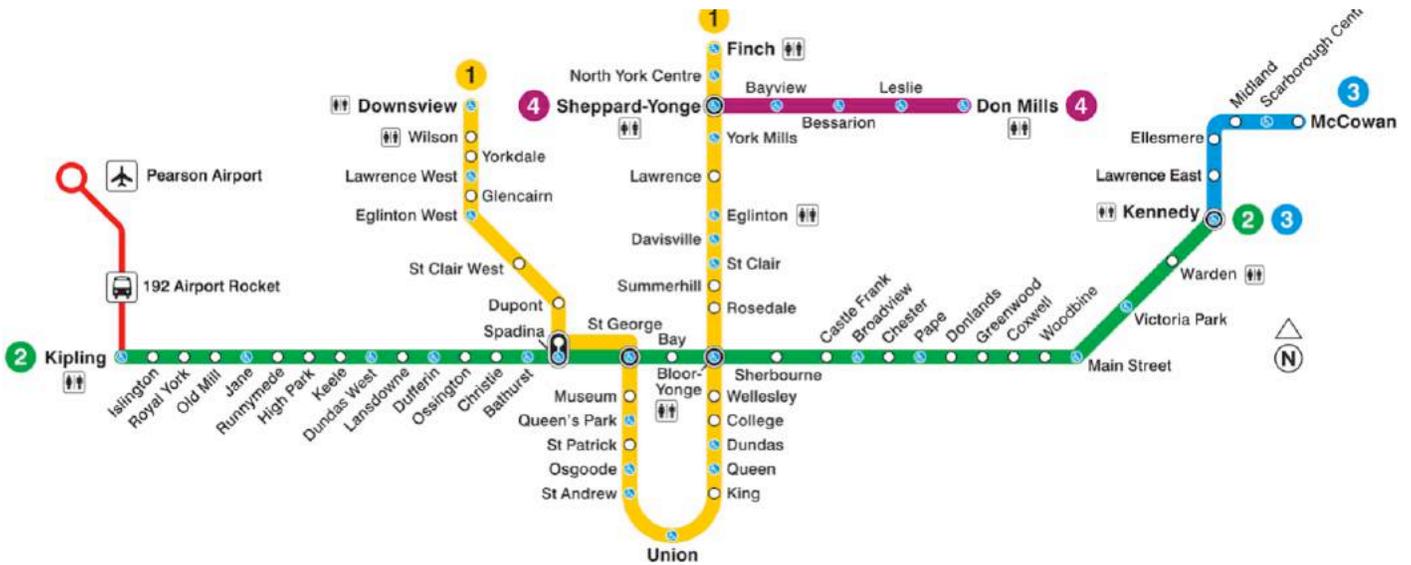
Annual Number of Public Transport Trips per Capita, as reported to the WCCD in 2014:⁴⁹⁶



The Toronto Transit Commission is in danger of missing its deadline for full accessibility by 2025. In the meantime, those with mobility issues are not getting equal access:

- The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requires full accessibility on transit systems across the province by 2025. But as of March 2015,
 - all TTC buses are fully accessible but 20% of the stops are not;
 - only four of the 204 low-floor, accessible [streetcars](#) on order from Bombardier have been delivered (all are slated to be delivered by 2019⁴⁹⁷) and put in service, all on the 510 Spadina route—nearly 50 should have been in service on this route and on the 509 Harbourfront and 511 Bathurst routes⁴⁹⁸; and
 - 34 subway and Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) stations are equipped with elevators from platform to street level, but 35 are not.⁴⁹⁹
 - The number of stations requiring accessibility improvements jumps to 39 when considering needs in addition to elevators (such as easier-access fare gates, automatic sliding doors, and signage improvements).⁵⁰⁰
- The TTC says that without additional funding, a \$165M funding shortfall for accessibility and competing capital priorities to ensure the system’s “state of good repair” and safety requirements of the existing ageing system may compromise its ability to meet the costly AODA requirements.⁵⁰¹
- Meanwhile, passengers unable to board streetcars or use stairs or elevators at subway stations must find other ways to reach their destinations or use Wheel-Trans service.
- [Torontoist](#) has mapped what the system looks like to a person with accessibility needs.⁵⁰²

What the TTC Looks Like to Those Able to Use Stairs and Escalators, 2015:⁵⁰³



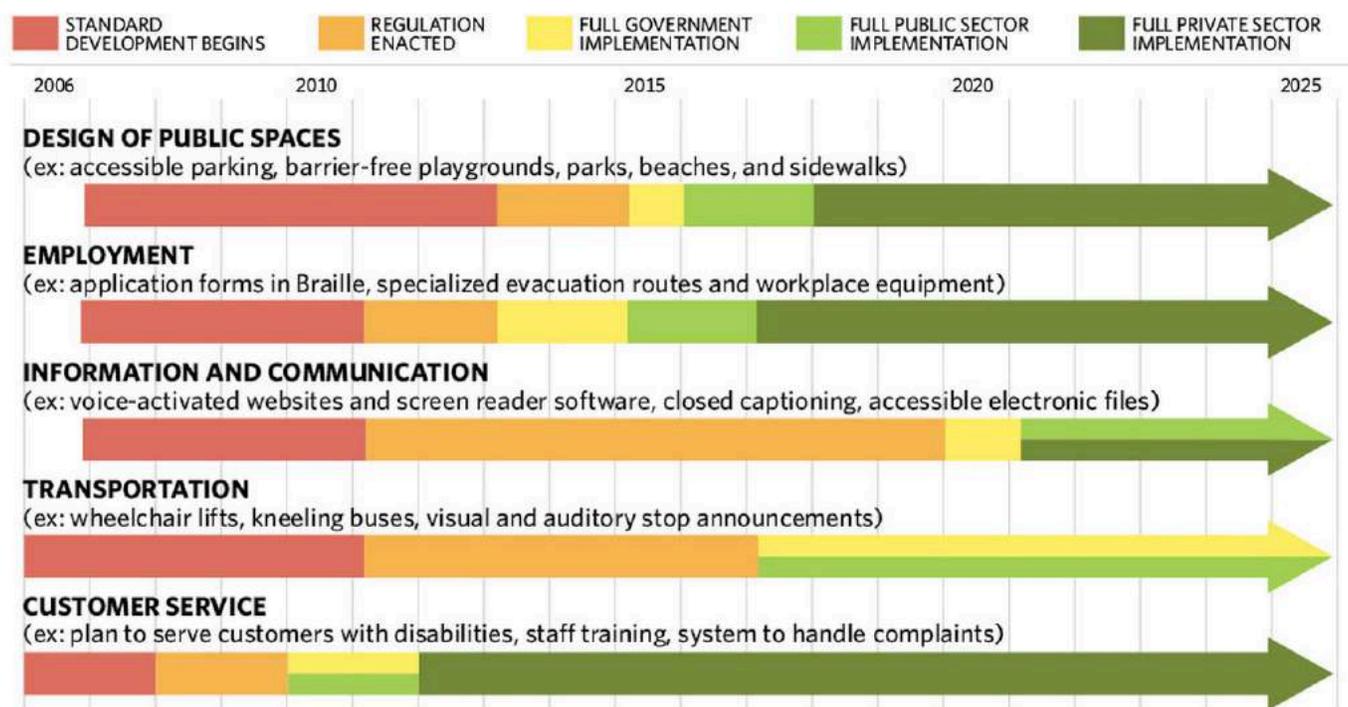
What the TTC Looks Like to Those Unable to Use Stairs and Escalators, 2015:⁵⁰⁴



Map by Sean Marshall

Timelines for Full Rollout of Accessibility Standards:⁵⁰⁵

Standards aim to ensure everyone can work, shop, take public transit, use the Internet, attend sporting and cultural events, enjoy parks and other public spaces by 2025.



SOURCE: Ontario government

TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC

- The TTC is not the only entity falling behind on AODA compliance. A [legislative review](#) of AODA in February 2015, the half-way mark to the 2025 commitment, warned of “slow and challenging implementation to date.”⁵⁰⁶
- The review has prompted the Province to improve its compliance and enforcement measures with a [10-year action plan](#) that includes an annual compliance review report including information on complaints and fines.
 - Non-compliance fines range from \$200 to \$2,000 for individuals and \$500 to \$15,000 for corporations.⁵⁰⁷

Station improvements and service improvements are making transit more comfortable and more reliable:

- The TTC is working to not only increase the aesthetics but also the accessibility of a number of subway stations throughout the system. Enhancements include:
 - new elevators and improved signage at Runnymede station;
 - automatic sliding doors, an accessible fare gate, and bicycle parking at Dufferin Station;
 - elevators, improved signage, and CCTV security cameras at St. Clair West Station; and
 - new public art installations and 5,000 square metres of green roofs at Victoria Park Station.⁵⁰⁸

- Service improvements announced in the TTC's 2015 budget (representing an investment that will annualize to \$95M once fully implemented) include:
 - restoration of all day, every day bus service (cut in 2011);
 - 10-minute or better bus and streetcar service on key routes from 6am to 1am six days a week;
 - reduced wait times and crowding at off-peak times;
 - reduced wait times and crowding on 21 of the busiest routes during morning and afternoon rush hours;
 - proof-of-payment and all-door boarding on all streetcar routes;
 - 50 new buses and a temporary storage facility in order to add four new routes on the Express Bus network (which serves 34 million riders annually), to reduce wait times and crowding on some peak-period routes, and to provide spare buses during maintenance;
 - 12 new routes on the Blue Night Network, which serves 4 million riders annually;
 - up to two additional trains on Lines 1 and 2 during morning and afternoon rush hours;
 - route management improvements to reduce short-turns, bunching, and gapping of buses and streetcars; and
 - additional resources to focus on subway reliability around signals, track, and communications systems.⁵⁰⁹

Rising transit fares are a very visible cost of transit improvements:

- The cost of tokens rose by 10 cents to \$2.80 on March 1, 2015, and fares for seniors (65+) and students (13-19) rose proportionally to \$1.95. However, cash fares remained unchanged (at \$3.00 for adults, and \$2.00 for seniors and students⁵¹⁰). The cost of a monthly Metropass increased by nearly \$8, to \$141.50.⁵¹¹



As of March 1, 2015, riding the TTC is free for children 12 and under:

- The measure helps to provide financial relief for families, many of whom use the TTC to take their kids to and from school and daycare so they can work. It also helps to reduce traffic congestion, pollution and costs for schools and daycares, who need transportation for excursions. Previously, for each child who used the TTC the charge was 75 cents.⁵¹²

The TTC is set to begin phasing out tickets and tokens in favour of the Presto smart card:

- The [Presto card](#) will provide access to the TTC system when customers tap the card against a Presto card reader.
 - Earlier this year, 26 subway stations began accepting Presto cards. By the end of 2015 every streetcar will have Presto card readers, and the TTC plans to have them on all of its buses by the end of 2016.
 - Every subway station will have vending machines where customers can use cash, debit cards, and credit cards to top up the balance on a card.
- Customers will still be able to purchase a Metropass or quantities of trips, although the workings of this have not yet been finalized.
- The TTC says its "old fare media" will be sold only until the end of 2016, but will be accepted until mid-2017.⁵¹³

How are Torontonians doing on the active transportation front?

The number of commuters who walk or bike continues to increase:

- According to the 2011 census, 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.⁵¹⁴
- A [Share the Road](#) survey conducted in 2014 found that 5.7% of Torontonians, or 158,000, ride their bikes daily.⁵¹⁵ And [Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank](#) has noted dramatic growth in bike ridership since 2009.
 - In 2009, the City's Transportation Department released its [Cycling Study](#), which showed that 29% of Torontonians were utilitarian cyclists.
 - Analysis of 2011 [National Household Survey](#) data showed "astonishing" cycling mode share levels in some census tracts—nearly 20% in Seaton Village and in Dufferin Grove, with other west-end areas following closely. These data accounted only for trips to work and school, so total cycling mode share would be even higher.
 - In 2013, the [Toronto Centre for Active Transportation](#) and Share the Road released [survey](#) results showing that 7% of Torontonians cycled daily.
 - And in September 2013, a [Cycle Toronto/Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank study](#) showed that (on the two study days) approximately equal numbers of cars and bikes used College Street during the afternoon rush hour—a 74% increase in cycling on the street in just three years.⁵¹⁶
- Nonetheless, a September 2014 [Smart Commute survey](#) of 1,000 GTHA commuters found that of participants (chosen for having travelled or teleworked at least three times a week for work, school, or volunteering in the last 12 months), only 4% walked and 2% biked.
 - While 30% reported using public transit, the majority of respondents (55%) drove alone. Only 7% carpooled.⁵¹⁷

Toronto was named the second-most walkable city in Canada in [Walk Score](#)'s national rankings in 2015:

- Walk Score rates the walkability of various cities (selective sections of cities, not cities as a whole). Among 22 Canadian cities, Toronto finished behind Vancouver again this year.
 - Toronto received a score of 71.4 out of a possible 100, while Vancouver scored 78 and Montréal 70.4, making all of these cities "very walkable."
- Of 141 cities across the US, Canada, and Australia with populations of 200,000+, Toronto ranked 11th (New York was first).



Of Toronto's neighbourhoods, the Bay Street Corridor, the Church-Yonge Corridor, and Kensington-Chinatown were singled out as tops in walkability.⁵¹⁸

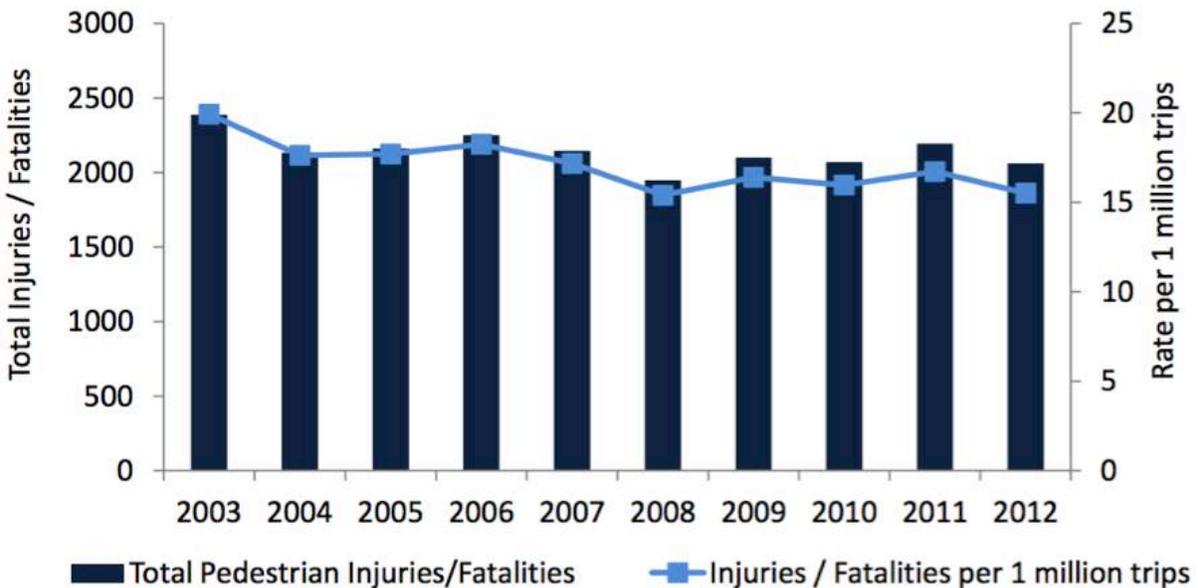
Toronto tied with Saskatoon as the fourth most dangerous city in Canada out of 10 to ride a bike:

- The Seattle-based team that created the Walk Score methodology partnered with a team at the University of British Columbia to develop a [“Bike Score”](#) for 10 Canadian cities in 2012.
 - Factors used to calculate a city’s Bike Score include cycling infrastructure, topography, desirable amenities, and road connectivity.
- Along with Saskatoon, Toronto placed 4th, while Victoria, Vancouver, and Montréal placed first, second, and third respectively.⁵¹⁹

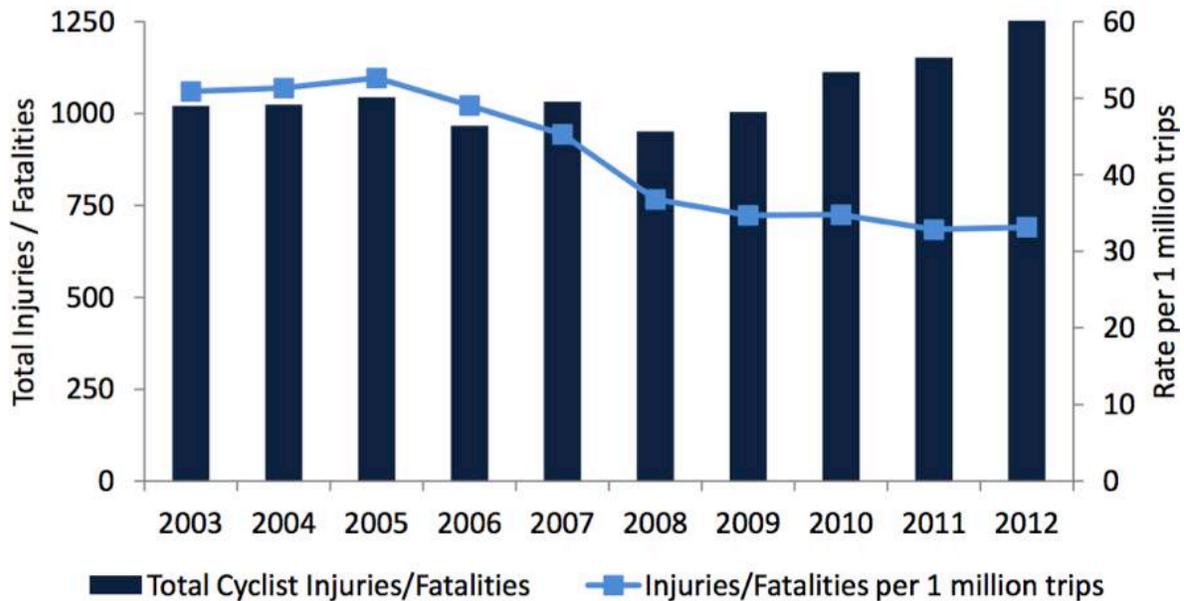
While fatalities have declined over the last decade, pedestrians and cyclists are still at greater risk of injury or death in collisions with motor vehicles than people travelling in cars or using transit—and youth, young adults, and seniors are especially vulnerable:

- A new Toronto Public Health [report](#) (based on Toronto Police Services’ collision reports from 2008-2012) examines how safe active transportation is in the city.
- Rates of injuries and fatalities declined from 20 per million walking trips in 2003 to 16 per million in 2012, and from 51 per million cycling trips in 2003 to 33 in 2012. The report notes that given the population increase in the city over this period, the declines are particularly encouraging.⁵²⁰

Pedestrian Collision Injuries and Fatalities per 1 Million Trips, Toronto, 2003-2012.⁵²¹



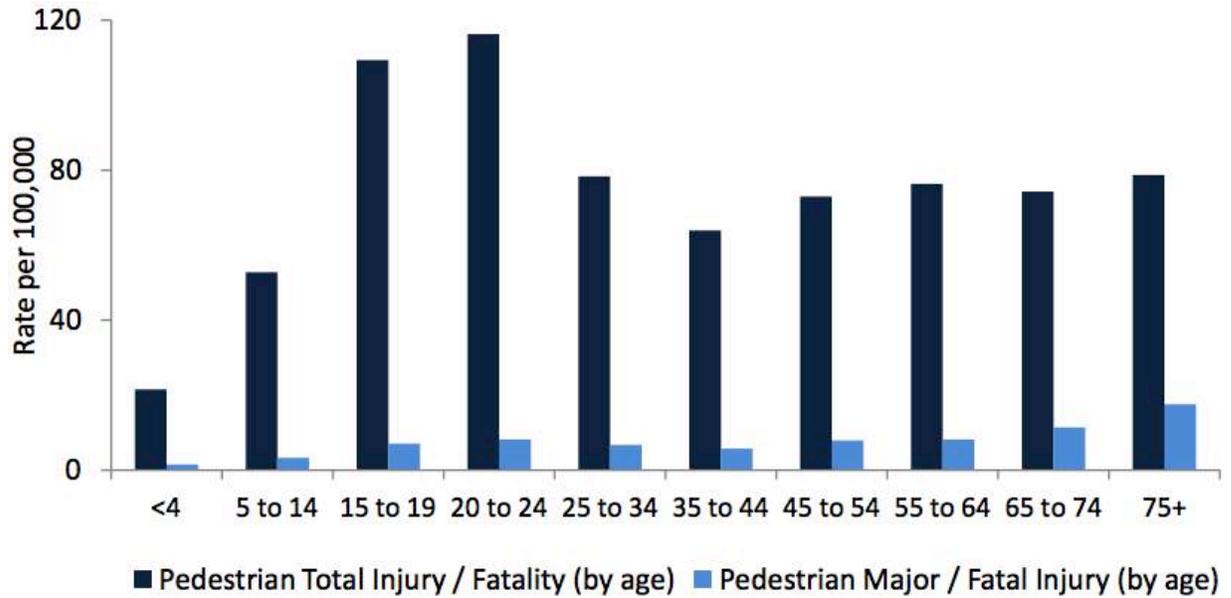
Cyclist Collision Injuries and Fatalities per 1 Million Trips, Toronto, 2003-2012:⁵²²



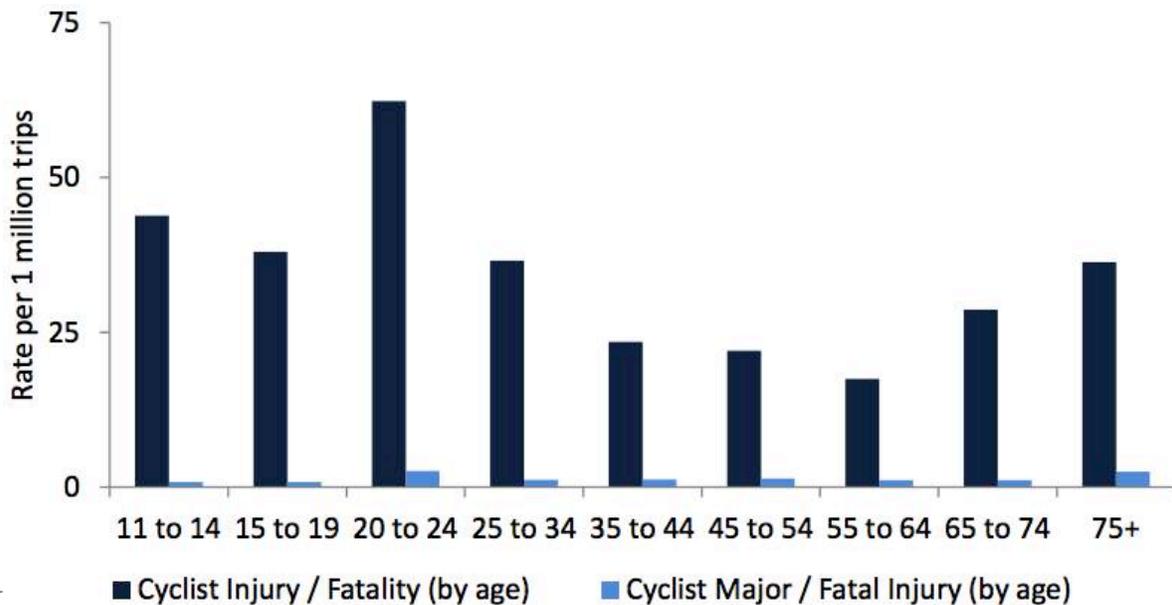
- Between 2008 and 2012, an average of 2,074 Toronto pedestrians and 1,097 cyclists per year were involved in a collision with a vehicle that resulted in injury or death, and most accidents were not the result of pedestrian or cyclist behaviours.
 - 9% of those pedestrian collisions (921 of 10,288) resulted in hospitalization, and 1.2% (120 of 10,288) in a fatality. The numbers for cyclists are slightly better at 4% hospitalizations (222 of 5,384 collisions) and 0.2% fatalities (10 of 5,384).
 - In most (67%) of the pedestrian-vehicle collisions, the pedestrian had the right of way. In only 19% of incidents they did not have the right of way, and in 14% the right of way was unknown.
 - Approximately 3% of pedestrian collision injuries and 1.5% of cyclist injuries involved a transit vehicle. Pedestrians involved in transit-related collisions are 70% more likely to suffer a severe or fatal injury than if they were involved in a collision with a car. Cyclists are 2.16 times more likely to suffer a severe or fatal injury in a transit collision than in a collision with a regular vehicle.
 - Only about 13% of pedestrians and 12% of cyclists were deemed inattentive (e.g., texting or listening to a device with earbuds) at the time of a collision with a motor vehicle. Pedestrians aged 19 and under and cyclists aged 5-19 and 65+ were the most likely to be inattentive.
 - Only about 5% of pedestrians and 3% of cyclists involved in a collision were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Young adults and seniors are the most vulnerable to pedestrian injuries and fatalities, with those aged 15-24 and 75+ experiencing the highest total injuries and fatalities and those 20-24 and 65+ having the highest rates of major injuries and fatalities.
 - Among cyclists, youth are particularly at risk, with 11- to 24-year-olds seeing the highest rates of injuries and fatalities. Seniors also have one of the highest rates of major injuries and fatalities.

- While most bike-related injuries in children are caused by other factors such as falling or colliding with another bicycle or pedestrian, collisions with vehicles are the next most common cause of injury. The high rates of injuries and fatalities of youth cyclists may be due to their riding bikes for entertainment as well as for transport.
- For seniors, age-related changes such as those in perceptual and cognitive functions may have an impact on the rate and severity of their involvement in pedestrian and cyclist collisions.⁵²³

Pedestrian Injuries and Fatalities per 100,000 Population, by Age Cohort, Toronto, 2008-2012.⁵²⁴



Cyclist Injuries and Fatalities per 1 Million Trips, by Age Cohort, Toronto, 2008-2012.⁵²⁵



- Most pedestrians and cyclists involved in a motor vehicle collision (69%) are struck in an intersection (versus 22% struck at mid-block locations), likely because their numbers increase at intersections and because the turning of motor vehicles here creates particularly close interactions.
 - The least likely place for a pedestrian to be struck is at a pedestrian crossover. Cyclists are least likely to be struck at a traffic signal.
 - Data also show the effectiveness of different types of bikeways in improving cyclist safety, with off-road pathways being the safest option.⁵²⁶

**Cyclist Collisions per Length of Bikeway Lanes, Toronto,
Five-Year Average (2008-2012):⁵²⁷**

Type of Bikeway	Average Number of Collisions	Length in km (lane)	Collisions per km
Bike Lanes	161	215	0.7
Sharrows	51	26	1.9
Signed Routes	117	302	0.4
Off Road Pathways*	9	297	0.03
Total	338	840	0.4

- By mid-June 2015, three cyclists had been killed so far in the year in Toronto (compared to no deaths by mid-June 2014).
 - A Toronto Star analysis of Toronto Police Service statistics show that the worst month for traffic accidents involving cyclists is July. Thursday is the worst day of the week, and rush hour, specifically 5-6 pm, is the worst time of day.⁵²⁸

Preliminary research indicates that cycling volumes have tripled, cyclists feel safer, and motor vehicle travel times have been largely positively impacted since the installation of bike lanes on Richmond, Adelaide, and Simcoe Streets in 2014:

- 9,866 people participated in an online “Cycle Track” feedback survey offered by the City between December 2014 and May 2015. Of the participants, 8,442 said they were cyclists and 1,424 said they were not.
- The [results](#) show that overall cycling volumes on the three streets have tripled since the cycle tracks were installed.
 - Richmond and Adelaide Streets average over 4,200 cyclist trips per weekday, while Simcoe averages 1,100 trips.
- Of those who bike, 94% strongly agreed that the cycle tracks should be made permanent, with 4% just agreeing, 1% feeling neutral, and 1% strongly disagreeing.
- Cyclists’ feeling of safety on these streets increased from 3.6 out of 10 before the cycle tracks were installed to 8.3 out of 10 after, although they reported abuses of the tracks, with construction work and cars blocking them being reported as more serious problems.
- Although the results are very different among those who do not bike, a majority (52%) still strongly agreed and that the tracks should be made permanent. A quarter (25%), however, strongly disagreed, while 6% disagreed, 12% agreed, and 5% felt neutral.

- A majority of drivers noted some level of concern related to the cyclist tracks, including crossing them while doing a right turn, dropping off and picking up passengers or deliveries, and cyclists still (legally) using the traffic lanes, either to make a left turn or to avoid stopped vehicles or construction.
- A majority of both drivers and cyclists agreed that some form of physical separation is needed between the cycle tracks and traffic lanes.
 - Over 90% of cyclists voiced this need, with 39% saying flexi-posts are an effective form of separation and 36% proposing something more concrete, such as a curb. 60% of drivers agreed there is need for a physical separation, with roughly half feeling the flexi-posts were effective enough.⁵²⁹
- A City [evaluation](#) shows mostly positive impacts on vehicular travel times on either Richmond or Adelaide (vehicular travel times were not assessed on Simcoe).⁵³⁰

Comparison of Average Motor Vehicle Travel Times (Minutes: Seconds), 2014-2015, Richmond Street, from York to Bathurst:⁵³¹

Time Period	June 2014 (before pilot)	February 2015 (during pilot)	Difference	% Difference
7:00 to 10:00 AM	4:49	4:31	-0:18	6.2% reduction
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	6:59	5:29	-1:30	21.5% reduction
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM	7:15	6:41	-0:34	7.8% reduction

Comparison of Average Motor Vehicle Travel Times (Minutes: Seconds), 2014-2015, Adelaide Street, from York to Simcoe:⁵³²

Time Period	June 2014 (before pilot)	February 2015 (during pilot)	Difference	% Difference
7:00 to 10:00 AM	5:05	4:41	-0:24	-7.9%
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	5:53	4:05	-1:48	-30.6%
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM	4:46	5:21	+0:35	+12.2%

Six pedestrian-vehicle collisions within 24 hours in November 2014 prompted the City to propose actions to keep pedestrians safer, including giving them more time to cross intersections:

- The accidents came days after the [Toronto Police Service](#) launched a safety campaign to remind drivers and pedestrians of the increased dangers typical of November—traditionally the deadliest month for pedestrians as drivers adjust to increasingly dark and wet conditions.
- The City’s transportation services department responded by promising improved road markings and signs at problem intersections.

- Pedestrians will also be given more time to make it through intersections, as the City has dropped its assumed speed of a pedestrian from 1.3 metres per second to 1.0.⁵³³

Since 2013, the worst year for traffic fatalities in nearly a decade, Toronto City Council has slowly moved towards implementing policies to reduce the speed of vehicles to improve safety:

- A 2015 Toronto Public Health [report](#) documents the role that speed plays in both the occurrence of, and the risk of fatality in, pedestrian and cyclist collisions with motor vehicles.
 - Collisions that result in pedestrian and cyclist injury or death most frequently occur on roads with higher posted speed limits such as major and minor arterial roads.
 - Pedestrians struck mid-block by motor vehicles are 1.42 times more likely to suffer a major injury or fatality than those struck in intersections, likely due to the higher speeds travelled mid-block.
 - The risk of pedestrian fatality is estimated to be twice as high at 50 km/h as it is at 40 km/h and more than five times as high than at 30 km/h.⁵³⁴
- Toronto’s Chief Medical Officer of Health has previously recommended [reducing speed limits](#) on Toronto streets to a maximum of 40 km/h.⁵³⁵
- City Council is weighing the merits of different approaches to limiting vehicle speeds:
 - With universal speed limit reductions, an entire city’s speed limit is lowered.
 - Another option, “slow zones,” designates lower speed limits in specific neighbourhoods, and typically some changes to infrastructure to support the transition. In Toronto, streets needed to get speed bumps to have their speeds reduced to 30 km/h.
- In May 2015, Council adopted a [30 km/h Speed Limit Policy](#) that outlines conditions for having a street’s speed limit lowered without requiring any infrastructure changes. The conditions require first a local petition in favour of reducing the limit, and then that the street meets three of four criteria:
 - that it has no sidewalks,
 - that cars are parked on both sides of the street (or one side if the street is extremely narrow),
 - that it has two curves that are unmanageable at more than 30 km/h within 200 metres of each other, and
 - that there is a lack of safe stopping distance at two locations.⁵³⁶
- The Toronto and East York Community Council (TEYCC) requested that the City reduce the posted speed limits on all local roads in the district from 40 km/h to 30 km/h.
 - A City staff [report](#) estimated the move would need \$1.1M in funding that would have to be secured in the 2016 budget process (to install approximately 4,450 road signs at \$225 each and re-time approximately 310 traffic signals at \$200 each).
 - Analysis of Toronto Police Services’ accident reports for the Community Council area for 2009-2013 showed, however, that roads in the 50–60 km/h speed limit range had much higher rates of pedestrian and cyclist collisions and fatalities than did those in the 30–40 km/h range.⁵³⁷

Number of Pedestrian Collisions by Posted Speed Limit, Toronto, 2009-2013:⁵³⁸

Posted Speed Limit	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total	% of Grand Total
30 km/hr	7	6	8	6	2	29	0.9%
40 km/hr	88	106	98	118	94	504	15.7%
50 km/hr	353	289	349	314	250	1,555	48.5%
60 km/hr	231	216	239	232	168	1,086	33.8%
70 km/hr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
80 km/hr	0	3	1	1	0	5	0.2%
90 km/hr	6	9	5	8	2	30	0.9%
Totals	685	629	700	679	516	3,209 **	
% of Grand Total	21.3%	19.6%	21.8%	21.2%	16.1%	100.0%	100.0%

Number of Cyclist Collisions by Posted Speed Limit, Toronto, 2009-2013:⁵³⁹

Posted Speed Limit	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total	% of Grand Total
30 km/hr	6	9	14	9	10	48	1.2%
40 km/hr	112	123	110	147	118	610	15.6%
50 km/hr	328	406	421	477	360	1,992	50.9%
60 km/hr	216	235	271	310	214	1,245	31.8%
70 km/hr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
80 km/hr	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0%
90 km/hr	2	0	5	9	2	18	0.5%
Totals	664	772	821	953	704	3,914 **	
% of Grand Total	17.0%	19.7%	21.0%	24.3%	18.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Outcome of Pedestrian Collisions by Posted Speed Limit, Toronto, 2009-2013:⁵⁴⁰

Posted Speed Limit	Outcome of Collision			Total	% of Grand Total	
	Fatal	Personal Injury	Property Damage			
30 km/hr	0	(0%)	28	1	29	0.9%
40 km/hr	2	(4.5%)	475	27	504	15.7%
50 km/hr	20	(45.5%)	1,486	49	1,555	48.5%
60 km/hr	20	(45.5%)	1,025	41	1,086	33.8%
70 km/hr	0	(0%)	0	0	0	0.0%
80 km/hr	0	(0%)	5	0	5	0.2%
90 km/hr	2	(4.5%)	28	0	30	0.9%
Totals	44	(100%)	3,047	118	3,209 **	
% of Grand Total	1.4%		95.0%	3.7%	100.0%	100.0%

Outcome of Cyclist Collisions by Posted Speed Limit, Toronto, 2009-2013.⁵⁴¹

Posted Speed Limit	Outcome of Collision			Total	% of Grand Total	
	Fatal	Personal Injury	Property Damage			
30 km/hr	0	(0%)	41	7	48	1.2%
40 km/hr	0	(0%)	526	84	610	15.6%
50 km/hr	4	(66.7%)	1,678	310	1,992	50.9%
60 km/hr	2	(33.3%)	1,081	162	1,245	31.8%
70 km/hr	0	(0%)	0	0	0	0.0%
80 km/hr	0	(0%)	1	0	1	0.0%
90 km/hr	2	(0%)	16	2	18	0.5%
Totals	6	(100%)	3,343	565	3,914 **	
% of Grand Total	0.2%		85.4%	14.4%	100.0%	100.0%

- In addition to improved safety and reduced severity of injury for pedestrians and cyclists, the report noted many possible benefits to the idea, including:
 - less motorist confusion (one speed limit on all local streets),
 - less noise,
 - more active transportation use,
 - less fuel consumption, and
 - fewer polluting emissions.
- However, in addition to the significant implementation cost, the report acknowledged some possible limitations, including:
 - the reality that a 30 km/h limit might not be suitable for every local road (which could cause motorist frustration and non-compliance),
 - resistance from some residents,
 - increased travel times for motorists and transit vehicles,
 - need for increased police services for enforcement, and
 - need for significant public awareness and education campaigns.
- The report concluded that while reducing speed limits is “the most elementary” way of reducing risks to pedestrians, cyclists, and even motorists, widespread and “arbitrary” reductions would likely not have the desired effect. The report instead recommended using the 30 km/h Speed Limit Policy.⁵⁴²
- In June 2015, TEYCC established a universal 30 km/h speed limit within its boundaries⁵⁴³, although as of August 2015, it had yet to be implemented.

The Province is also making some strides in tackling road safety for cyclists and pedestrians:

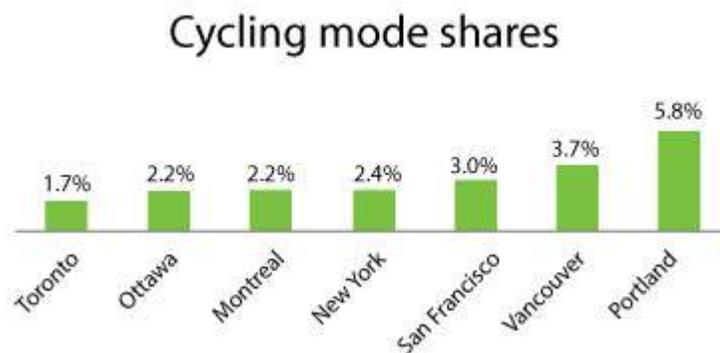
- In June 2015, the Highway Traffic Act was amended, and among the changes were:
 - increased fines and demerit points for drivers who “door” cyclists, and requirements that all drivers maintain a minimum distance of one metre when passing cyclists; and
 - a requirement for drivers to wait until pedestrians have completely crossed school and other pedestrian crossings before proceeding.⁵⁴⁴
- The Province is also considering giving cities the ability to reduce speed limits on arterial roads from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.⁵⁴⁵

How are our transportation choices impacting health in Toronto?

Air pollution still poses a significant burden of illness in Toronto—and the biggest local source of air pollutants is motor vehicle traffic:

- Pollution still causes 1,300 premature deaths and 3,550 hospitalizations each year in the city. 42% (or 280) of those premature deaths and over half (55%) of the hospitalizations (1,090) can be blamed on motor vehicle emissions.
- One way to reduce emissions from traffic, Toronto Public Health notes in an [update](#) to its 2004 Burden of Illness report, is to reduce the number of cars on the road by getting people to use alternate modes of transportation.
 - Compared to other major North American cities, Toronto has the lowest proportions of people who commute by walking or cycling.
 - A shift to more active transportation is feasible, though, as about 55% of all trips in Toronto are less than 7 km and over 20% are under 2 km. Residents have expressed strong support for cycling and walking infrastructure in Toronto.⁵⁴⁶

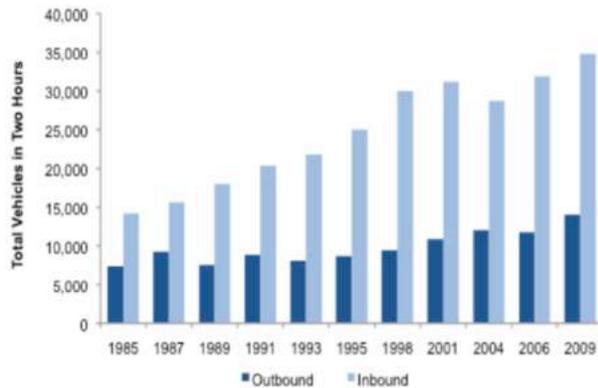
Active Commuting Mode Shares of North American Cities, 2012:⁵⁴⁷



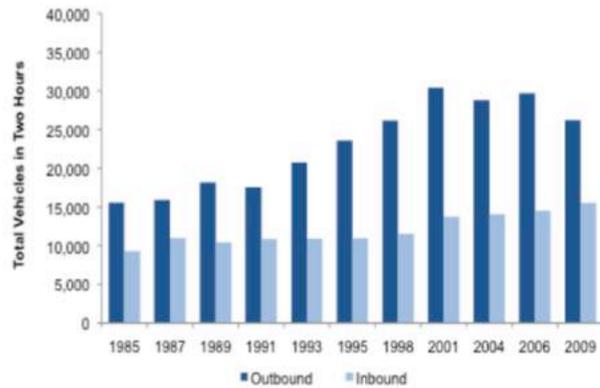
- For longer trips, transit must be improved so it becomes a viable alternative to driving. Counts of vehicles travelling between Toronto and Durham, for example, show that the volume of commuters has grown tremendously between 1985 and 2009.

Total Vehicles Crossing the Toronto-Durham Border,
Morning and Afternoon, 1985-2009:⁵⁴⁸

Morning Peak Period (7:00 to 9:00 AM)



Afternoon Peak Period (4:00 to 6:00 PM)



- Toronto City Council has adopted a number of Board of Health recommendations to further reduce emissions including encouraging urgent provincial funding of transit and active transportation infrastructure.⁵⁴⁹

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.

[Canadian Urban Institute](#) – Building wisdom and inspiring leadership for healthy urban development

[Charlie's FreeWheels](#) – Teaching bicycle mechanics, safety and leadership skills to youth

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

[Community Matters Toronto](#) - Supporting 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

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

[Toronto Atmospheric Fund](#) - Helping 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

Environment

Why is this important?

Toronto won't be able to handle the effects of changes to our climate (increasing and severe weather events, etc.) if its natural and built environments aren't in good shape. Features such as abundant tree canopy, stormwater control, and green roofs are key to the city's resilience. Parks, recreation areas, and walkable neighbourhoods enhance health and quality of life for all residents. Protection of the rich but threatened farmland that surrounds the city is an important asset for our food security.

What are the trends?

The percentage of residential waste diverted was the same in 2014 as in 2013, and the City has still not met its 70% diversion goal. The City will need residents' help to restore the damage to our tree canopy caused by the December 2013 ice storm and meet its ambitious growth goal. Nonetheless, Toronto is the only municipality in the GTA Clean Air Council that has achieved all targets associated with a declaration to further municipal clean air and climate change actions and policies.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
1. Percentage of summer days that Toronto's 11 beaches are open for swimming	89%	83% ⁵⁵⁰	87% ⁵⁵¹
2. Residential waste generated, in tonnes	815,450	823,743	804,369 ⁵⁵²
3. Residential waste diverted, in tonnes (Percentage residential waste diverted)	424,188 (52%)	439,222 (53%)	423,817 ⁵⁵³ (53% ⁵⁵⁴)
4. Number of LEED certified buildings	59	123	186 ⁵⁵⁵
5. City revenue from recycling	\$19.1M	19.6M	\$22.7M ⁵⁵⁶

What's new?

Although floods overwhelmed the municipal stormwater management system in 2013, management of water issues is a low priority for Torontonians. The City is working on better managing future extreme weather events since the December 2013 ice storm tested its ability to keep vulnerable residents safe. However, we need creative and proactive planning and investments to ensure that all Torontonians have access to a vital part of urban life—our parks and open spaces.

How is Toronto faring with measures of environmental progress and sustainability?

Our city can celebrate good news on how our beaches are faring:

- Eight of the city's beaches were awarded the international Blue Flag designation in 2014. They are: Bluffer's Park Beach, Centre Island Beach, Cherry Beach, Gibraltar Point Beach, Hanlan's Point Beach, Kew-Balmy Beach, Ward's Island Beach, and Woodbine Beach.⁵⁵⁷
- The City of Toronto's 11 public beaches were posted as open 87% of the time during the 2014 beach season, up from 83% of the time in 2013.⁵⁵⁸

The number of LEED-certified buildings has increased by about 60 each year for the last two years:

- In 2012 there were 59; the number more than doubled to 123 in 2013 and more than tripled to 186 in 2014. The 2014 number represents 7.11 buildings per 100,000 people, above the provincial average of 5.34.⁵⁵⁹

While there is still room for improvement, Toronto can be proud of its record on waste management:

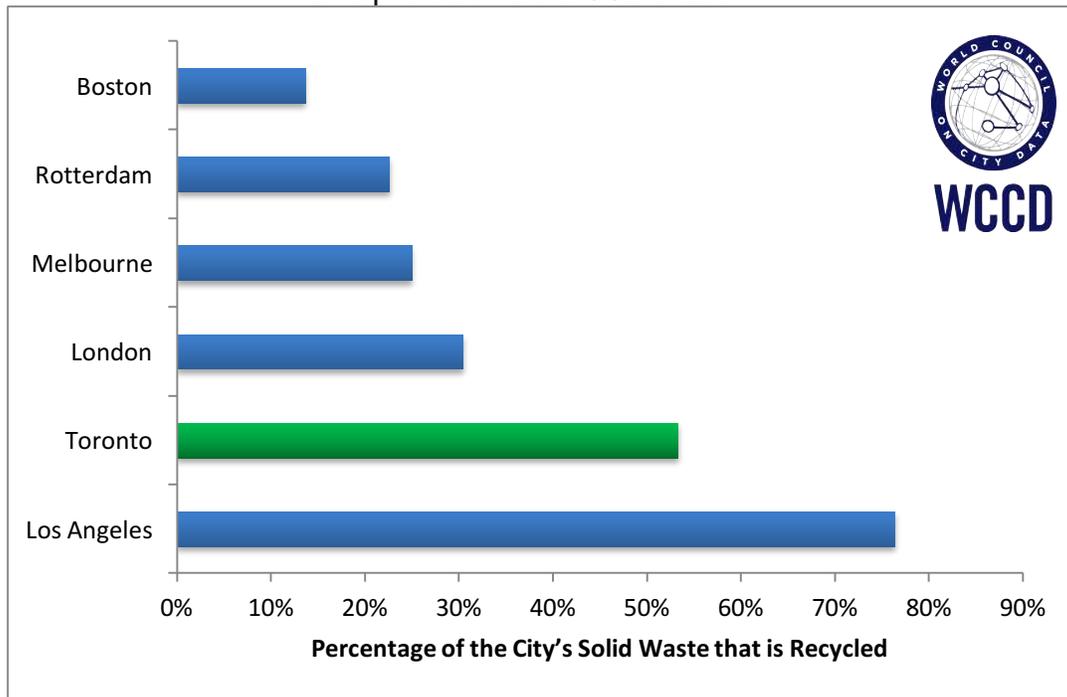
- After increases over three years in the amount of residential waste generated (from 799,812 tonnes in 2011 to 815,450 in 2012 and 823,743 in 2013), 2014 saw a small 2.3% decrease from 2013 (to 804,369 tonnes).
- The percentage of waste diverted remained the same in 2014 as in 2013 (53%).⁵⁶⁰ The City has still not met its 2010 goal of 70% diversion (an original goal of 100% by 2010, set in 2000, was revised in 2007).⁵⁶¹
- Nonetheless, Torontonians diverted 141,206 tonnes of waste from landfills in 2014 through the Blue Bin program and another 106,040 tonnes by using their Green Bins for organic waste.⁵⁶²
- City revenue from recycling increased for the second year in a row, growing 15.8% to \$22.7M in 2014 (after increasing 2.7% to \$19.6M in 2013).⁵⁶³



Toronto's rate of waste diversion fares very well compared to other world cities:

- As reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) in 2014, the city of Toronto's "recycled" solid waste (this includes all material that goes in the City's Blue Bin and Green Bin) was 53.32%. In London, it was just 30.41%, 25.02% in Melbourne, 22.59% in Rotterdam, and a mere 13.66% in Boston. In LA, the rate was an impressive 76.4%.⁵⁶⁴

Percentage of the City's Solid Waste that is Recycled,
as Reported to the WCCD in 2014.⁵⁶⁵



On June 1, 2015, [Toronto's recycling program](#) began accepting soft, stretchy plastics like sandwich bags in Blue Bins.

- This expansion is expected to increase the amount of materials recycled and diverted from landfill by approximately 3,500 additional tonnes, while bringing in enough revenues from the sale of the collected material to result in annual net savings of \$8,527 per year.⁵⁶⁶

Toronto has been ranked the world's 12th most sustainable city:

- While no North American city made the top 10 on the [Sustainable Cities Index](#), compiled by the global design consultancy firm ARCADIS, Toronto was the highest overall ranked at 12th.
 - European cities topped the rankings: Frankfurt was first, followed by London, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam. Boston (15th) and Chicago (19th) are the most sustainable US cities.
- The report measures the sustainability of cities overall based on three pillars of sustainability that cities must balance:
 - The People pillar refers to "quality of life" for the population in areas such as transport infrastructure, health, education, income inequality, and green spaces.
 - The Planet pillar relates to city energy consumption, renewable energy share, recycling rates, greenhouse gas emissions, natural disaster risks, and air and water pollutions and qualities.
 - The Profit pillar relates to cities from a business perspective and includes measures such as ease of doing business, property and living costs, GDP, and energy efficiency.

- The report notes that cities across the world are performing better in the Profit and Planet measures and performing poorest at meeting the needs of their People. Toronto garnered the following rankings:
 - 9th—our highest ranking—in Planet sustainability. The only other North American city in the top 20 is New York (at 20th). Frankfurt took first place.
 - 15th in sustainability for People. Boston overtook us at 13th. In first place is Rotterdam, followed by Seoul and London in second and third respectively.
 - 18th—our lowest ranking—in Profit sustainability. This is where US cities shine. San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia were all within the top 20.⁵⁶⁷

How well-equipped is the city to mitigate the effects of extreme weather and environmental changes?

The past year saw the city hit with more extreme weather, putting vulnerable residents at risk:

- After 36 extreme cold alerts over the winter of 2013-2014—a record at the time—the winter of 2014-2015 was even worse.
 - There were 39 extreme cold weather alerts in 2014-2015, 59% of which fell in February, triggering additional services for the homeless. In 2012-2013 there were only nine cold weather alerts.⁵⁶⁸
 - Extreme cold weather alerts are issued by the Medical Officer of Health when Environment Canada forecasts temperatures of -15 °C or colder, or when, at warmer temperatures, certain factors increase the impact of cold weather on health (e.g., wind chill, precipitation, low daytime temperatures, or several days and nights of cold weather in a row).⁵⁶⁹
 - On a more positive note, only one heat alert was necessary in the summer of 2014 (compared to seven the previous year) to help those most at risk of heat-related illness take appropriate precautions. And there were zero extreme heat alerts (compared to six in 2013).⁵⁷⁰
 - In 2015 however, there were eight heat alerts and four extreme heat alerts for Toronto as of September 25, 2015.⁵⁷¹
 - Heat alerts are called based on the following “triggers” with a duration of two days: a forecast high of greater than or equal to (\geq) 31 °C, a forecast low of \geq 20 °C, and a forecast humidex of \geq 40 °C. The same conditions for a duration of three days will trigger an extreme heat alert.⁵⁷²
- In March 2015, more than 250,000 Toronto residents were left without power, due in large part to freezing rain and a buildup of road salt and ice on hydro poles. By the following day power had been restored to all but 4,500 affected residents.⁵⁷³

After a December 2013 ice storm damaged as much as 20% of Toronto’s urban forest and tested the city’s ability to keep its vulnerable residents safe, the City is working on better preparing for future events:

- A year after the ice storm, the City was busy updating its emergency response plans based on an independent review and Council reports. Actions undertaken to protect the city in the event of an emergency included:

- an updated version of the City's Emergency Plan and updates to various Emergency Support Function Plans that address how key functions (e.g., waste management, transportation services, paramedic services, and communications) can operate during an emergency;
 - identification of four City-owned recreation facilities (one in each district, North, South, East, and West) that can function as emergency reception centres, and of specific facilities that can be used as warming or cooling centres as needed;
 - establishment of an Emergency Social Services Working Group to provide support during an emergency, comprising staff representatives from 13 City divisions and two City agencies (including Children's Services, Employment and Social Services, Long-Term Care Homes and Services, Toronto Public Health, Toronto Paramedic Services, 311 Toronto, Toronto Public Library, and Toronto Community Housing); and
 - signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Canadian Red Cross (in May 2014) demonstrating its agreement to assist the City in providing emergency social services to residents who may become displaced during an emergency.
- The ice storm cut power for a million residents, and Toronto Hydro's phone lines and operators were unable to keep up with an average 40,000 calls per day. Toronto Hydro's response to the storm was the subject of an [independent review](#). Amongst the actions it has taken as a result are:
 - enhancing the Toronto Hydro website and creating a mobile application to better keep customers up to date during outages and emergencies;
 - undertaking an MOU with 311 Toronto that will enhance communications between the 311 Toronto and Toronto Hydro call centres (311 Toronto will, for example, be able to log outage reports for Toronto Hydro customers)⁵⁷⁴; and
 - assessing the potential of putting lines underground in new development areas or converting overhead lines to underground ones where possible, and working with Urban Forestry to review line-clearing programs and manage the potential impact of trees near power lines.⁵⁷⁵
 - 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 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, such as in flood-prone areas.⁵⁷⁶
 - During the storm, Parks, Forestry and Recreation worked with Toronto Hydro to remove trees and tree limbs that were affecting power lines, blocking roads, or posing a safety hazard, and then to inspect trees to identify and address potential hazards. They assessed the structural integrity of the city's urban forest, collecting data that will inform planning for its long-term recovery.⁵⁷⁷

The City's ambitious tree canopy growth goal will depend heavily on residents, because 60% of our trees are on private property:

- 2013 was a bad year for the urban forest. Almost 20,000 City-owned trees alone were deemed "dead, in a state of decline, or structurally unsound" and removed. The ice

storm claimed 1,500 of those trees, and another 7,924 were damaged by the [Emerald Ash Borer](#).

- Of Toronto's roughly 10 million trees (of at least 116 species) 6% are City-owned street trees, and 34% are in parks. The rest are on private property.
- To meet its canopy goal—increasing coverage from 28% to 40% by 2057—the City needs to add over half a million new trees a year for the next 50 years. Its plan relies not only on natural regeneration and planting on public property, but on private residents planting and maintaining trees on their properties.
- Another challenge remains. While the City is upping its urban forestry budget to \$100M by 2022, a balance will need to be found between canopy expansion and booming urban development.⁵⁷⁸



According to [Wellbeing Toronto](#), the neighbourhoods with the most tree foliage all corresponded with the location of our river valleys and ravines in 2011. The Rouge neighbourhood came out on top in this regard, with 12,888,044m². North St. James Town had the least tree foliage, with 61,616m.²

How concerned are we about flooding, water usage, and the City's management of water issues and infrastructure?

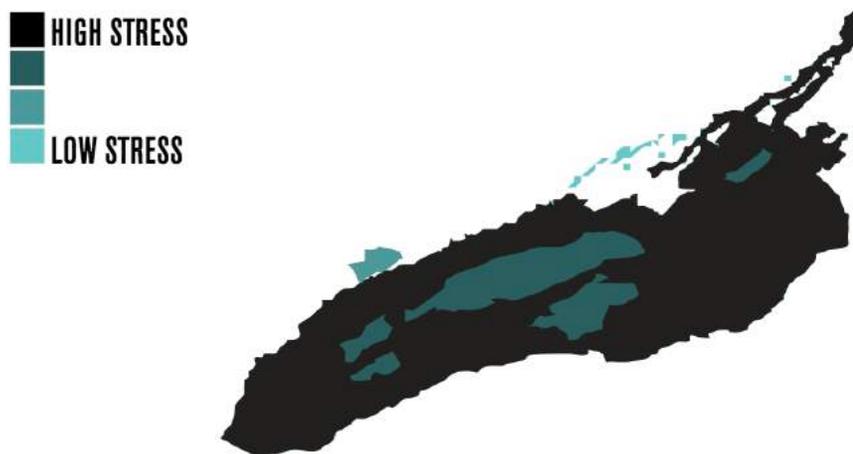
After “the year of the urban flood,” in which excessive rainfall or snowmelt caused floods that overwhelmed municipal stormwater management systems in Toronto, Calgary, and elsewhere in 2013, the City's management of water issues is a surprisingly low priority for Torontonians:

- Toronto Water manages one of the largest drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in North America, yet the daily cost for the average Toronto household is among the lowest in the GTHA—\$2.27 in 2014.⁵⁷⁹
- RBC's seventh annual [study](#) measuring the attitudes of urban residents to water issues finds that only 1% of Torontonians think stormwater management should be the highest priority infrastructure area for government funding, even though 23% of those surveyed live in an area they perceive as vulnerable to flooding and 20% had been personally affected by flooding in the past 12 months.
 - Torontonians instead named hospitals (27%), urban/suburban public transit (17%), and the production of green energy (15%) as highest-priority infrastructure investments. 12% prioritized the drinking water supply and 4% sewage collection/treatment.
- 42% believe that Toronto's water treatment and delivery systems are in good condition and need only minor regular investments for upkeep, 12% believe they are in poor condition and need major investments now, and almost half (47%) said they had no idea what condition they are in.
 - The responses for the city's stormwater management systems were 33% good, 19% poor, and 47% no idea.

- Majorities believe, however, that deteriorating infrastructure for both water distribution (66%) and sewage (68%) will be much or somewhat more serious issues in the future.
- Majorities reported a change compared to 10 years ago in the frequency of both floods (57%) and heat waves (52%). 49% noticed a change in the frequency of heavy snowfalls, 48% in ice or hail storms, and 38% in severe thunderstorms.
 - Three-quarters believe climate change has increased extreme weather events in Canada and that they will become more commonplace in the future.
 - 69% and 65% respectively predict that emergency preparedness and urban/city flooding will become much or somewhat more serious issues in the future.
- Almost three-quarters (72%) believe that the increasing consumption of water supplies and the protection of drinking water sources will be much or somewhat more serious issues in the future.⁵⁸⁰

Most of Lake Ontario is already highly stressed from the cumulative effects of our economy and way of life:

Cumulative Stress Map, Lake Ontario:⁵⁸¹



- Microbeads, tiny pieces of non-biodegradable plastic (added to cosmetic products) are becoming a huge problem. They clog the intestines and starve fish and fowl who ingest them, and become more and more concentrated as they work their way up the food chain.⁵⁸²
 - Surveys by the US-based [5 Gyres Institute](#) in the summers of 2012 and 2013 found up to 1.1 million microplastic particles per km² of surface on Lake Ontario.
 - The Province has moved to ban microbeads, with a goal of binding legislation in place by the end of 2015.⁵⁸³

Water use by Torontonians increased last year after a period of declining use:

- Declining water consumption in 2012-2013 led Council to approve, during the 2014 rate-supported budget process, an 8% water rate increase in 2015-2017 to address a \$1B shortfall in capital funding due to reduced water revenue.⁵⁸⁴

- As of July 20, 2015, a daily average of 1,488.01 millions of litres had been consumed in Toronto,⁵⁸⁵ up from the daily average of 1,133 millions of litres a day as of September 5, 2014.⁵⁸⁶

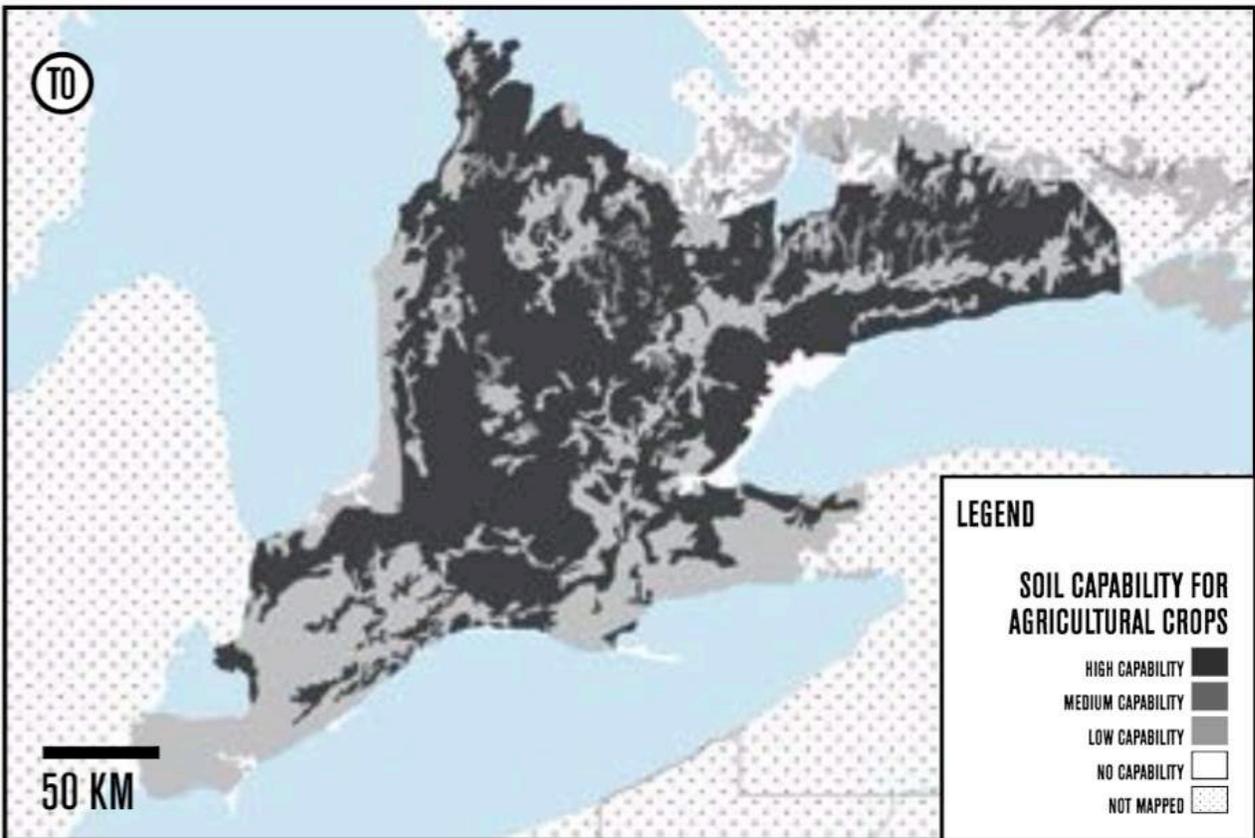
Managing the resilience of our infrastructure is a priority for City:

- Council approved an 8% increase in the 2015 budget to support more than \$8.2B in spending on state of good repair, basement flooding protection, stormwater management, and improving extreme weather resiliency.⁵⁸⁷

How is Toronto providing leadership in the area of food security?

Half of Canada’s best farmland is in Ontario, with much of it near Toronto, yet the province imports almost \$20B worth of food every year:

Toronto’s Rich “Foodshed”.⁵⁸⁸



- Half of Canada’s [“Class 1” farmland](#)—good for producing a wide range of field crops due to its deep, well drained, moisture retaining, and nutrient-rich soil—is in Ontario, much of it in “near-urban” areas such as surrounding Toronto.⁵⁸⁹ Nonetheless, a border closure or key failure in US agriculture would leave Toronto and other nearby urban areas unable to adequately feed their populations. At any one time Toronto has about three days’ worth of food available.⁵⁹⁰

- We import nearly double the amount of food that we export—in 2012, Ontario food imports were valued at \$19.8B, and exports at \$10.8B. A 2015 [report](#) from the [Metcalf Foundation](#), the [McConnell Foundation](#), and the [Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation](#) argues that Ontario’s food system has the potential to grow 50% of the food that it currently imports and better align local production with local consumption. The move would require more acreage devoted to agriculture, more processing and storage of perishable fruits and vegetables, diversion of some currently exported foods to local consumption, and changes from consumers.
 - Although the Golden Horseshoe specializes in fruit production and has 57% of Southern Ontario’s fruit acreage, fruits and nuts account for the bulk of food imports, with a net export of -\$2.8B.
 - If just 10% of the top 10 fruit and vegetable imports were grown locally, Ontario would see a roughly \$250M increase in GDP and 3,400 new, full-time-equivalent jobs, as the Greater Golden Horseshoe accounts for:
 - gross output of \$10.8B or 37% of the total in the economy attributed to farming (the resulting GDP represents 38%, or \$5.7B, of Southern Ontario’s level), and
 - 78% of Southern Ontario’s direct food processing and manufacturing employment (74,800 jobs).
 - Growing more food locally would also reduce the 70% of agriculture-related carbon monoxide emissions and 7% of carbon dioxide emissions that are due to transport.⁵⁹¹

The good news is that despite these lost opportunities, food security is a priority for Torontonians:

- 33 farmers’ markets in Toronto bring fresh produce from the farm to the table.⁵⁹²
- Toronto places more emphasis than either Chicago or New York City on providing access to locally grown produce.
 - According to the [Institute Without Boundaries’ Atlas of One Delta](#) (published in 2014), there are 445 community-supported agriculture programs in Toronto, compared to just 93 in NYC and 85 in Chicago.



Community-Supported Agriculture Programs, Toronto vs. Chicago and NYC:⁵⁹³



Toronto's air quality has improved, but does that mean we have nothing to be concerned about?

Toronto's air is healthier than it was 10 years ago, but air pollution still poses a significant burden of illness in Toronto—and vehicular traffic is largely to blame:

- Air pollution has been linked to a number of health problems including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse birth outcomes, neurodevelopment, cognitive function, and diabetes. In 2013, the World Health Organization declared air pollution as carcinogenic to humans.⁵⁹⁴
- A cool summer meant no smog advisories in Toronto or anywhere else in Ontario in 2014. As of September 1, 2015, there had been no smog advisories so far for Toronto and all of Ontario. There were two smog alert days in 2013, one more than in 2011 but down from the eight 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.⁵⁹⁵

Improved air quality has translated into some meaningful public health gains.

- Premature deaths and hospitalizations as a result of air pollution have dropped by 23% and 41% respectively since 2004.⁵⁹⁶
- But the number of Torontonians (12 years and older) suffering from asthma rose in 2014 to 6.8% in 2014. It was 5.3% in 2013, down from 5.8% in 2012 and 6.9% in 2010.⁵⁹⁷

There is still much work to be done to reduce harmful emissions:

- 10 years after Toronto Public Health released its Burden of Illness report, it released an [update in 2014](#) noting that air pollution still causes an average of 1,300 premature deaths and 3,550 hospitalizations each year in the city (compared to an average of 1,700 premature deaths and 6,000 hospitalizations in 2004).
- 42% (or 280) of those premature deaths and over half (55%) of the hospitalizations (1,090) can be blamed on the biggest local source of air pollutants—motor vehicle traffic.⁵⁹⁸

Estimated Annual Burden of Illness Attributable to Air Pollution from Sources Inside and Outside Toronto:⁵⁹⁹

Air Pollution Source		Health Outcome	
		Premature Deaths	Hospitalizations
All Sources Combined		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

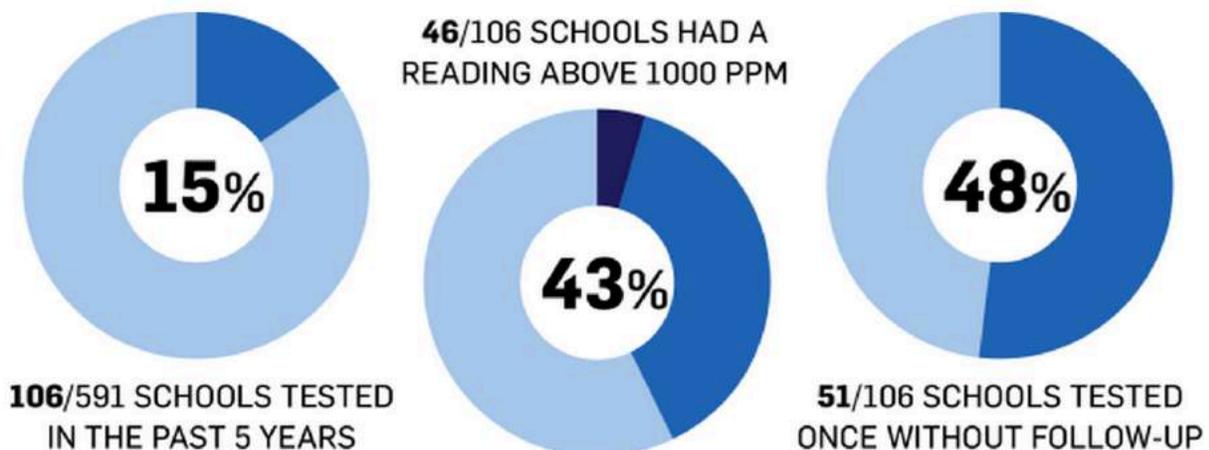
Note: Totals may not appear to sum correctly as a result of rounding.

- Air pollution from traffic also contributes every year to
 - 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.⁶⁰⁰
- A recent [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.⁶⁰¹
- Nonetheless, Toronto is the only municipality in the [GTA Clean Air Council](#) that has achieved all targets associated with a declaration to further municipal clean air and climate change actions and policies across the Region.
 - The Council is a network of 24 municipalities and health units from across the GTA working collaboratively to develop and implement clean air and climate change actions.
 - Mitigation and adaptation initiatives taken up by the Council address areas including greening development, energy, air quality, urban forests, food sustainability, climate change adaptation, transportation, and community engagement.
 - When communities tackle air pollution and climate change challenges they become more competitive and liveable.⁶⁰²

Poor air quality in some Toronto schools could be impairing the learning environment:

- Toronto District School Board (TDSB) documents obtained by [CTV News](#) show that many Toronto classrooms have elevated carbon dioxide levels.
- Data show that within the past five years over 40% of schools tested in Toronto have registered above the recommended ceiling for indoor CO₂ concentrations. Experts generally recommend avoiding concentrations above 1,000 parts per million (PPM).
- 106 of the TDSB's 591 schools (15%) have had an air quality test since 2010, and in 46 of them at least one classroom measured above 1,000 PPM.
 - Several had classrooms measuring upwards of 2,000 PPM.
 - One classroom measured as high as 2,650 PPM.
- The TDSB has responded that no school in the Board has unhealthy or unsafe air and that the high readings in particular classrooms were usually caused by a minor, easily fixed problem such as a blocked vent.
 - When retested after repairs most classrooms were able to fall below the 1,000 PPM mark, but only about a quarter of the schools undertook repairs and half (48%) of the schools were tested only once without follow-up.
- Even the 1,000 PPM threshold may not be safe. One study has shown drops in certain cognitive abilities at that threshold.
 - A California-based research team measured a significant drop in decision-making ability at 2,500 PPM, but effects were noticeable at as low as 1,000 PPM. The lead researcher cites a large body of evidence linking high CO₂ levels to illness, absence, and reduced work performance.
- The main cause of CO₂ buildup is simply the breathing of large groups gathering in close quarters indoors.⁶⁰³

Five Years of Toronto District School Board CO₂ Measurements, 2010-2015:⁶⁰⁴



How do Toronto’s green spaces contribute to residents’ wellbeing and social capital, and how do we ensure that all residents have access to this vital resource as Toronto grows?

Green spaces provide significant health benefits to urban communities by cooling us in times of extreme heat and reducing air pollution:

- A [David Suzuki Foundation analysis](#) of 102 recent (published over the past five years) peer-reviewed studies has found that green spaces filter harmful pollutants from the air and provide cooling effects during extreme heat. As heat rises, so do the negative impacts on our health. One Toronto-based study found that, on average, for every 1°C increase in maximum temperature, there was a 29% increase in ambulance response calls for heat-related distress.
 - Parks and green spaces are significantly cooler—according to one study, 4°C cooler on average—than other areas of Toronto, and higher concentrations of green space are associated with greater cooling.⁶⁰⁵
- A 2014 TD Economics [report](#) noted that the amount of particulate matter removed annually by Toronto’s urban forest (the trees, shrubs and plants that grow in parks, ravines, our lawns, and at the sides of streets) is equivalent to the amount released by over one million automobiles or 100,000 single family homes.⁶⁰⁶

Air Pollution Removed by Toronto’s Urban Forest, 2014:⁶⁰⁷

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

* Refers to the total amount of carbon stored in wood tissues of Toronto’s urban forest (not an annual value)

- The David Suzuki Foundation report’s recommendations for urban greening include:
 - Exploring diverse strategies to meet green density needs in urban areas, such as establishing greenbelts, greenways, and other protected green spaces in cities and suburbs.
 - Ontario’s renowned [Greenbelt](#) is currently being expanded to protect urban river valleys in Toronto and neighbouring cities.

- Mandating minimum green densities, including green roofs, for new developments.
 - Toronto passed a bylaw in 2009 requiring green roofs on 20% to 60% of available roof space on all new buildings with a gross floor area of 2,000m² or more.
- Prioritizing vulnerable areas in planting strategies.
- The report stresses, however, that it will take more than greening to mitigate heat and air pollution. Integrated policies are also needed.⁶⁰⁸

Simply living near trees might be good for your health:

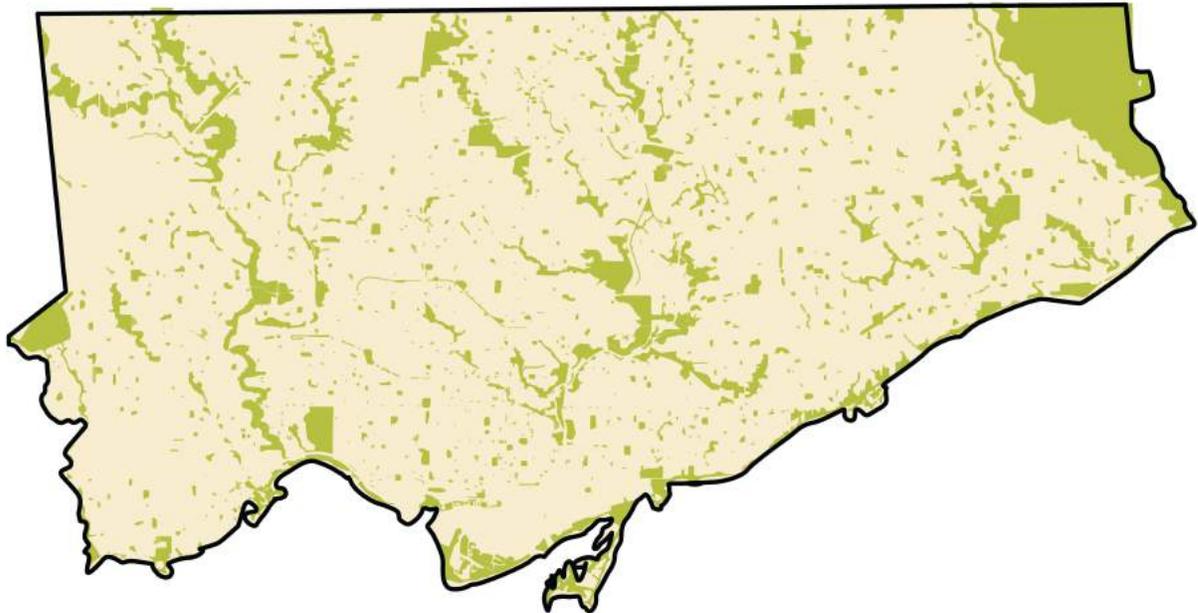
- A team of international scientists conducted a large, comprehensive study based in Toronto that found that, even when controlling for socio-economic and demographic factors, people who live in neighbourhoods with a higher density of trees report considerably better health conditions.
 - The study found that just 10 more trees in a city block improves health perception on average in ways that compare to being 7 years younger, having an additional \$10,000 in annual personal income, or living in a neighbourhood with a \$10,000 higher median income.
 - Having 11 more trees in a city block on average improves cardio-metabolic conditions in ways that compare to a \$20,000 increase in annual personal income, living in a neighbourhood with a \$20,000 higher median income, or being 1.4 years younger.⁶⁰⁹
 - While access to healthcare and systemic issues of poverty are critical issues that must be addressed to improve health outcomes, the study clearly suggested that environmental factors are also critically important as well.⁶¹⁰



Toronto has over 1,600 parks and more parkland per resident than many other large North American cities:

- Toronto's 1,600+ parks cover about 13% of the city's land area.⁶¹¹
- Toronto has more parkland per resident (31 square metres) than Montréal (23m²), Vancouver (22), New York City (15), and Chicago (12).⁶¹²

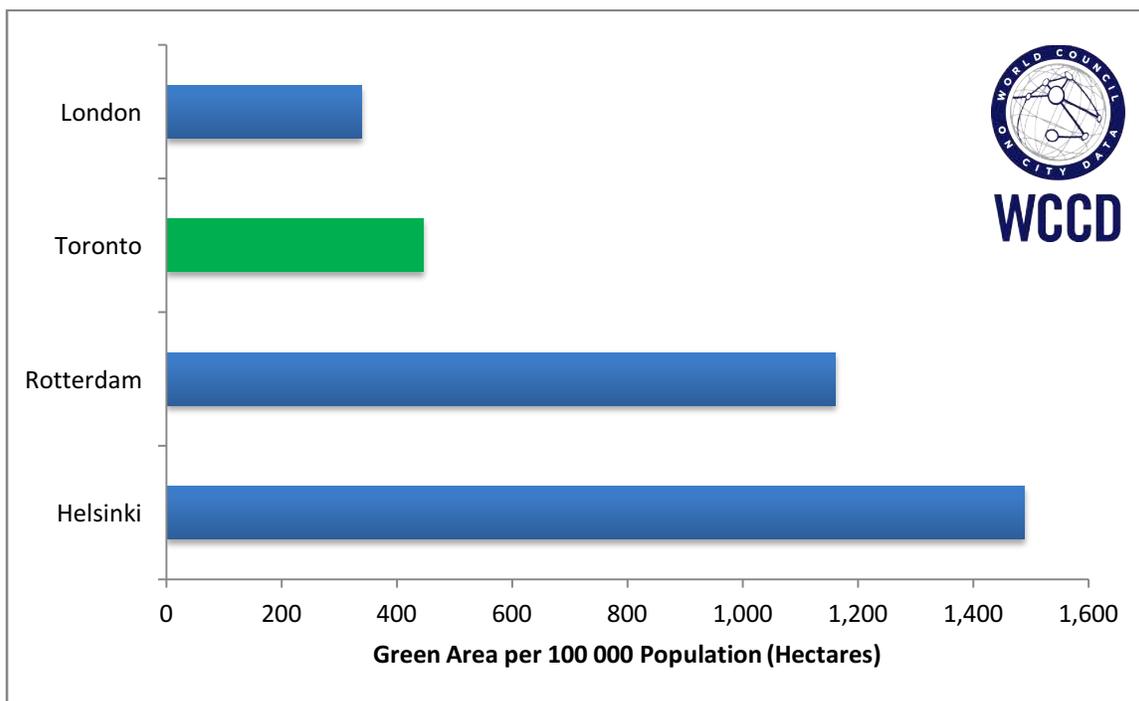
City Within a Park: Toronto's Green Space.⁶¹³



Toronto's publicly accessible green area per 100,000 population, however, is not as impressive compared to some of its European counterparts:

- As reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) in 2014, Toronto surpasses London with 445.67 hectares of publicly accessible green area per 100,000 population compared to 338.88. But in Rotterdam the figure is double that of Toronto at 1,161.32, and in Helsinki, more than triple at 1,488.70.⁶¹⁴

Green Area per 100,000 Population (Hectares), as reported to the WCCD in 2014.⁶¹⁵



Despite this positive news, not everyone in Toronto has equitable access to green space. A Spacing magazine [series](#) called “Parks in Crisis” notes that residents in high-density neighbourhoods, especially those that have seen rapid growth due to the condo boom, are battling their neighbours—“a corrosive dynamic”—over what little green space they have. Some of the reasons for our parks deficit include:

- No one expected the population to grow the way it has:
 - In the early 2000s, planners estimated the city would add 540,000 people in 30 years. Instead the population jumped by 10%, or 226,000 people, in just over a decade (2001-2012). That’s almost 42% of the projected 30-year growth.⁶¹⁶
- The City’s acquisition of parkland has declined dramatically:
 - The rate of acquisition has halved since 2009. From 1998 to 2008, the City added 191.3 ha of parkland or roughly 19 hectares per year (one hectare is about the size of an average sports field). But from 2009 to 2014, only 9.2 ha per year were added, for a total of 46 ha in new parkland.
 - The 2014-2022 capital budget for Parks, Forestry, and Recreation will see 10 times less spent on land than on park development projects (\$10.8M versus \$108M respectively).
 - The imbalance is not for lack of money. A reserve fund meant for parkland acquisition has grown significantly in recent years (thanks to the allocation of half of all parks levies collected and high-density development in the core). But the City just cannot compete in a highly speculative downtown real estate market. An acre of land can cost from \$30M to \$60M.⁶¹⁷
- The cash in lieu of parkland practice used with developers is no guarantee that open spaces near projects will be improved:



- Under [Section 42](#) of the Ontario Planning Act, municipalities can ask developers to set aside a part of a property for parkland, but developers can refuse and instead offer a “cash-in-lieu” payment to the parkland acquisition reserve fund.⁶¹⁸ Choice of the latter option has increased dramatically over the last decade.
- The amount of land the City receives from developers decreased from an average 4.9 ha per year in 2004-2009 to 0.64 ha in 2010-2014.
- Developers prefer to give land only in areas that are not experiencing population growth or speculative pressure, while areas that are most in need of green spaces may not get them—even if developers pay cash in lieu, the City cannot afford the land.⁶¹⁹

The City and various organizations are developing strategies to increase access to green spaces, including:

- concrete apartment tower revitalization, which involves opportunities to improve parks and green spaces for tower residents (the tower renewal initiative is, as of January 2015, a permanent City program run by a new [Tower and Neighbourhood Revitalization Unit](#));
- linear parks, i.e., parks that are far more long than they are wide, enabling the development of more green space even in dense urban developments;
- laneway revitalization, being undertaken by [The Laneway Project](#), a not-for-profit aiming to develop new green spaces, increase walkability, and provide spaces for community events by improving the city’s laneways;⁶²⁰ and
- [privately-owned, publicly accessible spaces](#) (POPS), a New York City model. While advocates look to the success of [Seagram Plaza](#) as an example, about half of New York’s landlords have not complied with their POPS agreements by allowing garbage to pile up in the spaces or by making them unwelcoming (by removing seating and locking gates, for example). Furthermore, few POPS are equally accessible to all, making them no substitute for public parks.⁶²¹



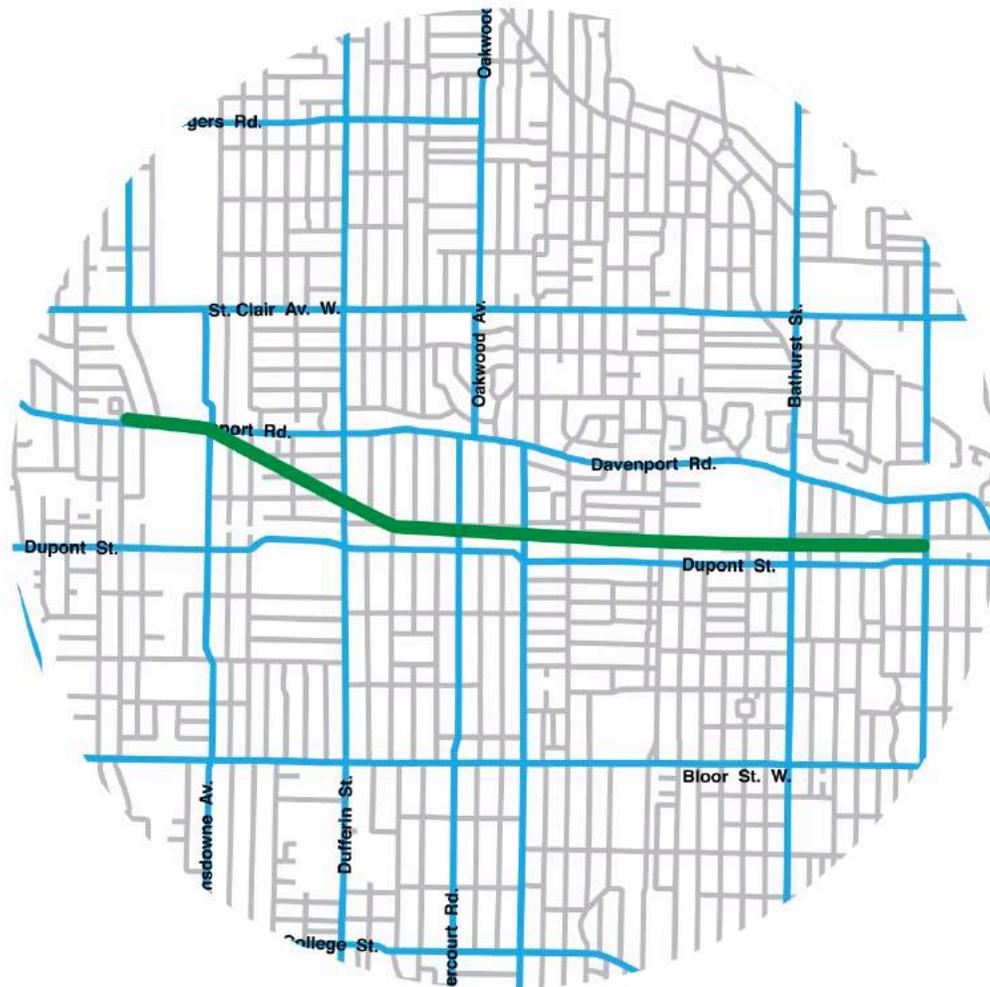
Proactive parks and open space planning focused on connections, flexible design, community involvement, and creative solutions can act as urban “acupuncture” to help revitalize the city:

- A [Park People report](#) proposes a connected network of parks and open spaces including ravines, hydro and rail corridors, streets, laneways, and schoolyards.
- The group recommends not only an increase in efforts to identify and purchase parkland, but also that Torontonians rethink how they view parks and open spaces. It puts forth these principles to guide Toronto in finding new green space:
 - proactively plan central green spaces as the heart of networks that connect many different forms of open spaces;
 - create green connections that become places themselves and can act as links between larger parks and open spaces;
 - be flexible in design and use so that the space we have can be used efficiently and adapt to changing needs;
 - broaden the park to include the space beyond its edges so that parks and green space spill out into our streets and sidewalks;
 - find park space in overlooked, unexpected places such as schoolyards and under overpasses;
 - empower communities by building new partnership models that allow for more local decision-making and programming to meet diverse needs;

- experiment and be nimble by employing quick designs to test ideas and gather feedback; and
- create collaborations and pool funding sources to bring multiple City divisions on board and find new money for park improvements.
- The kind of creative thinking necessary already exists in Toronto, in ideas such as:
 - [The Green Line](#) proposal to transform a hydro corridor just north of the downtown into a 5 km linear park that would stretch from EarlsCourt Park to Spadina Road in the Annex;
 - revitalizing two downtown commercial laneways (Victoria Lane and O’Keefe Lane) into places for public art, greenery, and seating; and
 - transforming College Park into a lively green hub, focusing on its potential as a central green space in Toronto, akin to New York’s [Bryant Park](#).
- The report also looks at current park and open space planning strategies throughout North America, including:
 - San Francisco’s 2014 [Green Connections](#), a partnership between planning, transportation, public health, and community-based organizations created with the goal of linking parks together throughout the city via cycling and walking routes;
 - New York’s [PlaNYC](#) that argues for strategies such as reusing streets as parks, building parks on landfills, and redesigning schoolyards to also serve as community park spaces; and
 - Vancouver’s plans for some of its communities to use opportunities like green linkages in laneways and developing new plazas or park spaces on existing streets and lots.⁶²²



The Green Line Proposal, Toronto:⁶²³



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

[Charlie's FreeWheels](#) – Teaching bicycle mechanics, safety and leadership skills to youth

[Clean Air Partnership](#) – Running 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](#) – Promoting environmental education and conservation

[Earthroots Fund](#) - Dedicated to the preservation of Ontario's wilderness, wildlife, and watersheds

[Ecologos](#) - Networking volunteers to inspire 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

[Green Thumbs Growing Kids](#) – Engaging young people with nature and food through gardening

[Greenest City](#) - Building healthy neighbourhoods through gardening and the celebration of food

[High Park Nature Centre](#) – Promoting awareness and respect for nature through outdoor education

[Jane's Walk](#) – Creating walkable neighbourhoods and cities planned for and by people

[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - Gathering community together in a place focused on social justice

[Lake Ontario Waterkeeper](#) - Working to restore swimmability, drinkability and fishability to Lake Ontario

[LEAF \(Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests\)](#) - Protecting and enhancing our urban forest

[Learning for a Sustainable Future \(LSF\)](#) - Promoting, through education, the practices essential to sustainability

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

[Moorelands Community Services](#) - Providing youth affected by poverty fun experiences to strengthen their confidence

[No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment](#) - Using 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](#) - Using the outdoors and wilderness canoe trips to help youth develop life skills

[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](#) - Helping the City achieve the targets set out in the Council-approved climate plan

[Toronto Environmental Alliance](#) - Promoting a greener Toronto

[Toronto Park People](#) - Catalyzing better parks across Toronto

[Toronto Wildlife Centre](#) – Building a healthy community for people and wildlife by raising awareness about urban wildlife

[Wildlands League](#) – Working in the public interest to protect public lands and resources in Ontario

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

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 affected by many factors (poverty, mental and physical health, safety and the presence of necessary supports). Schools with librarians and daycares, arts programs, and robust physical education give children lifelong advantages.

What are the trends?

Toronto's schools have an improving teacher/student ratio, but special education students are not always receiving the supports they need. Both the availability and affordability of childcare in Toronto are challenges.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
1. Percentage of Toronto labour force with post-secondary education	68.0%	67.3%	66.2% ⁶²⁴
2. Teacher/student ratio in public schools (Toronto Region)	67.8/1,000 (2011) ⁶²⁵	87.7/1,000 (2012) ⁶²⁶	91.2/1,000 (2013) ⁶²⁷
3. Percentage of Toronto public elementary schools with a health and physical education teacher	80%	86%	82% ⁶²⁸
(Percentage of those schools that employ these teachers full-time)	(46%)	(57%)	(63% ⁶²⁹)
4. Children on the waiting list for a childcare subsidy (March of the year)	18,839	16,873 ⁶³⁰	12,792 ⁶³¹
5. Number of licensed childcare spaces (in childcare centres and private homes managed by agencies)	59,000 (winter 2013") ⁶³²	61,000 (January 2014) ⁶³³	64,700 (January 2015) ⁶³⁴

What's new?

Now that full-day kindergarten is fully implemented, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is reporting a shortage in funding from the Province, and teachers are reporting challenges in the classroom. The TDSB is weighing what to do with "underutilized" schools, but a poll finds that over half of Torontonians support a property tax increase for the City to purchase and convert them into community centres. Schools' reliance on fundraising is creating inequities, and a report on black educators shows that Toronto's teachers are less diverse than the communities they teach in.

How are Toronto’s public schools faring, and how are “underutilized” schools affecting communities?

The number of Toronto students graduating is increasing each year:

- The [Toronto District School Board](#)’s five-year graduation rate was 80% in 2014 (down from 83% in 2013).⁶³⁵ Graduation rates have increased by 11 percentage points (from 69% of students) since the TDSB began tracking them in 2000.⁶³⁶
- The Toronto Catholic District School Board’s four- and five-year graduation rates are 80% and 86% respectively.⁶³⁷
- The number of Ontario’s students graduating in four, rather than five, years has increased slightly, to 76% in 2014, up from 75% in 2013 and 74% in 2012.⁶³⁸ Ontario’s five-year graduation rates have remained stable in the last several years. In 2014 84% of students graduated in five years, up from 68% a decade earlier.⁶³⁹
- It should be noted that school boards and the Ministry of Education use different methods to calculate graduation rates. According to the Ministry, the TDSB’s published rates should be lower, while the Board disputes the accuracy of the Ministry’s method.⁶⁴⁰

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) presented a balanced 2015–16 operating budget in March 2015, its second since being created 17 years ago:

- TDSB has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3.0B,⁶⁴¹ \$2.8B of which comes from Provincial grants. Staff salaries and benefits represent approximately 83% of total expenses. TDSB’s capital budget totals \$137M.⁶⁴²
- 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).⁶⁴³
- To help balance the 2015–16 budget and save an estimated \$10.3M, the TDSB proposed options including establishing Toronto Parking Authority parking lots on school sites in key areas within the downtown core, a review of student transportation costs, and a Special Education staffing reduction (due to a reduction in funding from the Ontario Ministry of Education), among other measures.⁶⁴⁴
 - The TDSB notes that school-based staff allocation decisions were based primarily on enrollment, and that staff would not necessarily lose their jobs as efforts would be made to place them in positions opened by retirements or other resignations.⁶⁴⁵



While there are disparities among funds raised by schools across Toronto, in 2012-2013, Northlea Public School (which raised \$284.60 per student that year) donated \$4,700 of its funds raised to support a snack program at nearby Thorncliffe Park Public School (Thorncliffe Park only raised \$34.31 per student in 2012-2013).⁶⁴⁶

School principals are struggling to balance instructional leadership—to better the classroom learning experience—with challenging administrative duties:

- In [People for Education](#)'s annual school [survey](#) of publicly funded elementary and secondary schools (including 244 participating Toronto Catholic, public, and French schools), Toronto principals reported spending most of their time managing employee and safety issues and responding to system or Ministry initiatives.⁶⁴⁷

The teacher/student ratio in the Toronto Region's public schools continues to improve, and more schools have specialist teachers:

- There were 91.2 teachers for every 1,000 students in 2013⁶⁴⁸, compared to 87.7 per 1,000 in 2012⁶⁴⁹ and just 67.8 in 2011.⁶⁵⁰
- The percentage of Toronto elementary schools with teacher-librarians increased to 87% in the 2014-15 school year, up from 80% the previous year (but still below the 98% in 2011-2012).
- 17% of elementary schools employed a teacher-librarian full time, up from 15% the previous year but below the rates seen pre-recession (24% in 2008-09).
- 66% of elementary schools reported having a music teacher in 2014-15 (up from 58% the previous year); 43% had a full-time music teacher (up from 37%).
- 29% of elementary schools had a visual arts teacher, and 18% had a drama teacher.
- 82% of elementary schools had a health and physical education teacher; 63% of those schools employed these teachers full time.⁶⁵¹

Special education students, on the other hand, are not always receiving the supports they need:

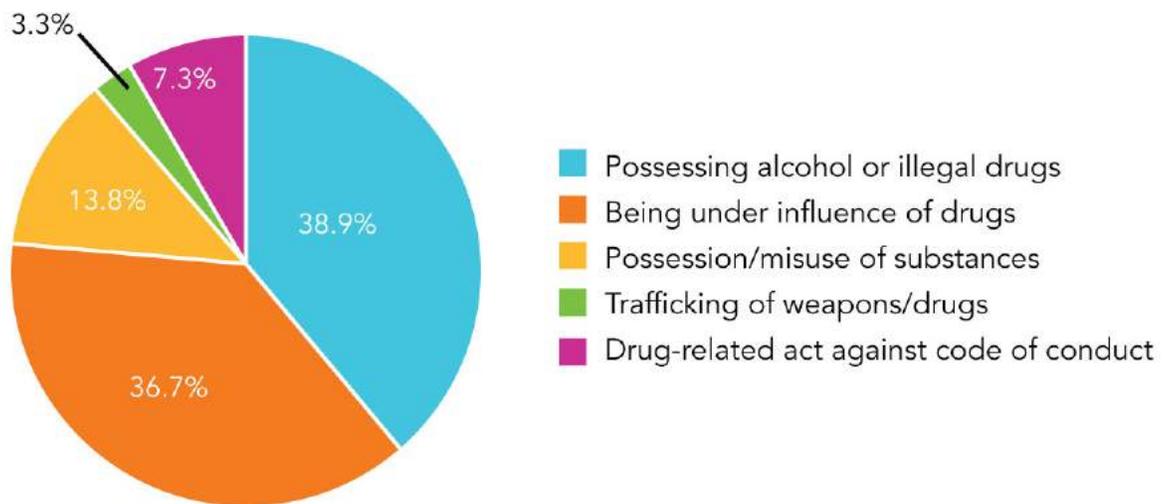
- 15% of Toronto's elementary students and 23% of secondary school students receive special education services and supports, proportions that have increased steadily over the last decade.
 - Special education needs vary widely, from students who need only minor accommodations such as use of a laptop or additional time to take tests to those who need significant help to communicate or participate in school life.
- Toronto schools are more likely to have special education teachers than schools in the rest of the province, but changes to funding for special education have meant reductions for some Toronto boards. According to [People for Education](#)'s annual school [survey](#), 17% of elementary schools and 9% of secondary schools in Toronto report that not all special education students are receiving their recommended supports.
 - The average special education student to special education teacher ratio in Toronto's elementary schools is 26:1. In secondary schools that average ratio jumps to 78:1.
- On average, six elementary students and six secondary school students per school are waiting to be assessed for special education supports, but 29% of elementary schools and 44% of secondary schools report that there is a restriction on the number of students that can be assessed.⁶⁵²

TDSB suspensions and expulsions for drugs and illegal substances in the 2013-14 school year were slightly below the average of the previous six years:

- An average of 557 students per year are expelled for incidents involving drugs and illegal substances. According to the most recent data available, between the fall of 2013 and spring of 2014 there were 552 suspensions and expulsions.

- Three-quarters of these (76.5%) were for possessing alcohol or illegal drugs on school property (203 suspensions) and for being under the influence of illegal drugs while at school (224 suspensions).⁶⁵³
- Between 2008 and 2014, 39.8% of suspensions were related to students possessing alcohol or illegal drugs, 36.7% were related to being under the influence of drugs, 13.8% were related to the possession/misuse of other substances, 7.3% were related to other drug-related acts against the TDSB code of conduct, and the remainder were related to trafficking or weapons or drugs.⁶⁵⁴

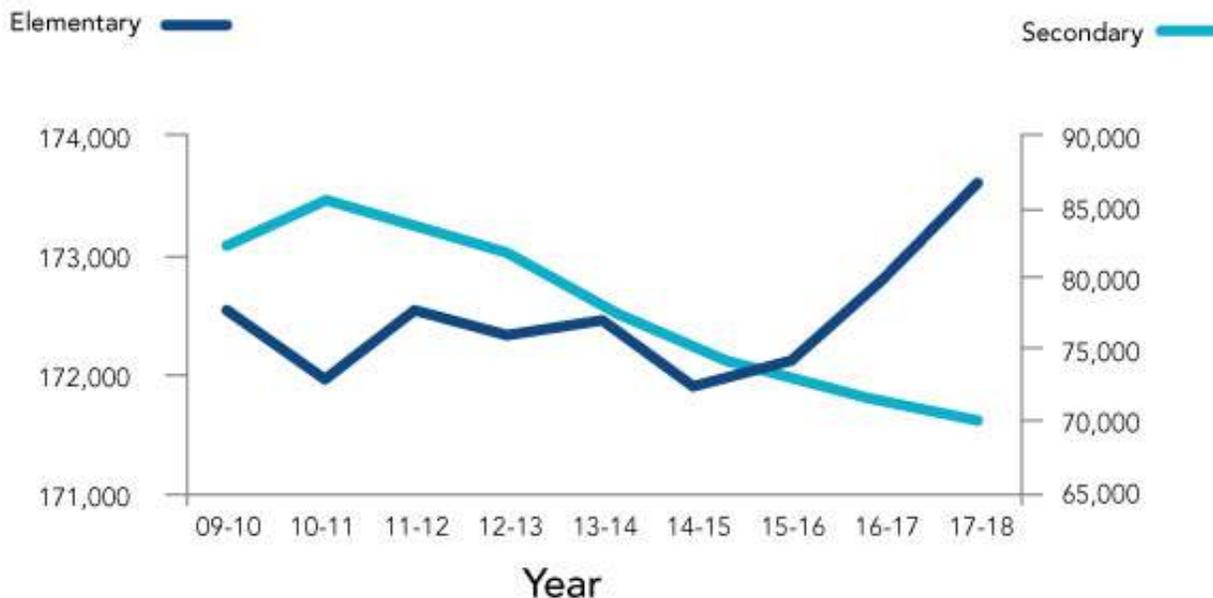
Reason for Suspension or Expulsion from TDSB, 2008-2014.⁶⁵⁵



Declining enrollment in TDSB schools continued in 2014. There were 246,000 students across 589 schools, compared to 248,000 students in 588 schools the previous year.⁶⁵⁶



- While the 2014-15 school year saw 552 fewer elementary students than the previous year (a loss of 0.32%), TDSB has projected enrollment of 224 more elementary students for the 2015-2016 school year than in 2014-15 (up to 172,137 from 171,913) and another 675 in 2016-17, to reach a total of 172,812.
- Secondary school enrollment continues to decline year-over-year, although the decline appears to be slowing and is projected to continue doing so. In the 2014-15 school year, secondary school enrollment fell 3.8% (from 78,019 in 2013-14 to 75,054) versus 4.53% the previous school year. The TDSB is projecting a 2.58% decrease for the 2015-16 school year (to 73,119 students), and a 2.14% decrease for 2016-17 (to 71,557).⁶⁵⁷



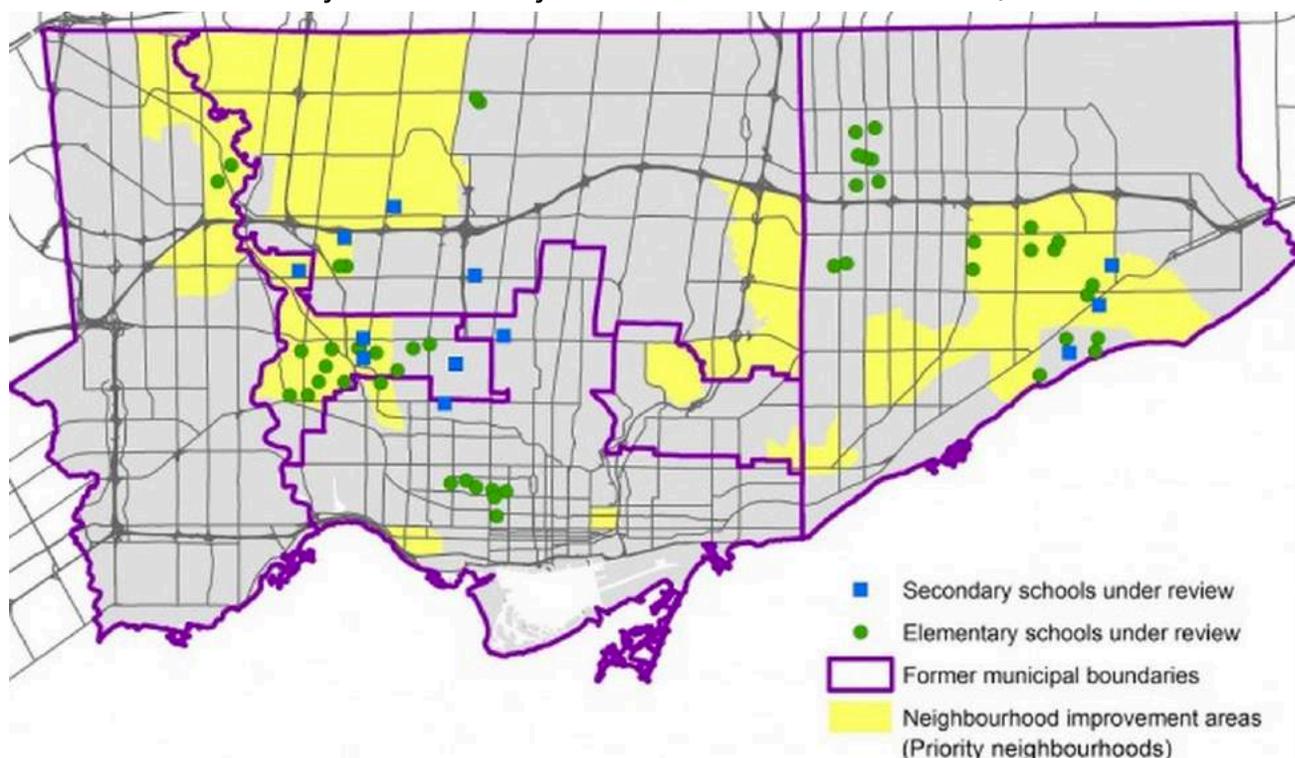
TDSB Enrollment Trends.⁶⁵⁸

The TDSB is weighing what to do with “underutilized” schools:



- The TDSB needs \$2B just to maintain a state of good repair, and this figure is estimated to reach \$6B by 2019. Meanwhile, declining enrollment means 130 schools are “underutilized” (according to the TDSB, using less than 65% of their capacity).
- The TDSB could sell some underused properties, but the Board and its trustees argue that the idea is short-sighted, and that Canada’s largest school board should not have to sell off schools to fill gaps in its operating and capital budgets—it should instead be given the funding it needs.
- Nonetheless, up to nine of 60 “candidate schools” face closure and sale, and 68% of the 48 candidate elementary schools are located in Toronto’s priority neighbourhoods.⁶⁵⁹

TDSB Secondary and Elementary Schools Under Review for Closure, 2015.⁶⁶⁰



Map by Sean Marshall

- School closures would affect not only students, but also those in surrounding communities that access various services offered at many of these school buildings and properties, including daycares and adult programs (such as English as a Second Language) and after-school uses by local community organizations and sports teams. None of these uses are factored into the Board's calculation of a schools' utilization.
- Under Ontario law, if any TDSB properties do become available, other school boards serving Toronto would have the first opportunity to purchase them, followed by the City, then private investors. It is unlikely, however, that the City would be able to purchase them within the 90 days allowed.⁶⁶¹
 - A February 2015 Mainstreet Technologies [poll](#) found that a majority of Torontonians (53%) approve of a dedicated property tax increase that would allow the City to purchase surplus TDSB properties and convert them into community centres and parks. 24% disapproved and another 22% were not sure.⁶⁶²

What successes and challenges has full-day kindergarten (FDK) brought?

FDK has now been fully implemented across Ontario after a five year roll-out that began in 2010:

- Ontario schools are required to have extended day programs (both before and after school and during school breaks) for students in FDK if there is sufficient demand.⁶⁶³

- Research has demonstrated that children who attend Ontario’s FDK programs are better prepared for Grade 1, and exhibit higher outcomes in social competence, communication skills, and cognitive development.⁶⁶⁴
- Yet with approximately 36,500 students in the FDK system, the TDSB is reporting an almost \$15M shortage in funding from the Province.
 - The provincial government provides \$1,669.96 per student, but the TDSB has reported that the program, taught by a teacher and early childhood educator, is costing 24% more than that to deliver—\$2,066.97 per student.⁶⁶⁵
- The implementation of FDK has also been challenging for elementary teachers. Teachers are reporting that more distracted classrooms, caused by larger class sizes, are affecting their ability to teach. As a result, more class time is being wasted as teachers are trying to control four- and five-year-old children who are fighting, running, and leaving the classroom.⁶⁶⁶

Toronto is falling behind in family support programs:

- In addition to phasing in FDK, the Province allocates \$90M per year to support Best Start Child and Family Centres.
 - The universally accessible programs, services, and resources—such as [Ontario Early Years Centres](#), Child Care/Family Resource Centres, and [Parenting and Family Literacy Centres](#)—are meant to build on FDK.
- However, only 27% of schools in Toronto report having family support programs, 13 percentage points below the provincial average.⁶⁶⁷

How do socio-economic inequities affect access to learning?

While the numbers of licensed childcare spaces are increasing, there are still not enough to meet the needs of families:

- The number of licensed spaces located in childcare centres and private homes managed by home child care agencies reported by the City in January 2015 was 64,700.⁶⁶⁸ In January 2013, the number was 61,000⁶⁶⁹ and in winter 2013, it was 59,000.⁶⁷⁰
- However, Toronto’s licensed and regulated childcare spaces can accommodate fewer than 20% of the newborn to 12-year-old children in the city.⁶⁷¹
- The City recognizes this discrepancy and in 2016, the City will be undertaking a study to determine the demand.⁶⁷²

For preschool children, Toronto’s licensed childcare system, has only:

- 1 space for every 13 infants (newborn to 18 months)
- 1 space for every 3 toddlers (18 months to 2.5 years)
- 1 space for every 2 preschoolers (2.5 years to entry into kindergarten).⁶⁷³

There aren’t enough licensed spaces to accommodate school-aged children either:

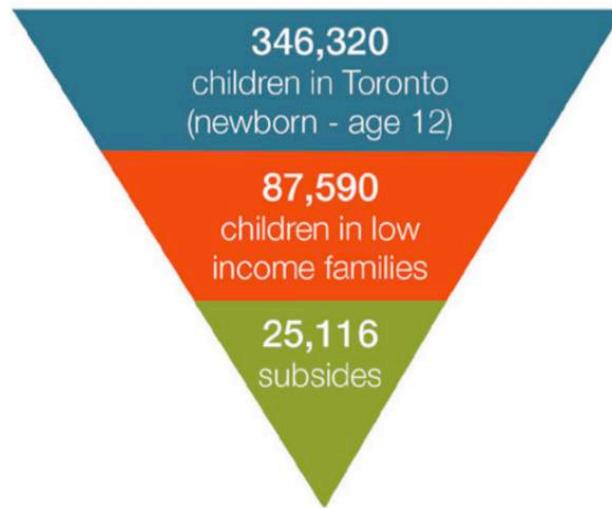
- According to the City, there are 393 licensed kindergarten before- and after-school programs and 573 middle childhood Grades 1 to 6) before- and after-school programs.

- Middle childhood programs include licensed childcare, Parks, Forestry and Recreation department programs, and community organization programs. Many are located in local schools, and others in community facilities.
- Of Toronto's publicly funded elementary schools,
 - 43% have before- and after-school programs for both kindergarten and middle childhood children,
 - 27% have before- and after-school programs for only kindergarten or only middle childhood children, and
 - 30% have no before- and after-school programs at all. ⁶⁷⁴

Even when space is available, childcare is unaffordable for many Toronto families:

- The median yearly costs for a full day of childcare for a young child are:
 - \$21,431 for an infant (newborn to 18 months),
 - \$16,704 for a toddler (18 months to 2.5 years), and
 - \$12,424 for a preschooler (2.5 to 4 years).
 - While the median cost of a licensed before- and after-school program for a school-aged child is less expensive (at \$32 per day for kindergarten and \$25 per day for a middle childhood program), it is still out of reach for many families.
- The City added 184 new subsidized childcare spaces in its 2015 budget—increasing spaces from 24,932 to 25,116—but the parents of over 12,792 children are still waiting for a subsidy. The 2014 number includes 4,343 infants, 1,498 toddlers, 2,116 preschoolers, 1,939 kindergarten-aged children, and 2,896 school-aged children).
 - This is down almost 25% from last year (parents of 16,873 children were waiting for spaces in March 2014). With the introduction of Full-Day Kindergarten, the system of childcare has shifted towards more before and after school spaces, which are less expensive than a full day space, allowing the City to place more children within the same, council-approved budget. ⁶⁷⁵
- According to [Toronto Children's Services'](#) service plan for 2015-2019, there are 346,320 newborn to 12-year-old children in the city. ⁶⁷⁶

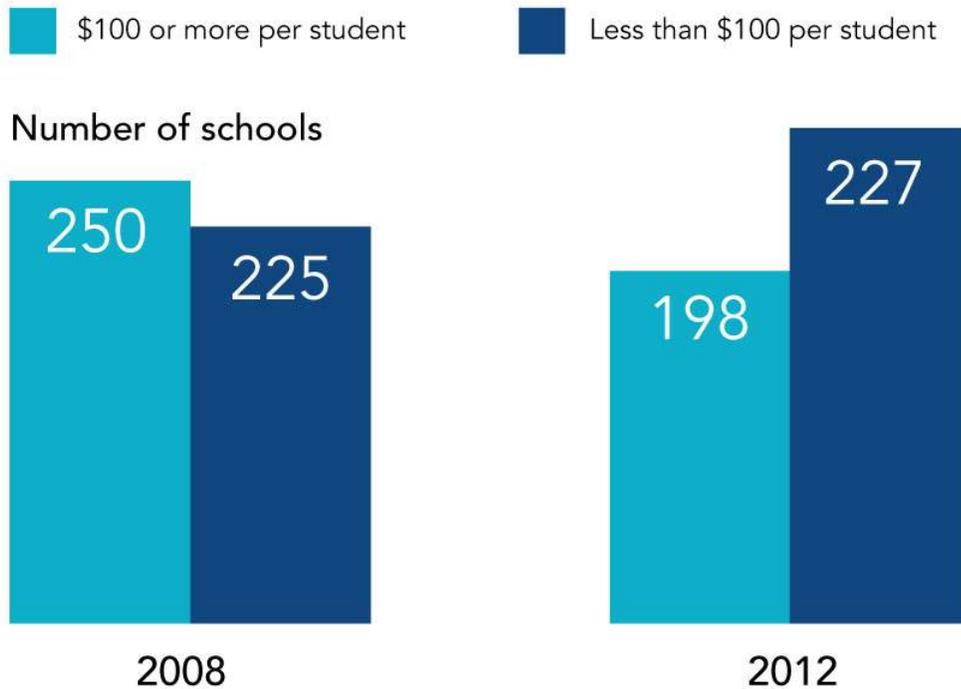
Childcare Spaces vs. Need:⁶⁷⁷



Schools' reliance on fundraising is causing inequities, with some able to accumulate huge amounts and others "looking for handouts for breakfast programs":

- Data obtained by the [Toronto Star](#) through a Freedom of Information request show a widening disparity in the amount of money that public schools across Toronto are fundraising.
- The 475 elementary and middle schools in the TDSB raised \$19.2M in 2012-13 (counting both fundraising and revenues generated from fees), an average of \$118 per student. But an increasing percentage of elementary schools—58% in 2012, up from 47% in 2008—are able to raise less than \$100 per student while some institutions in wealthier areas continue to raise huge sums.
 - The top 20 elementary schools (mostly in wealthier neighbourhoods) raised a total of \$3.9M in 2012-13, compared to just \$43,249 for the bottom 20 schools.⁶⁷⁸

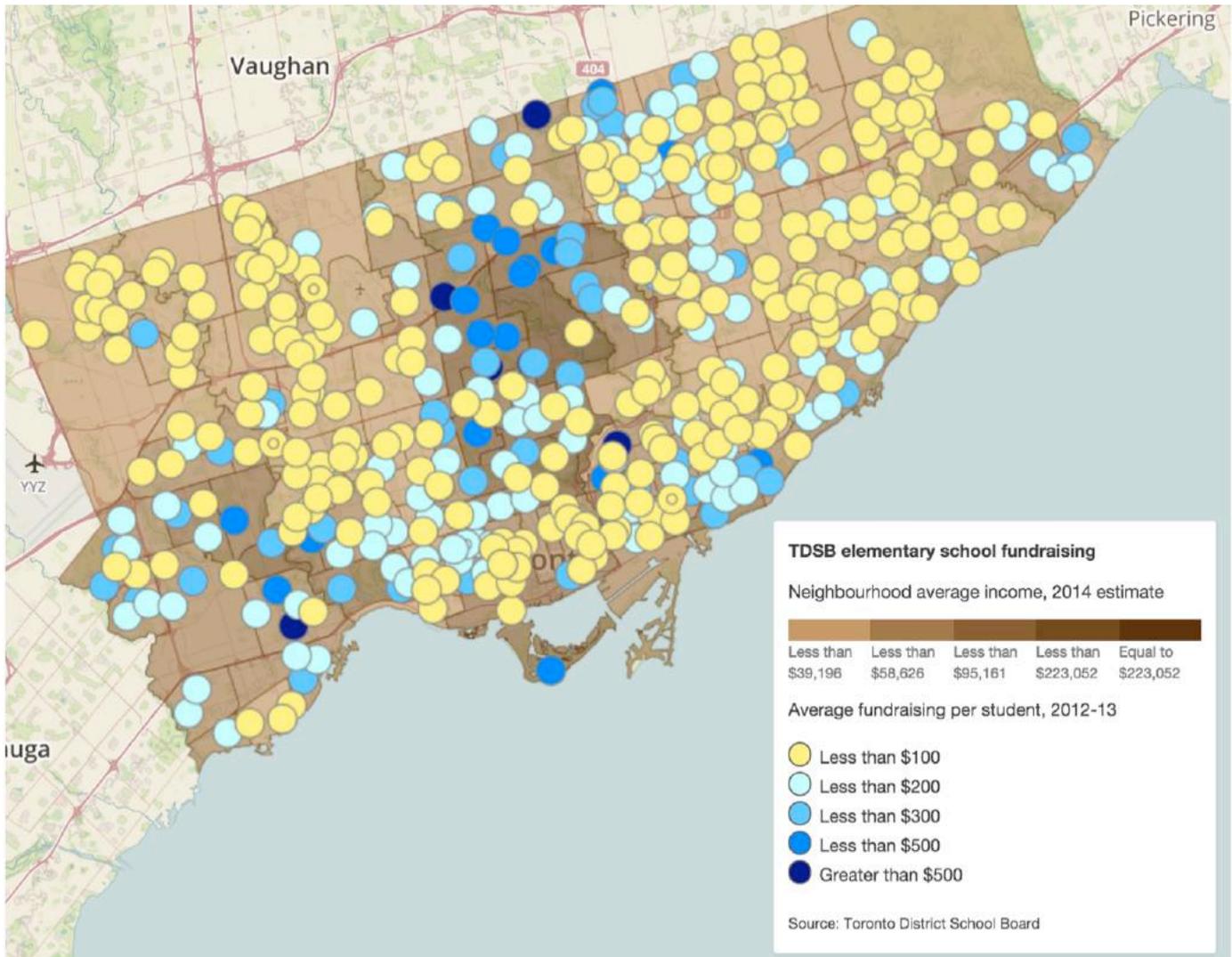
The Widening Fundraising Gap in TDSB Elementary Schools, 2008 vs. 2012*⁶⁷⁹



**Includes only schools still open in 2012-13*

- The fundraising ability of some communities means that some schools are able to fund things like school trips and improvements to libraries and playgrounds, freeing up the funds received from the Province for more basic educational needs. Students from neighbourhoods comprised of families without the financial base, skillset or time for fundraising, on the other hand, face a more stark educational experience.
- A map comparing average neighbourhood incomes with average funds raised per student is telling, and mirrors the divided city documented by the [“Three Cities”](#) research based at the University of Toronto’s [Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work](#).⁶⁸⁰

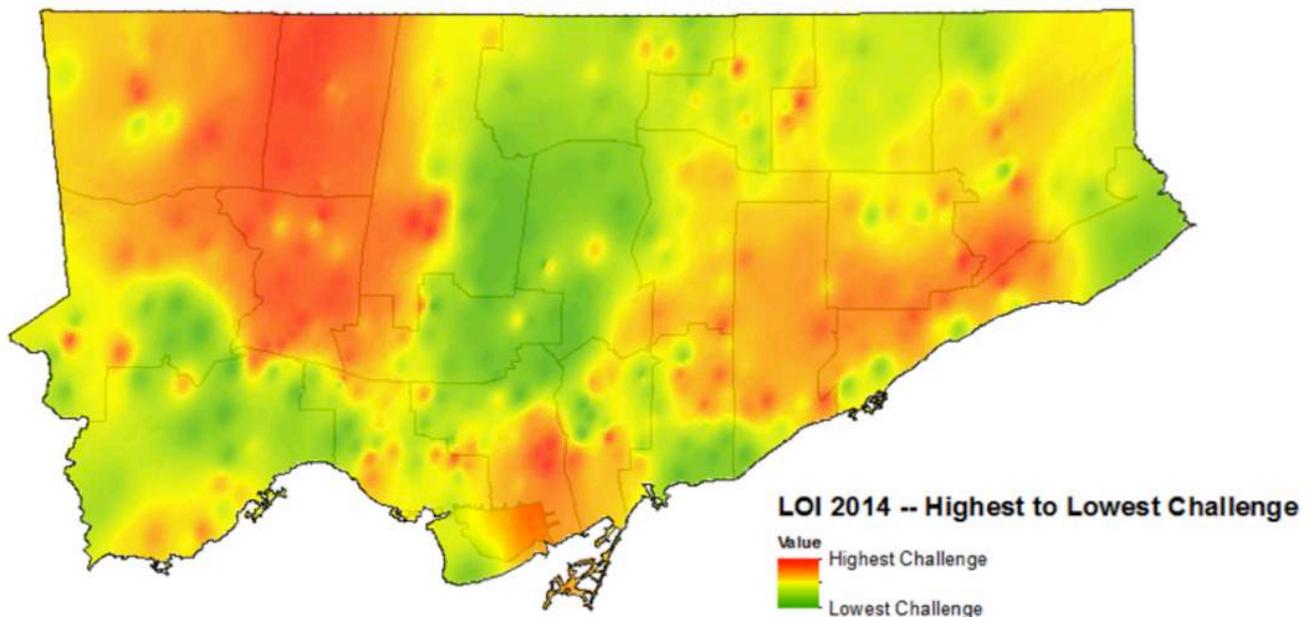
Fundraising in TDSB Elementary Schools, 2014.⁶⁸¹



Source: Toronto Star. © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

- The pattern is also reflected in TDSB’s Learning Opportunities Index (LOI) for elementary schools in 2014.
 - The LOI ranks each TDSB school from “most needy” to “least needy,” based on external challenge indicators including income (median income, proportion of low-income families, and proportion of families receiving social assistance) as well as education of adults and proportion of one-parent families.⁶⁸²

TDSB's Learning Opportunities Index, Elementary Schools, 2014:⁶⁸³



High school “streaming” may be exacerbating achievement gaps in secondary schools, and there is a strong relationship between the courses students choose and their socio-economic status:

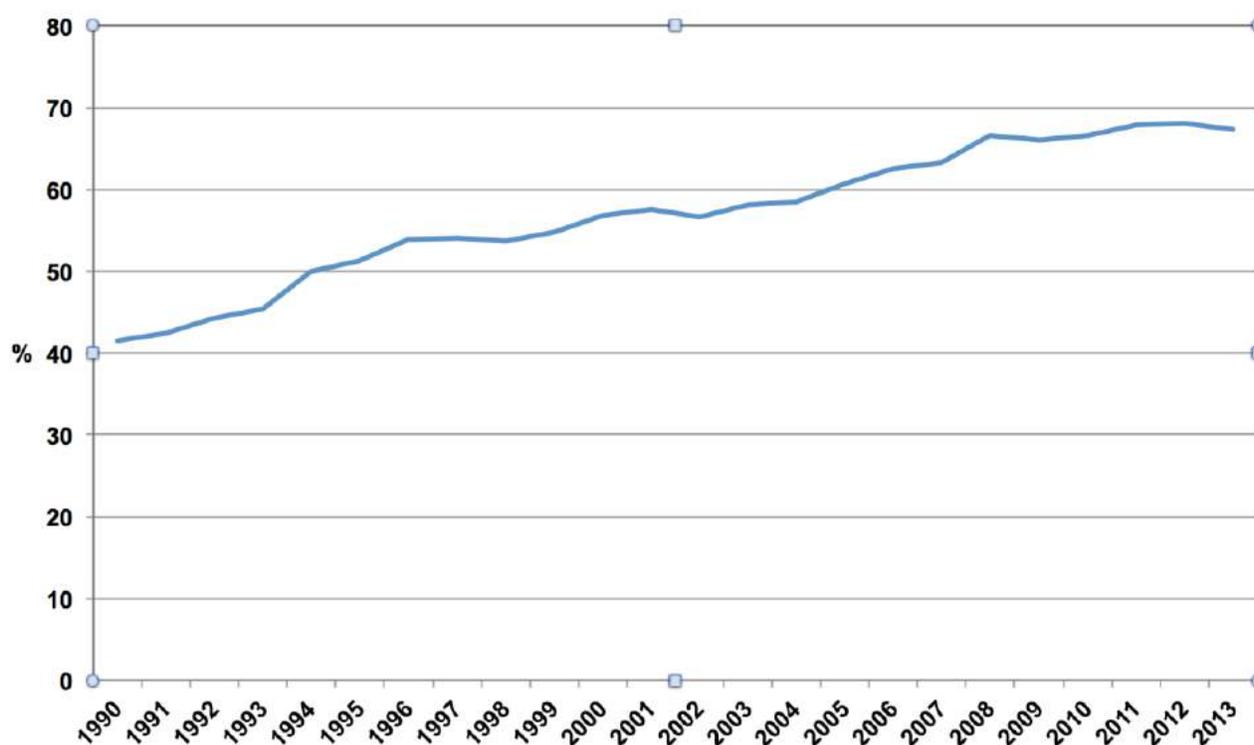
- Requiring Grade 8 students to choose between taking applied and academic courses in their first two years of high school impacts students’ chances for success throughout high school and influences their post-secondary options and career opportunities. There is also evidence that the system itself may perpetuate current economic and educational disparities.
 - In 2013 the [Education Quality and Accountability Office](#) (EQAO) reported a 40% gap in test performance between students in academic and applied courses. The percentage of students in applied English who passed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test has declined from 62% to 51% over the past five years.
 - A TDSB study found that only 40% of students who took applied courses in Grade 9 had graduated after five years, compared to 86% of those who took academic courses.
- The income polarization among Toronto neighbourhoods that has created “[Three Cities](#)” (documented by research based at the University of Toronto’s [Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work](#)) is reflected in students’ course choices.
 - Demographic data from EQAO and 2006 Census data show that schools with higher percentages of students from low-income families have higher proportions of students in applied mathematics.
 - The TDSB study found a number of racial categories over-represented in the applied program of study. Most significantly, while (self-identified) black

- students represent approximately 13% of the student population in Grades 9 and 10, they comprise 23% of students in the applied program.
- Another TDSB study found that in the highest-income neighbourhoods, 92% of students took the majority of their courses in the academic stream, compared to only 56% of students from the lowest-income neighborhoods.
 - Only 6% of students in the highest-income neighbourhoods took the majority of their courses in the applied stream, while 33% of students in the lowest-income neighbourhoods did.
 - [People for Education](#)'s annual school [survey](#) shows that students rarely transfer from the applied to academic stream, and that they may not receive sufficient support when initially making the choice between the two.
 - 30% of Toronto's secondary schools report that students "never" or do "not often" transfer from applied to academic courses.
 - While 85% of schools offering Grade 8 report having a guidance counsellor, only 10% of schools use one-on-one counselling as a main source of information for students and parents regarding course choices.
 - Applied and academic courses were introduced in 1999 when the Ministry of Education implemented the Ontario Secondary Schools policy, which was intended to end streaming and create a system that kept options open for students. In most cases, however, students in applied courses are in different classrooms, have different teachers, and follow a different curriculum.⁶⁸⁴

Almost 60% of the Region's population over the age of 15 has completed post-secondary education, but some Toronto neighbourhoods are falling behind:

- In 2014, 56.7% of the population in the Toronto Region aged 15 and older had a post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate, the same as in 2013 and up slightly from 2012 (56.3%). It is greater than both the provincial (54.1%) and national (54.2%) averages. The Toronto Region figure represents an increase of 10.7 percentage points since 2000.⁶⁸⁵
- In the city of Toronto in 2014, 66.2% of the labour force had a post-secondary diploma or degree.⁶⁸⁶

Percentage of Labour Force with Post-Secondary Education, Toronto, 1990-2013.⁶⁸⁷



- In one-third (32.9%) of Toronto’s 140 neighbourhoods, however, 61% or fewer residents between 25 and 64 have completed post-secondary education.⁶⁸⁸
- In 2014, the average cost of undergraduate tuition in the Toronto Region was \$7,880 for Canadian students and \$20,231 for international students.⁶⁸⁹
 - In 2014, 160,450 full-time students and 33,930 part-time students were enrolled in the Region’s post-secondary schools.⁶⁹⁰

How diverse are Toronto schools, and is diversity reflected in curricula and teacher staffing?

All students in Canada would benefit from a deeper understanding of the history of the many nations that have influenced and comprise this country and a better understanding of aboriginal cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Despite this, only 26% of secondary schools and 11% of Toronto’s elementary schools offer relevant professional development opportunities for teachers, and just 19% of secondary schools and 4% of elementary schools courses in Native Studies:

- Ninety-six per cent of secondary schools and 92% of elementary schools in Ontario have at least some aboriginal students enrolled, yet the majority do not offer aboriginal education opportunities.
- While proportions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students are higher in schools in Northern Ontario, most schools in Toronto have FNMI students. The vast majority of them (82%) attend provincially funded schools. [People for Education](#)’s annual school

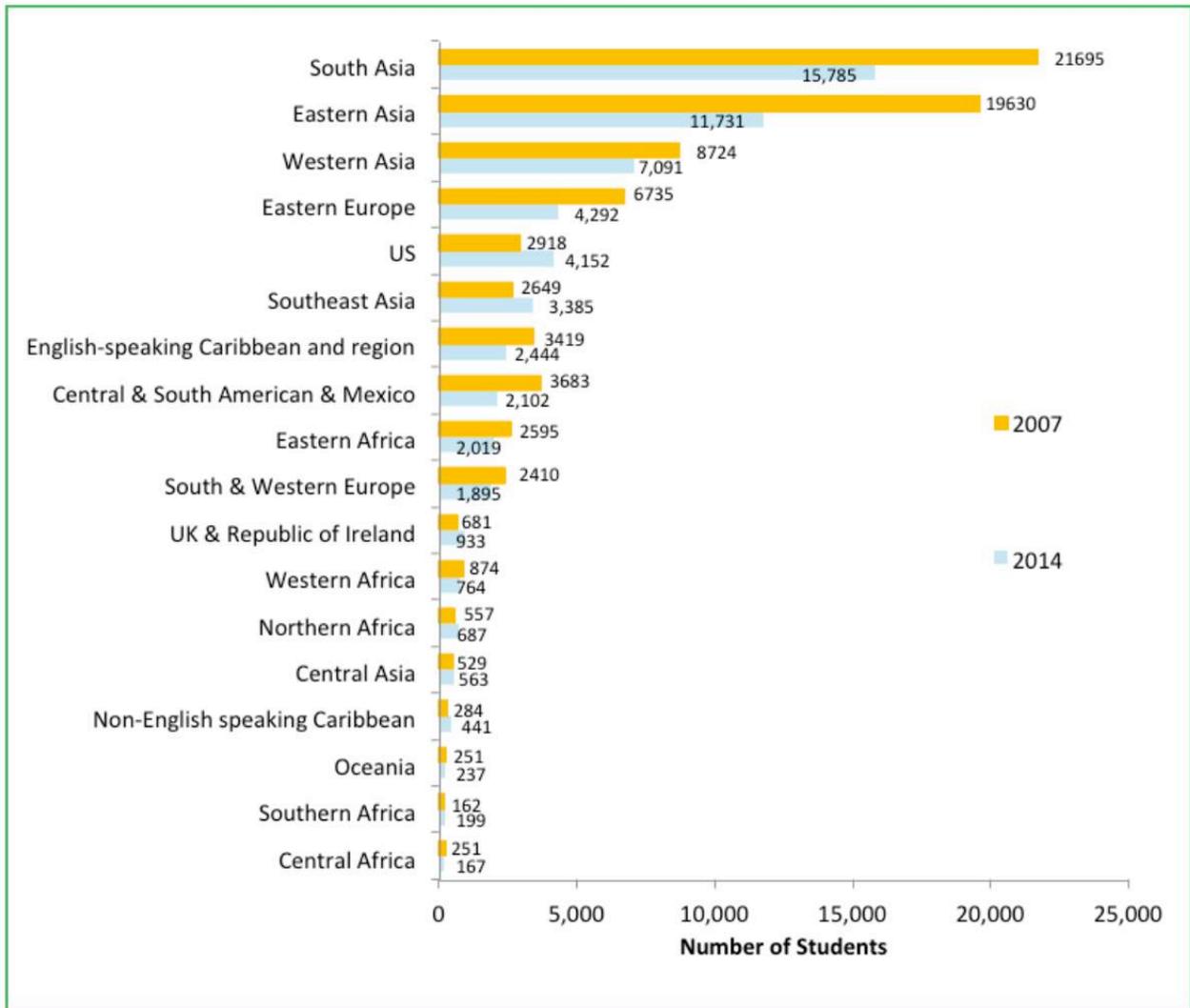
[survey](#) shows that in Toronto 21% of provincially funded secondary schools report that students transfer from on-reserve schools.

- 81% of elementary schools and 53% of secondary schools do not offer any Aboriginal education opportunities, despite the fact that most have Aboriginal students.⁶⁹¹
- In 2011, 80.9% of Toronto's aboriginal population aged 25 to 64 years had at least one certificate, diploma or degree, an increase of 10.7 percentage points from 2001, 3.4 percentage points higher than the provincial average, and 9.8 percentage points higher than the national average for the same population group.⁶⁹²

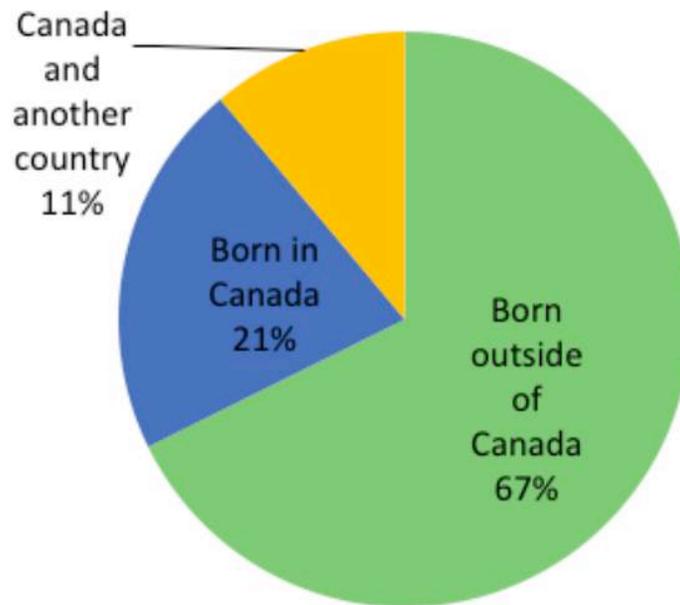
Although three-quarters of students in the TDSB are Canadian born, they represent a remarkable diversity of ethno-racial backgrounds and regions of birth:

- The 2013-2014 [Environmental Scan](#) of the Toronto District School Board (based on data from its 2011-2012 Student and Parent Census) finds that the four largest ethno-racial backgrounds of the student population (as self-identified by students) are "White" (29%), "South Asian" (24%), "East Asian" (15%), and "Black" (12%).
- 76% (190,647 students in 2014, an increase of 2,734 since 2007) are Canadian-born.
 - The only other regions of birth showing large increases between 2007 and 2014 were the US with 4,152 students (up from 2,918 in 2007) and Southeast Asia with 3,385 students (up from 2,649).
- For 67% of TDSB students, both parents were born outside of Canada; for 21% both were born in Canada; and for 11% one parent was born in Canada and the other outside.
- The ratio of male to female students has not changed since statistics were first collected in 1859: 52% male and 48% female (128,755 and 120,795 students respectively).⁶⁹³

Most Common Region of Birth for TDSB Students Born Outside Canada,
2007 and 2014.⁶⁹⁴



Parents of TDSB Students' Place of Birth, 2011-2012:⁶⁹⁵

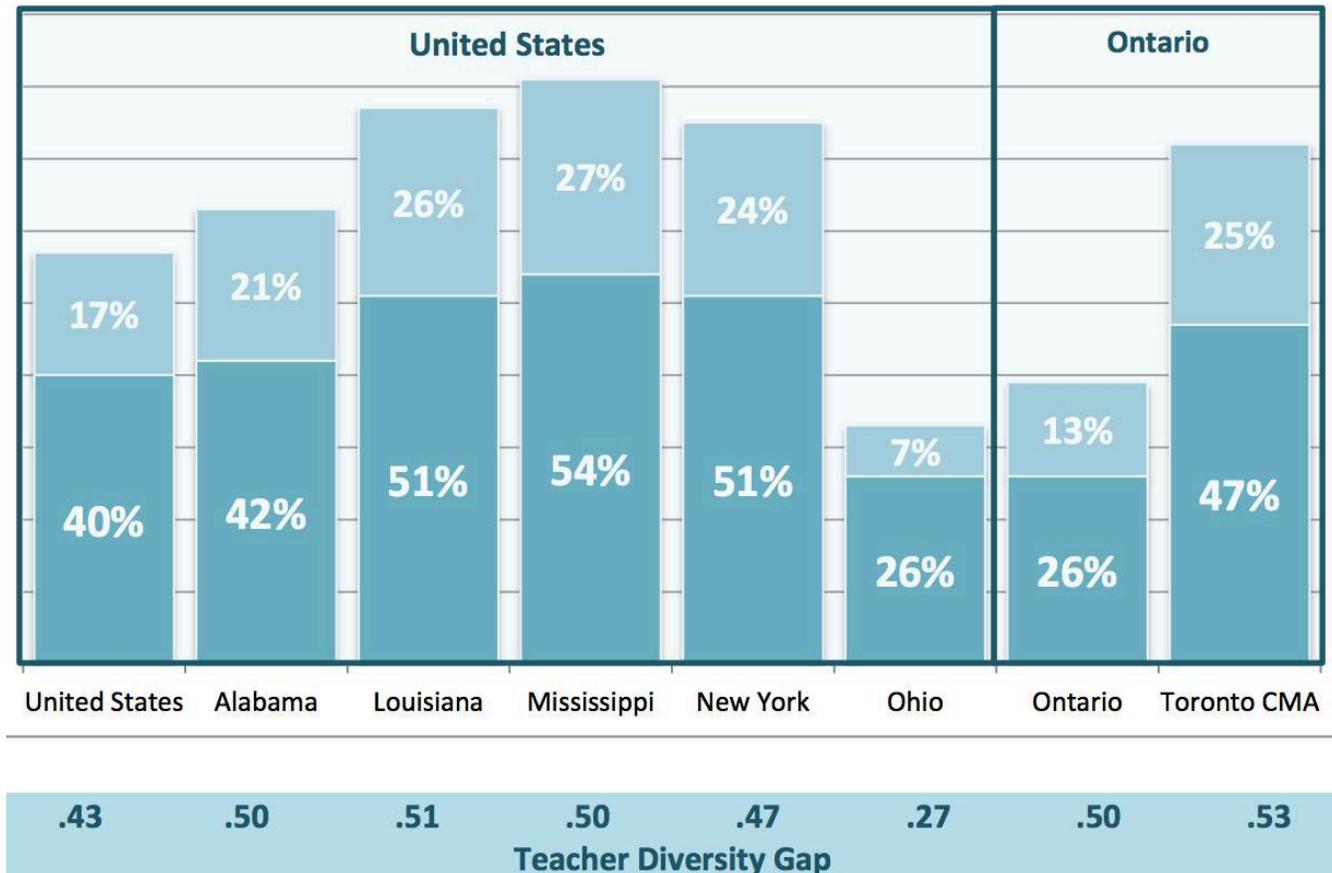


Teachers in the Toronto Region are far less diverse than the communities they teach in:

- A [report](#) on the experiences of black educators in Ontario from the [Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators](#) shows a diversity gap between the percentage of teachers who are racialized and the percentage of the population that is racialized.
- In the Region, where the majority of the province's racialized population lives, racialized people represented 47% of the population in 2011 but made up only 25% of its secondary school teachers and 24% of its elementary school and kindergarten teachers.
- The Region fares better than Ontario as a whole, however. Ontario has a "Teacher Diversity Gap" of .50, meaning that there is a large divide between racialized teachers and the racialized population.
 - In 2011, while racialized people represented 26% of Ontario's population, they made up only 13% of the province's 76,030 secondary school teachers and 129,105 elementary school and kindergarten teachers.⁶⁹⁶

Teacher Diversity Gap, Toronto Region (CMA) vs. Ontario and the US⁶⁹⁷:

■ % of the population that is racialized ■ % of teachers that are racialized



How well are Toronto's post-secondary institutions preparing students for the future?

Toronto is home to one of the world's top universities according to [Times Higher Education's World University Rankings](#) 2014-2015:



- The University of Toronto (U of T) ranks 20th of 400 global universities, with a score of 79.3/100 based on 13 performance indicators across teaching (scoring 74.4 here), international outlook (71.2), industry income (46.1), research (85.1), and citations (83.0).
 - The top 20 is dominated by the United States. U of T is the sole representative from Canada, and only four European universities are represented.
- Three other Canadian universities made the top 100: McGill ranked 39th (down from 35th last year) with a score of 69.6, University of British Columbia 32nd (down from 31st) with 71.8, and McMaster 94th (down from 92nd) with 55.3. Toronto's York University ranked between 226th and 250th (the ranking was not broken down further), up from between 276th and 300th last year. Ryerson University did not make the list.
- Within just North America, U of T ranks 16th and is still the only Canadian university in the top 20.⁶⁹⁸



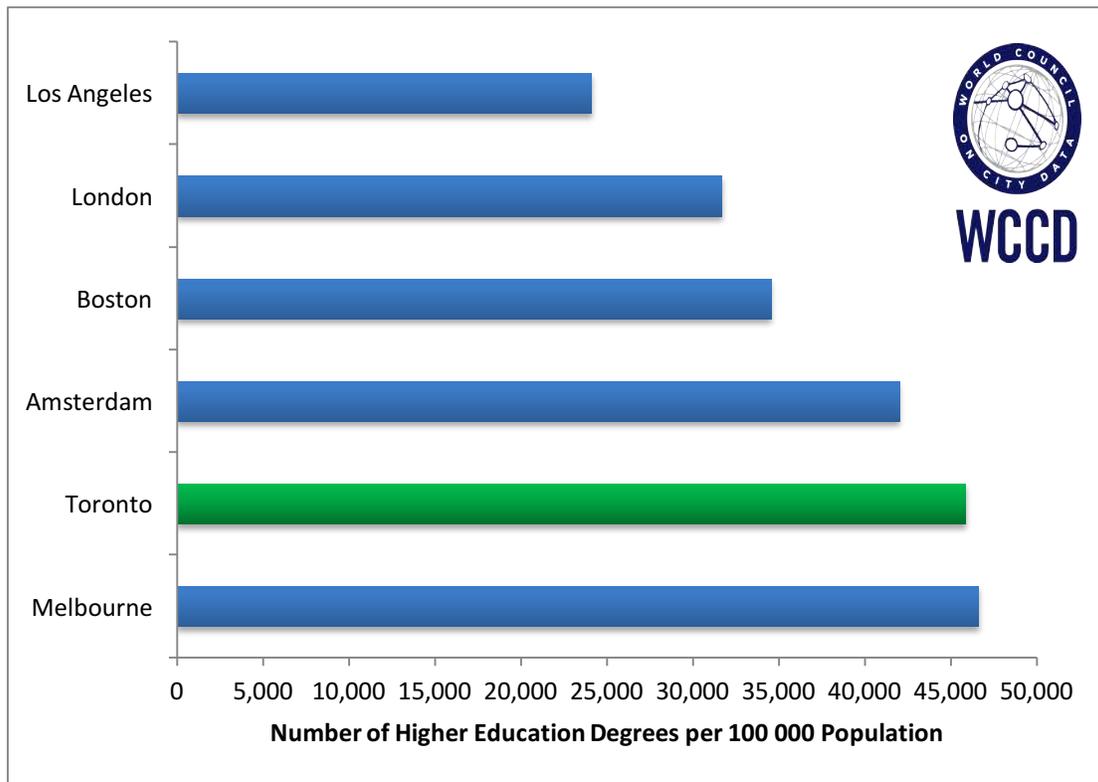
U of T grads are the 13th most employable in the world:

- The [Global Employability University Ranking](#) is a survey of 4,500 international recruiters in 20 countries conducted by French human resources group Emerging Associates and a German research group called Trendence. U of T grads were rated the 13th most employable in the world in 2014, up from 14th in 2013.
 - Cambridge, Harvard, and Yale grads ranked first, second, and third respectively.
- Other Canadian universities on the list are McGill (28th, up from 30th last year), Université de Montréal (47, up from 59), University of British Columbia (55, down from 51), McMaster (80, down from 73), and Waterloo (119, down from 114).⁶⁹⁹

Compared to other global cities, Toronto’s population is highly educated:

- With a rate of 45,875.02 per 100,000 population (as reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) or WCCD in 2014), Torontonians possess more higher education degrees per 100,000 population than residents of LA (24,100.00), London (31,698.00), Boston (34,544.23), and Amsterdam (42,030.13).
- Melbourne is ahead of Toronto with a rate of 46,628.94.⁷⁰⁰

Number of Higher Education Degrees per 100,000 Population, as Reported to WCCD in 2014.⁷⁰¹



GTHA universities are not only preparing students for career and life success, but also teaching them how to be responsible citizens:

- From innovations that solve global issues, to free medical services for at-risk populations, to culturally sensitive health outreach, a Council of Ontario Universities [report](#) demonstrates how university students, faculty, and staff are “change agents” improving their communities and people’s lives.
- The University of Toronto, for example, contributes \$15.7B to the Canadian economy every year through its research and innovation.
 - U of T attracts \$1.1B in research funding each year and generates \$83M in research and development through industry collaborations.
 - It has produced 152 research institutes and centres and 252 licensed inventions.
- For almost 10 years the IMANI Academic Mentorship Program at the University of Toronto Scarborough has reached out to black youth in east Scarborough to offer academic and social support to middle- and high-school students.
 - A partnership between the university’s Black Students’ Alliance and the [Boys & Girls Club of East Scarborough](#), the program pairs university student mentors with youth participants for weekly tutoring, post-secondary preparation, and leadership development.
 - 83% of high-school students who participated in the program reported having higher expectations for themselves and saw more options for their futures.
 - 92% said they are interested in pursuing post-secondary education.
- [IMAGINE](#) (Interprofessional Medical and Allied Groups for Improving Neighbourhood Environments) is a U of T student-led, weekly clinic that since 2010 has been offering free and anonymous treatment to homeless and disadvantaged Toronto residents.
 - IMAGINE offers treatment by doctors, pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists and nurses, and by students who are fully supervised by these professionals.
 - Every year, IMAGINE treats over 200 of our city’s most vulnerable community members.
- Ryerson University’s new Mattamy Athletic Centre is benefitting more than just varsity athletes. It houses a free learning program for Regent Park youth (grades seven to 10).
 - [Rams-in-Training](#) fosters relationships between university athletes and the younger students by teaching them how to play hockey and about post-secondary options in sessions led by student athletes, police officers, and nutrition students.
 - The program, a partnership between the university, Toronto Police Services, Loblaws and Regent Park’s [Pathways to Education](#) program, is meant to give youth from the social housing neighbourhood a competitive edge.
- A student initiative at McMaster University is bringing culturally sensitive health information to Muslim organizations from Hamilton to Toronto.
 - The [Healthy Active Living](#) group’s outreach to audiences of new Canadians educates them of their options for treatment in a context that is comfortable to them. The newcomers also learn about nutrition, fitness, and mental health from people who understand their cultural and religious circumstances.⁷⁰²



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.

[ACCES Employment](#) – Assisting job seekers from diverse background to integrate into the Canadian job market

[Agincourt Community Services Association](#) - Multi-service agency addressing needs and empowering under-served

[Applegrove Community Complex](#) –Fostering community through neighbourhood partnerships

[Alliance for South Asian Aids Prevention \(ASAAP\)](#) – Providing HIV/Aids sexual health and support services

[Art City in St. James Town](#) – Providing 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](#) – Giving young artists access to resources, mentorship and skill building opportunities

[Arts Etobicoke](#) – Creating space for the arts through a community arts council located in a beautiful storefront gallery

[Arts for Children and Youth](#) – Offering hands on, community and school based arts education

[Ashoka Canada](#) – Fostering powerful emergent ideas led by social entrepreneurs

[Bata Shoe Museum](#) – Sharing compelling cultural stories by using footwear as the point of entry to cultures of the world

[Boundless Adventures Association](#) - Improving the lives of underserved youth through outdoor leadership

[Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders](#) – Increasing 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

[Canadian Urban Institute](#) – Building wisdom and inspiring leadership for healthy urban development

[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](#) – Running 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](#) – Assisting 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](#) - Networking volunteers to inspire 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](#) - Working 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](#) – Delivering high-quality volunteer engagement events (Timeraiser)

[Frontier College](#) – Elevating literacy through a wide range of 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](#) - Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in Canada

[High Park Nature Centre](#) – Promoting awareness and respect for nature through outdoor education

[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

[Inside Out LGBT Film Festival](#) – Changing lives through the promotion, production and exhibition of film by and about LGBT people

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

[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - Gathering community together in a place focused on social justice

[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

[LGBT Youth Line](#) - Providing anonymous peer support for youth in a queer-positive context

[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

[Lost Lyrics](#) – Providing alternative education through arts to racialized youth in ‘priority neighbourhoods’

[Macaulay Child Development Centre](#) - Helping all children thrive in caring, responsive families

[Manifesto Community Projects](#) - Uniting and empowering 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](#) - Providing youth affected by poverty fun experiences to strengthen their confidence

[Mosaic Institute](#) – Harnessing the diversity of Canada’s people to build a stronger, more inclusive nation

[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](#) - Helping underserved youth graduate from high school and transition to further education

[PEACH: Promoting Education and Community Health](#) – Transforming the lives of young people through youth-centred, social and educational programs

[Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario](#) - Championing 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](#) - Using the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing adversity

[Roots of Empathy](#) - Reducing bullying among school children while raising emotional competence

[Regent Park Focus](#) - Bringing best practices in training and mentorship of youth to broadcasting and digital arts

[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](#) – Creating a safe space for arts and creativity for young, marginalized people

[Skills for Change of Metro Toronto](#) – Creating 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 – Programming for newcomer and low-income residents](#)

[Story Planet](#) – Encouraging young people to tell their stories through workshops at a story making centre

[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

Arts and 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 lively arts environment helps to welcome and integrate newcomers, celebrate our heritage, and imagine a better city. It is also a key sector that contributes to our local, provincial and national economies.

What are the trends?

The City's 2015 budget upheld Council's commitment to reaching \$25 per capita arts funding by 2017. But even at that amount, Toronto's spending on arts and culture will remain outshone by many other Canadian cities. Although professional employment in arts and culture in Toronto declined slightly in 2014, it remained higher than in 2012, and film, television, and other screen-based media production spending exceeded \$1B for the fourth year in a row.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
City budget for culture	\$54,790,00 (2013)	\$55,420,000 (2014)	\$62,580,500 (2015) ⁷⁰³
Per capita municipal cultural investment	\$19.62 (2013)	\$22.07 (2014)	\$22.51 (2015) ⁷⁰⁴
Professional employment in arts and culture (excluding self-employed)	32,330	34,660	32,970 ⁷⁰⁵
Film, television and other screen-based media production spending	\$1.2B	\$1.19B	\$1.23B ⁷⁰⁶
Percentage of work force employed in cultural industries (Toronto Region)	3.12% (2011)	2.94% (2012)	2.62% (2013) ⁷⁰⁷

What's new?

Toronto's public library system, among the world's largest and busiest, saw its busiest year since 2005 and opened its 100th branch in 2014. In-library use has fallen by 15% since 2010, but electronic circulation has increased by more than 1,000%. Attendance at cultural events reflects our engagement in arts and culture and brings significant economic benefit to the city. At World Pride in 2014 attendees spent an estimated \$719 million on Pride related purchases over the course of the ten-day festival.

Is the City funding Toronto's cultural liveliness?

The City's 2015 budget saw Council uphold its commitment to reaching \$25 per capita arts funding by 2017:

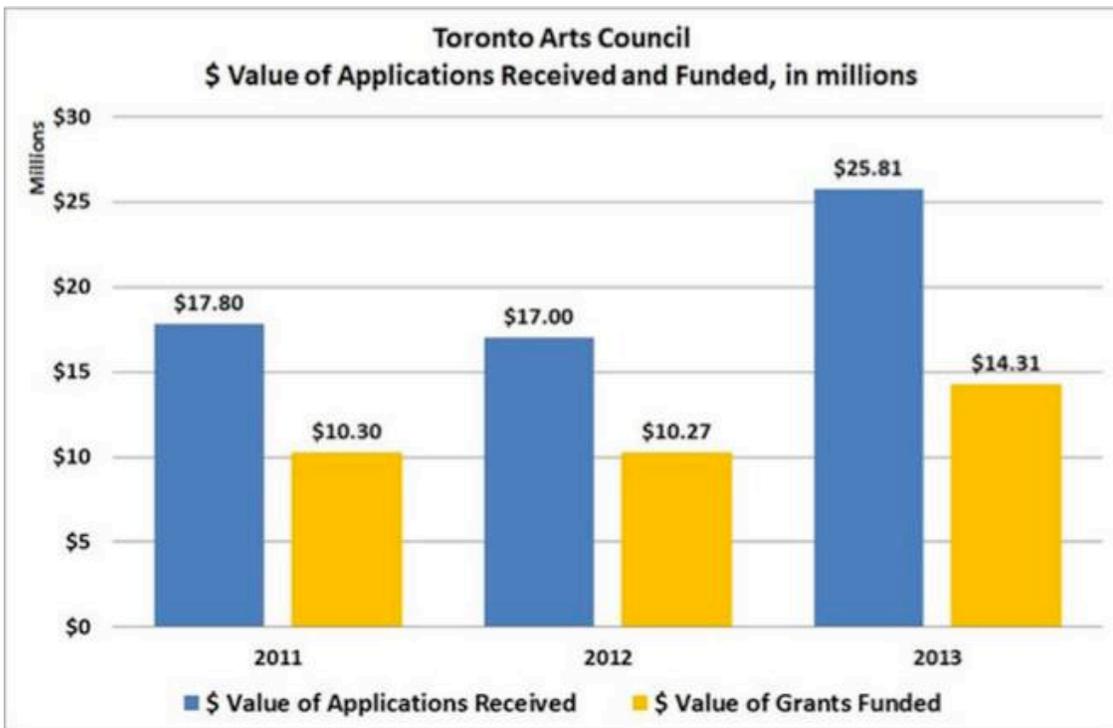
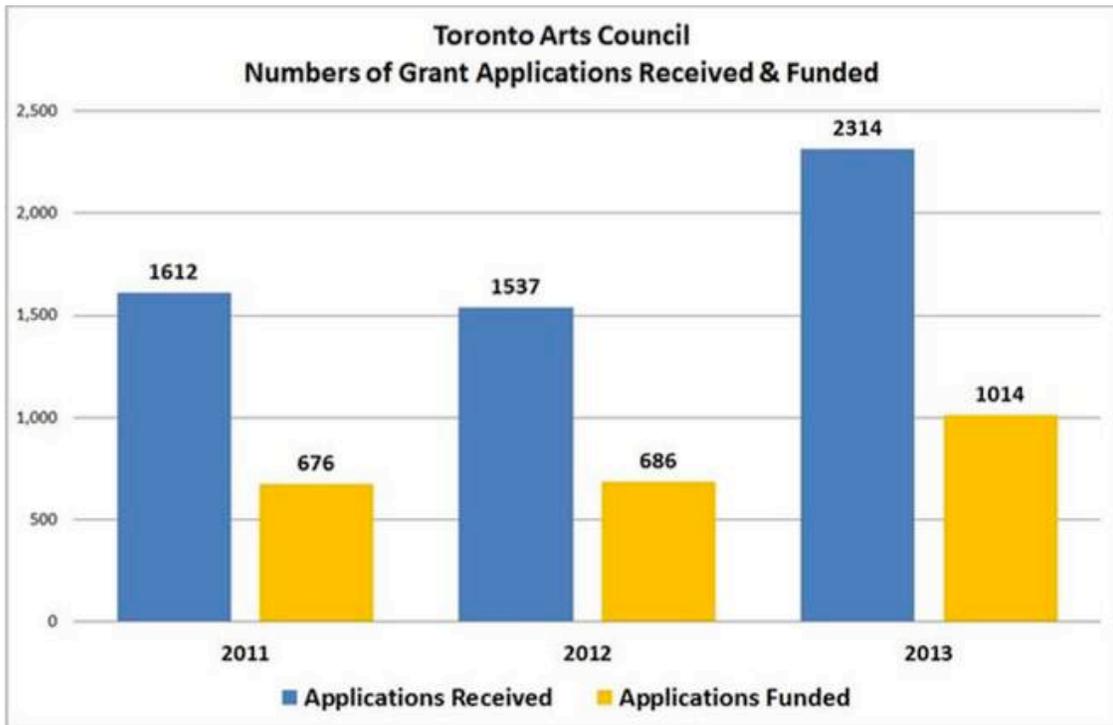
- In 2014, Toronto spent \$22.51 per capita on arts, culture and heritage.⁷⁰⁸
- The City's 2015 operating budget allocated \$62,580,500 to make possible arts and cultural services including:
 - The [PANAMANIA](#) festival: meant to showcase the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, the complementary PANAMANIA festival featured 22 days of free, accessible cultural entertainment and activities (such as victory celebrations, concerts, dance performances, art exhibits, and nightly fireworks) throughout the Games.
 - The 10th edition of Scotiabank Nuit Blanche: the reputation of this free and highly valued Toronto event continues to grow, as does its coverage of the city's neighbourhoods.⁷⁰⁹



The [Luminous Veil](#), an installation of LED lights that illuminate the Prince Edward Viaduct between Bloor St. E. and Danforth Ave., was one of many projects supported by City of Toronto's 2015 Operating budget for arts and cultural services. From dusk till dawn the lights transform the bridge, changing in hue and intensity in response to the wind velocity and temperature and subways passing underneath.

- The Toronto Arts Council (TAC) had requested an additional \$1M in grants funding for 2015 to build on its [priorities](#) of growth and sustainability, community connections, and innovation and partnerships, but City staff instead recommended a \$2M increase to fund arts and culture projects associated with the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.
 - TAC believes its \$1M request may be met in 2016 following the Games' completion. Meanwhile its grants budget remains at just over \$16M.⁷¹⁰
 - In 2013, TAC funded arts organizations through 1,014 grants totalling \$14.31M—38% more than the \$10.3M awarded in 2012 (in 686 grants).⁷¹¹

TAC Grant Programs, Applications Received and Funded, 2011-2013:⁷¹²



- Even at \$25 per capita, Toronto’s spending on arts and culture will remain outshone by Montréal (with \$55 per capita spending in 2009), Vancouver (\$47), Calgary (\$42) and Ottawa (\$28).⁷¹³

City-Approved Phase-In of the \$25 Per Capita Arts Funding Increase:⁷¹⁴



2013	\$6 million increased funding, including \$4 million increase to TAC grants
2014	\$4.5 million new funding; \$10.5 million cumulative increase; including \$1.8 million increase to TAC grants
2015	\$2 million new funding to support cultural component of Pan/ParaPan Am Games; \$12.5 million cumulative increase
2016	\$3 million new funding; \$15.5 million cumulative increase
2017	\$2 million new funding; \$17.5 million cumulative increase achieving the \$25 per capita arts funding goal

How do Torontonians contribute to, and benefit from the city’s exciting cultural environment?

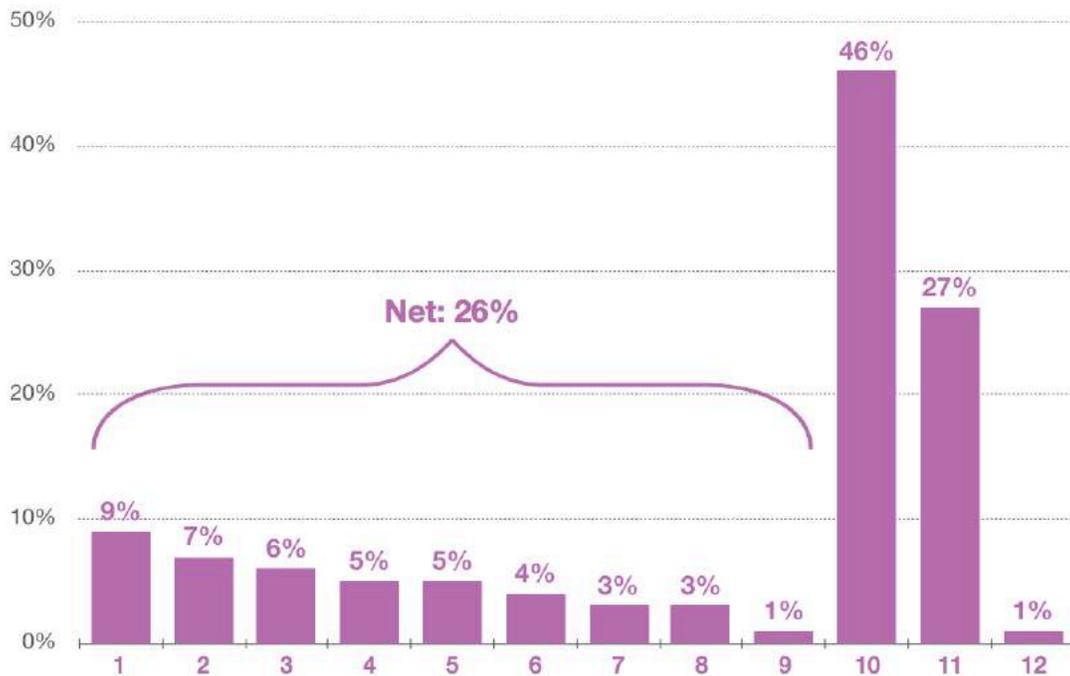
Attendance at cultural events reflects Torontonians’ deep engagement in arts, culture, and heritage and brings significant economic benefit to the city:

- Over 19 million people attended City-funded or City-programmed cultural events in 2014.
- More than half a million people visit the 21 City-operated museums, historic sites, cultural centres and art galleries every year.⁷¹⁵
- Arts and culture contribute \$11.3B annually to Toronto’s GDP.⁷¹⁶

Torontonians see the arts as having a positive influence in the neighbourhoods they live in, their individual lives, and the city they call home:

- [Toronto Art Stats 2015](#) compiled by the Toronto Arts Foundation and Leger share results from an online survey of just over 500 Toronto residents conducted in January 2015 and three focus groups in January and February 2015.
- On a regular basis, 71% of Torontonians attend arts-related programs or events or visit cultural locations. Those under the age of 54 are more likely to attend than those 55 and up (81% versus 61%).
- Concerts (53%), museums (52%) and film showings and festivals (both at 47%) are the top three events attended on a regular basis. Dance (19%) and readings (6%) are the only events to fall under the 40% mark.
- A quarter (26%) of Torontonians go beyond attendance with their engagement in the arts. The most popular contribution is donating to an arts organization (9%), followed by being a member of an amateur arts group (7%), and being a student in arts classes or lessons (6%).⁷¹⁷

Engagement Beyond Attendance in the Arts, Toronto, 2015:⁷¹⁸



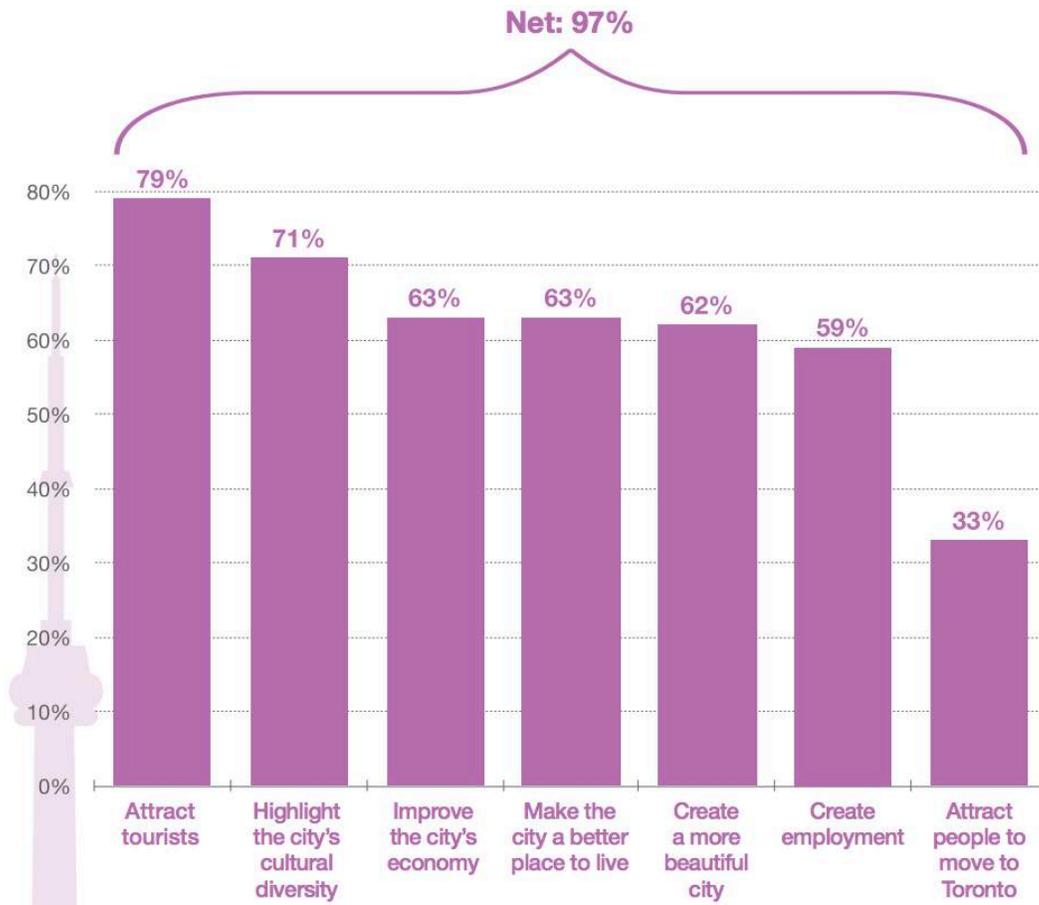
On par with the 2014 results, roughly one-quarter of Torontonians are regularly engaged in the arts at a deeper level.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Donate to an arts organization | 5. A participant in a community arts project | 9. Other |
| 2. A member of an amateur arts group | 6. A practicing professional artist | 10. Not currently involved in the arts |
| 3. A student enrolled in arts classes or lessons | 7. Work for an arts organization | 11. None of the above |
| 4. Volunteer for an arts organization | 8. A member of an ethno cultural arts group | 12. Don't know / Prefer not to answer |

- 69% of Torontonians appreciate the contribution that local artists make to the city and 43% reported they would like to get more involved in the arts.
- The overwhelming majority of Torontonians (97%) see at least one benefit that the arts provide to the city, such as:
 - attracting tourists, 79%;
 - making the city a better place to live, 63%;
 - creating employment, 59%; and

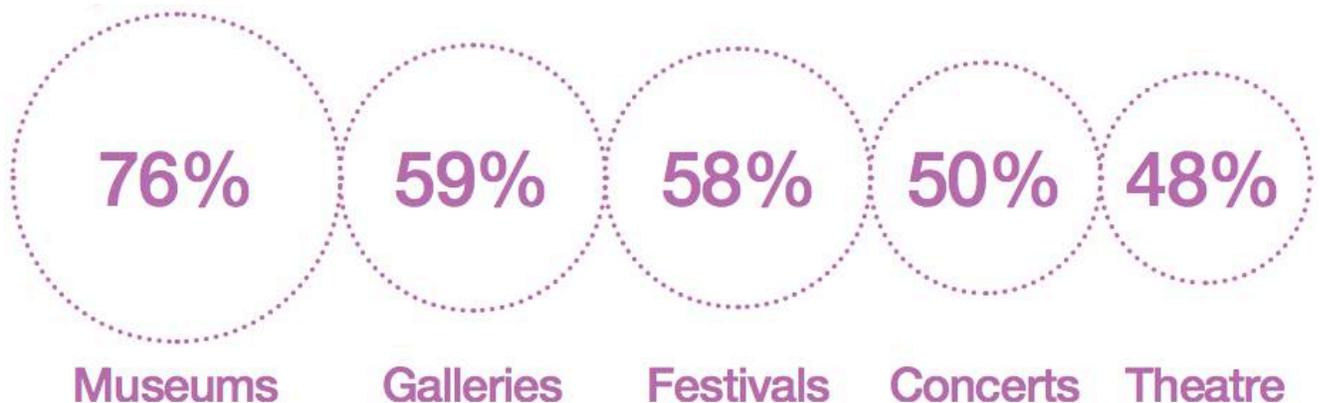
- o attracting people to move here, 33%.

Benefits of the Arts to Toronto, 2015:⁷¹⁹



- 89% of Torontonians see at least one benefit that the arts provide to themselves. 66%, for example, report that the arts expose them to new ideas, and 46% say they make them feel proud of their city.
- Over half (52%) of Torontonians are very likely to take an out-of-town visitor to an arts-related activity, with top picks including museums, galleries, and festivals.

Top Five Arts Activities for Out-of-Town Guests, 2015:⁷²⁰



- 68% of Torontonians say that local artists add value to our society and therefore should be appropriately compensated, and 57% say that the arts should be a priority for local government.
- Despite these high levels of interest and engagement, a significant majority (87%) of GTA residents face at least one barrier to attending arts programming.
 - Cost (63%) and lack of time (40%) 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, 30%;
 - unawareness of what's going on, 15%; and
 - inaccessibility of venues to those with mobility issues, 6%.⁷²¹
- 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.⁷²²

Toronto elementary schools offer better access to arts education than many Ontario schools, although access to some specialist teachers is still very low:

- Exposure to arts education for young people can build capacity for imaginative and critical thinking along with open-mindedness, which are all important skills for living productive lives as adults.
- Two-thirds (66%) of Toronto elementary schools report having a music teacher; 43% employ a full-time music teacher.
- Far fewer elementary schools report having a visual arts (29%) or drama (18%) teacher.⁷²³

How engaged are Torontonians by major sporting events?

Data analysts have quantified “that feeling of hopelessness” that many Toronto sports fans feel by naming us the second most miserable sports city in North America:

- Compiling statistics on US and Canadian cities having three or more major league basketball, baseball, football, or hockey teams, and using metrics including playoff appearances, playoff series wins, and championship wins (favouring more recent wins), [The 10 and 3](#) determined a “misery score” for each city. Only Cleveland fared worse than Toronto.
- Toronto’s misery is based primarily on the losing seasons of its three teams. The Maple Leafs have seen only one playoff season (2013) since they won in 1967, and the Blue Jays none since they won in 1993 (though as of this Report’s publication, 2015 looks promising). The Raptors, meanwhile, so far display “unfulfilled promise.”⁷²⁴
- The Leafs saw their lowest attendance in 16 years and ended a 13-year sellout streak this past season when only 18,366 fans attended a March 23 game.⁷²⁵



Toronto's "Sports Fan Misery Score," 2015:⁷²⁶



Toronto has much to be proud of in terms of some preliminary metrics pertaining to the outcome of the [Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games](#), which were hosted by the city and neighbouring municipalities in July and August 2015:

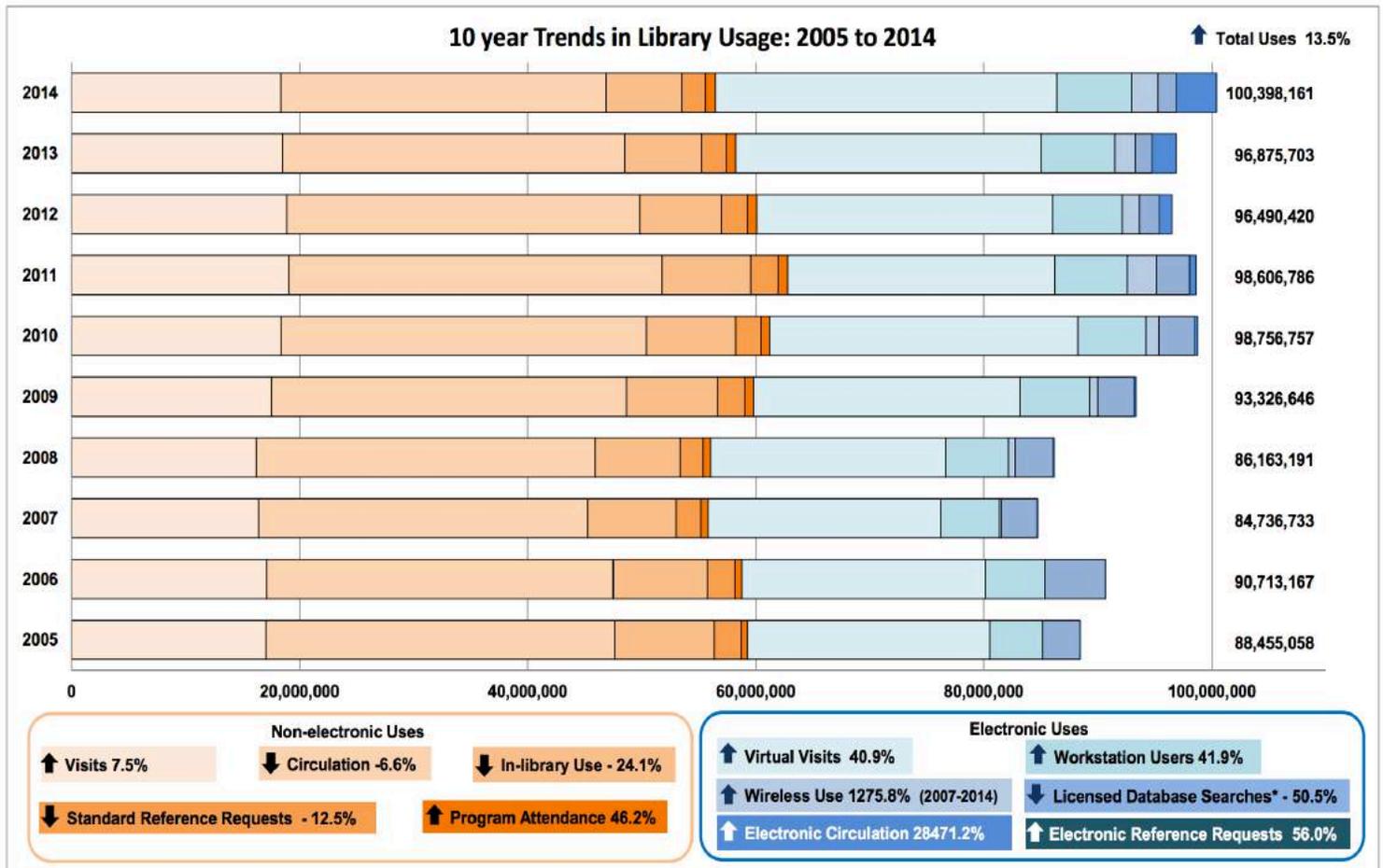
- Supported by more than 20,000 volunteers, the Games were the largest multi-sport event in Canadian history in terms of athletes competing—over 7,000.
- Over all, Canada earned 385 medals during both Pan Am and Parapan Am Games events.⁷²⁷
 - Canada placed second in the Parapan Am medal count with a total of 217 (78 gold, 69 silver, and 60 bronze), behind the US, which earned 265 medals.⁷²⁸
 - More than 5,500 Pan Am athletes competed in in 36 sports.⁷²⁹
 - The Parapan Am Games component of the event were the largest ever in its history, with 1,608 athletes from 28 countries competing in 15 parasports, all of which are Paralympic qualifiers for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.⁷³⁰

How well does our world-class library system serve the city, and how is usage changing in the 21st century?

The Toronto Public Library (TPL) continues to be among the world's largest and busiest public library systems offering services in complex, diverse, urban environments:

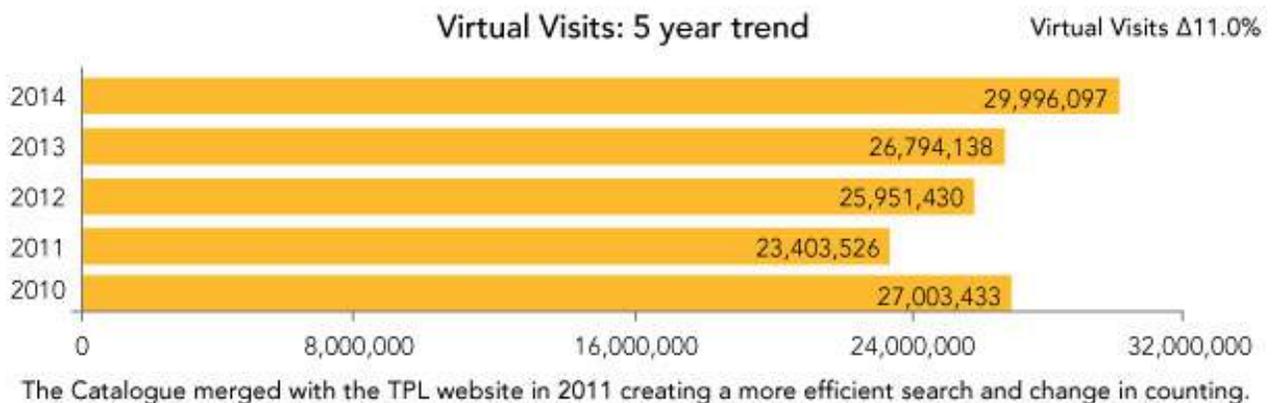
- 2014 was a banner year for the TPL.
 - It opened its 100th branch, in the Scarborough Civic Centre.⁷³¹
 - It increased the number of programs offered by 9.3%.
 - And, despite the closures of eight branches for part of the year for renovations, TPL saw its busiest year since 2005. Driven by increases in e-circulation, wireless usage, virtual visits, and program attendance, total uses surpassed 100 million, up 18.7% from 2007.⁷³²

10-Year Trends in Toronto Public Library Usage, 2005-2014.⁷³³



- 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.
 - Although total visits were down in 2014, by 0.8% (18,335,910 compared to 18,485,372 in 2013), they were up 7.5% over 2005.
- In-library use of materials is rapidly falling in favour of electronic circulation.
 - In-library use of materials fell 1.2% in 2014 (from 6,709,668 in 2013 to 6,631,255), while electronic circulation rose 65.7% (to 3,488,252, up from 2,105,515 in 2013).
 - Since 2010 in-library use has fallen 15.1%, but electronic circulation has increased by 1,253.5%.⁷³⁴
- Other notable increases in library usage in 2014 included:
 - 28.9% increase in wireless sessions (to 2,328,664), 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;

- 5.2% increase in program attendance, with a 10.1% increase for programs for school-age children (almost double the 5.8% increase the previous year) and a 27.6% increase for preschool programs;
 - Over the past five years the number of programs offered has increased by 17.7% and attendance has increased by 7.4%.
- 116.4% increase in the use of the “Book a Librarian” service, which allows patrons to meet with a librarian for help (with research, library information, career information, or homework, for example); and
- 11.8% increase in virtual visits (reaching 29,966,097), reflecting the importance of online access to information, services, and collections.
 - 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 11% over the last five years.⁷³⁵



Five-Year Trend in TPL Virtual Visits, 2010-2014:⁷³⁶

- In 2013 (the latest year for which comparative data is available) TPL again ranked first in North America in circulation and visits per capita among libraries serving populations of 2 million or more.
 - Among these large urban systems TPL had the greatest number of branches in 2013 and tied with Chicago for highest square footage of library space per capita.
- Among Canadian libraries serving a population over 500,000, TPL had the highest overall circulation and visits, and per capita, ranked sixth in circulation, third in visits, and second in square footage of library space.
- Of the nine municipal libraries voluntarily participating in the 2013 [Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative](#), TPL placed second in library use per capita, and ranked third in operating cost per use (\$2.04, above the median of \$1.83; in 2012 it was just above the median at \$1.96).⁷³⁷



Total Operating Cost per Use, TPL vs. 9 Municipal Libraries, 2013:⁷³⁸



Every dollar invested in the library generates a significant return for the city:

- A 2013 [report](#) from the [Martin Prosperity Institute](#) (at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto) put 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 TPL Board and City Council, clearly demonstrated that TPL delivers a strong return on investment.
 - For every \$1 invested in the library, Torontonians received almost six times the value: \$5.63.
 - The direct benefits of a library membership made it worth \$502 for the 72% of Torontonians who used it.
 - 44% of the adult population were frequent or heavy users of library branches (defined by 11 or more visits in the previous year).
 - The average value of each open hour at a branch was almost four times its average cost: the average open hour generated \$2,515 in direct benefits while costing approximately \$653.⁷³⁹

How do the arts and culture contribute to the city's economic health?

Arts and culture provide employment and professional development, marketing, and advocacy opportunities for creatives:

- Although professional employment in arts and culture in Toronto declined 4.9% in 2014 to 32,970 people (down from 34,660 in 2013), it remains 2% higher than in 2012.
- When the self-employed are included, the number of professionals in arts and culture almost doubles, to 65,170 in 2014 (down from 65,670 in 2013 but also higher than 2012's 61,780).⁷⁴⁰
- Employment in cultural industries in the Region was 83,800 in 2013 or 2.68% of total industries, from 93,900 or 3.12% of total industries in 2011.⁷⁴¹ But overall employment in cultural industries as a percent of total industries was higher in the Region than at the provincial level for 2010–2013.⁷⁴²

On-location filming in Toronto exceeded \$1B for the fourth straight year:

- Toronto's screen-based industry (film, television, commercials, and animation) continued its success in 2014, with domestic and international production companies investing a record \$1.23B in on-location filming in the city, a 4.3% increase over 2013's \$1.18B.
- Television series continued to dominate, accounting for over two-thirds (79.4%) of total investment (or \$757.4M).
 - The growth in domestic TV series spending accounted for an unprecedented 21% increase over 2013 in investment in major domestic productions, which exceeded \$500M for the second consecutive year, reaching \$652.25M.
- Also unprecedented was the level of growth in the city in commercial production investment—\$195M in 2014, a 48% increase from the previous year.
- On-location shooting days also increased over 2013, by a healthy 19%.⁷⁴³

In addition to its impressive film, television, and digital media production, Toronto is now home to over 80 film festivals, including TIFF, which draws big stars and big spending:

- 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.⁷⁴⁴
 - In 2014, 1.83 million people attended all TIFF activities.⁷⁴⁵
- According to Moneris, Canada's largest credit and debit card processor, Toronto saw a 12.1% gain in overall consumer spending during TIFF 2014 (in comparison to a 10-day non-festival period in August). This represents a 7.8% increase over TIFF 2013.
 - The biggest week-over-week spending increases were in the apparel category, with an 18.3% increase in dollars spent, specialty retail with a 14.7% increase, and travel with a 12.1% increase.
 - The Entertainment District saw the highest increase in spending week-over-week and year-over-year at 13.1% and 16.3% respectively. The Fashion District showed 7.7% and 3.9% growth for the same periods, and the Bloor/Yorkville area only 1.4% and 6.0%, a shift in spending that reflects the move of TIFF operations from Yorkville to the downtown core.⁷⁴⁶

Toronto's Pride festival had major impacts and achievements in 2014:



- Celebrating the diversity of the LGBTQ* community, Toronto hosts the largest pride festival in North America, and is consistently ranked in the top 10 biggest and best pride celebrations globally.⁷⁴⁷
- Alongside Toronto's own 34th annual Pride Festival, the fourth World Pride festival was held in Toronto in 2014 - the first time World Pride has been held in North America.
 - [Pride Toronto](#) estimates that in 2014 there were 2 million visits to Pride related events, and that Pride attendees spent an estimated \$719 million on Pride related purchases over the course of the ten-day festival, and directly contributed almost \$313 million to Toronto's GDP.⁷⁴⁸

The following groups are addressing issues relating to arts and culture 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](#) – Providing 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

[Arts Access Fund](#) – Providing opportunities for arts engagement to young people

[ArtReach Toronto](#) – Giving young artists access to resources, mentorship and skill_building opportunities

[Arts Etobicoke](#) – Creating space for the arts through a community arts council located in a beautiful storefront gallery

[Arts for Children and Youth](#) – Offering hands on, community and school based arts education

[Artscape](#) – Creating shared space for non-profit and arts based orgs through urban development

[Bata Shoe Museum](#) – Sharing compelling cultural stories by using footwear as the point of entry to cultures of the world

[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](#) - Championing 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](#) - Bringing neighbourhoods together by producing community-driven plays, pageants and parades in public spaces

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

[Creative Trust](#) - Building 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](#) - Supporting 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](#) – Delivering high-quality volunteer engagement events (Timeraiser)

[The Gardiner Museum](#) – Leading arts education and therapy through clay and ceramics

[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

[Inside Out LGBT Film Festival](#) – Changing lives through the promotion, production and exhibition of film by and about LGBT people

[Jumblies Theatre](#) – Makes art in everyday places with and about the people and stories found there

[Lost Lyrics](#) – Providing alternative education through arts to racialized youth in ‘priority neighbourhoods’

[Luminato Festival](#) - Reflecting the diverse character of Toronto through an annual, multi-disciplinary arts festival

[MABELLEarts](#) - Bringing together local communities to make art, tell stories, and creatively transform their public space

[Mammalian Diving Reflex](#) - Interactive performances that occur beyond the walls of the theatre

[Manifesto Community Projects](#) - Uniting and empowering 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

[Regent Park Focus](#) - bringing best practices in training and mentorship of youth to broadcasting and digital arts

[Regent Park School of Music](#) - Providing quality, affordable music education to underprivileged youth

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

[Shakespeare in Action](#) - Enhancing arts and education through exploring and performing Shakespeare

[Sistema Toronto](#) - Inspiring children to realize their full potential through free, ensemble-based music lessons

[SKETCH Working Arts](#) – Creating a safe space for arts and creativity for young, marginalized people

[Soulpepper Theatre Company](#) - Creating a home in Toronto for the great dramatic works of our collective cultural inheritance

[Story Planet](#) – Encouraging young people to tell their stories through workshops at a story making centre

[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

Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging

Why is this important?

Vibrant cities are those where residents are engaged and feel that they belong, where civic institutions reflect the diversity of the population, and where strong social connections unite people to one another 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?

Torontonians overall and youth aged 12-19 continue to feel a strong sense of belonging to their community, but only half of young adults feel the same. The number of people who make charitable donations in the Region has been slowly declining for a number of years, and dropped to under 22% in 2013, but the median donation has increased. Representation on City Council still does not reflect the population; despite comprising more than 40% of the population, visible minorities made up just over 13% of Council in 2013, the same as they did prior to the 2014 municipal election.

Some Key Trends	2012	2013	2014
Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted			
1. Percentage of women on Toronto City Council	34% (2010)	34%	32% ⁷⁴⁹
2. Charitable donors as a proportion of tax filers (Toronto Region)	22.7% (2011)	22.1% (2012)	21.6% (2013) ⁷⁵⁰
3. Median annual charitable donation (Toronto Region)	\$350 (2011)	\$360 (2012)	\$370 (2013) ⁷⁵¹
4. Percentage who report a strong sense of belonging to their local community	69.1%	66.8%	68.9% ⁷⁵²
5. Percentage of youth (12-19 year-olds) who report a strong sense of belonging to their local community	85.5%	78.7%	80.5% ⁷⁵³

What's new?

Torontonians have the lowest average life satisfaction amongst Canada's cities, workers who earn less and are precariously employed are less likely to always vote than those who earn more and are more secure, and black children are over-represented in Toronto's child protection system. But City investments in the community services delivered by hundreds of non-profit organizations across Toronto are supporting the non-profit sector in building the city and improving communities.

Do Torontonians feel connected to their communities, and are they satisfied in life?

Almost seven in 10 Torontonians and 8 in 10 youth feel a strong sense of belonging to their local community—but only half of young adults feel the same:

- The percentage of city youth (12–19 years old) who report a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging on the Statistics Canada [Canadian Community Health Survey](#) rose to 80.5% in 2014 (after an 8% dip from 85.5% to 78.7% between 2012 and 2013).⁷⁵⁴
- 68.9% of Torontonians aged 12 and over reported feeling a strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging, a big improvement from 55.9% in 2003 and higher than the national (66.4%), and provincial (68.2%) averages.⁷⁵⁵
- Only 56.6% of young adults age 20 to 34, on the other hand, feel a sense of belonging.⁷⁵⁶
- Research shows a high correlation of sense of community belonging with physical and mental health.⁷⁵⁷

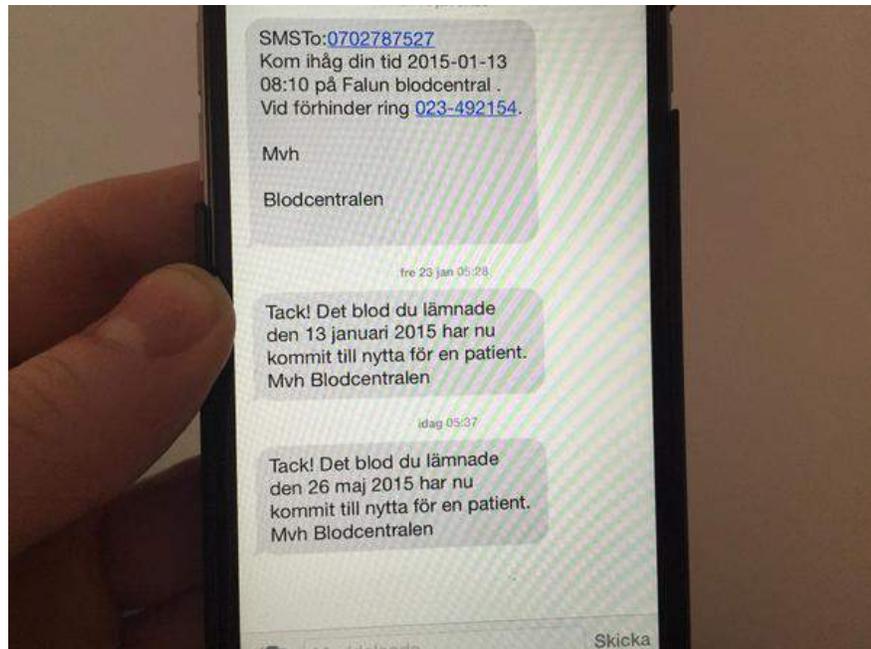


Of all 140 Toronto neighbourhoods, Moss Park has the most community meeting places within a 10-minute walk, such as community centres and places of worship, out of all 140 neighbourhoods in the city.⁷⁵⁸



In an effort to increase the supply of donated blood, and to help donors feel more connected to the community of people they are helping, blood donors in Sweden are now being thanked for and informed of the personal impact of their efforts:

- Donors receive a “thank you” text from the national blood services agency when they give blood. When their blood has actually been used and makes it into somebody else’s body, they get another message.⁷⁵⁹



Source: <https://twitter.com/robertlenne/status/607901970733658112/photo/1>

Torontonians have low average life satisfaction compared to other Canadian cities:

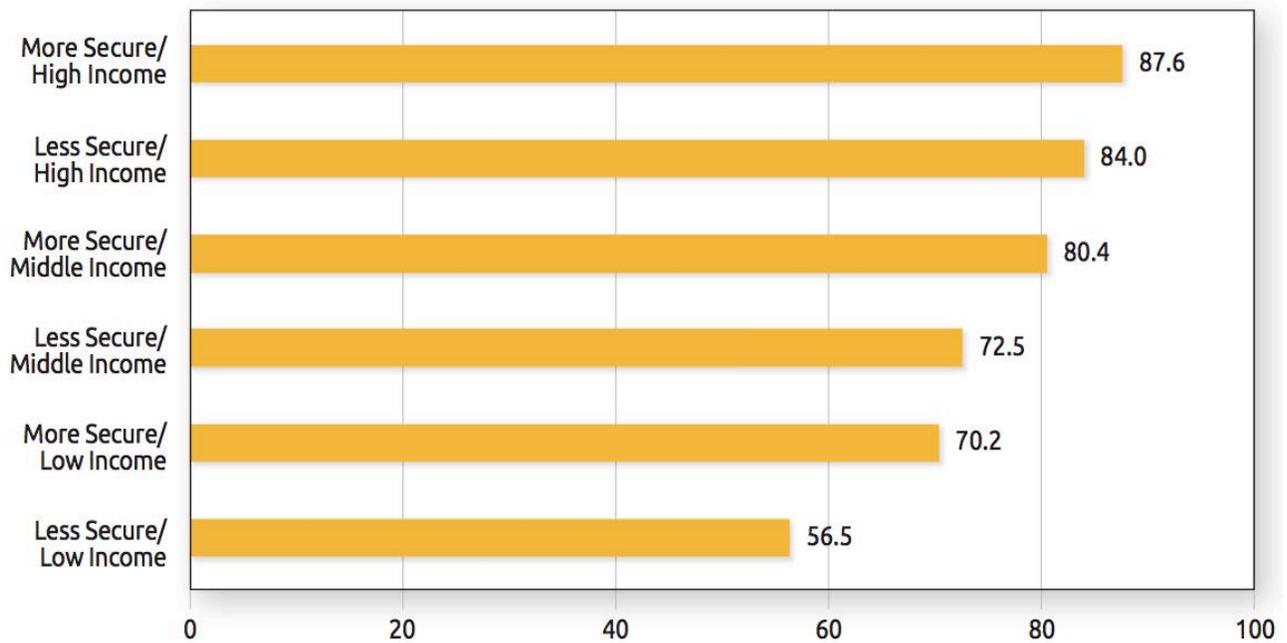
- After several years of asking about life satisfaction on the Canadian Community Health Survey and the General Social Survey, [Statistics Canada](#) has almost 340,000 individual responses—enough to allow, for the first time, comparable community-level measures of life satisfaction for 33 CMAs and 58 economic regions (ERs) across the country.
- While average life satisfaction was 8.0 out of 10 across Canada, in Toronto it was lower at 7.8 out of 10, placing the city last (tied with Vancouver and Windsor).
- The people of St. Johns, Saguenay, Trois-Rivieres, and Greater Sudbury are most satisfied; average life satisfaction in these communities was 8.2 out of 10.
- When considering only people who rank their life satisfaction as a 9 or 10, Toronto again falls near the bottom, with 34.3% ranking their satisfaction this highly. Only Vancouver fares worse, at 33.6%.
 - In this ranking, Greater Sudbury tops the list with 44.9%, followed by Thunder Bay with 43.9%.
- When considering only people who rank their life satisfaction as a 6 or less, Toronto, Windsor, and Abbotsford-Mission tie for first place with 17.1% of people in each of these communities ranking their satisfaction this low.
 - In Saguenay, Quebec City, and Trois-Rivieres only 8.6%, 9.3% and 9.8% respectively ranked their satisfaction this low. In all other regions, 10% or more ranked their satisfaction this low.⁷⁶⁰

What are some of the barriers to civic participation and sense of belonging in the community?

Research of GTHA workers has found that rising precarious, or insecure, employment affects health and mental health. But it also affects civic engagement and belonging:

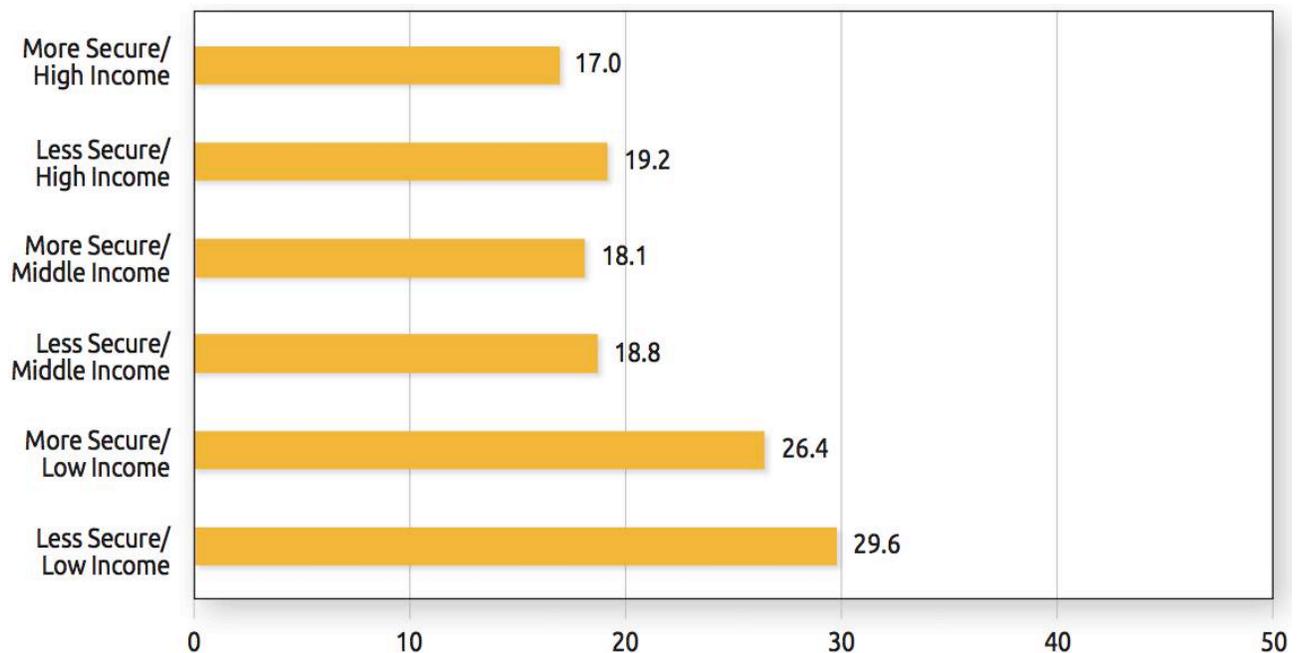
- The [Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario](#) (PEPSO) research group surveyed and interviewed workers aged 25-65 in 2014. Its [report](#) documents relationships between employment security and income and volunteering, voting patterns, and social interaction. It found that:
 - Volunteering is more common among less securely employed workers. These workers' motives for volunteering differ, however. They are more likely to volunteer for networking opportunities than for a community's good.
 - Workers who are low income/less secure are less likely to report that they always vote than those who are high income/more secure (56.5% versus 87.6%).⁷⁶¹

Always Votes, by Employment Security and Household Income (Percentage),
GTHA, 2014.⁷⁶²



- Less secure employment also has an impact on whether workers report having a close friend to talk to. Low income/less secure workers are most likely to report that they do not have such a friend.⁷⁶³

Does Not Have a Close Friend to Talk to, by Employment Security
and Household Income (Percentage), GTHA, 2014.⁷⁶⁴



Although Canada is ranked second amongst all nations for its tolerance and inclusion in the [Social Progress Index](#), a Maclean's Magazine [article](#) negatively compares Aboriginal living conditions in Canada to those of African-Americans, pointing out that Canada also has a "race problem":

- Prompted by events in 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri, where an unarmed black teenager was killed by police, sparking worldwide demonstrations against racism, Maclean's analysed several indicators and compared Canada's Aboriginal population with the African-American population.
- Maclean's cites the remoteness of the Aboriginal population as the reason for Canada's "hidden" racial problem. 49% of First Nations members live on remote reserves rather than in urban centres.⁷⁶⁵
- While the methodologies of the Maclean's study have been questioned, and the pitting of two racialized communities against each other is problematic, the article prompted much attention in Canada regarding the way racialized people and communities experience life in Canada.

Black children are over-represented in the child protection system, and the Children's Aid Society (CAS) has launched a pilot project to address the issue by connecting black families at risk with counselling services:

- A Toronto Star [investigation](#) analysed data collected by the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and found that:
 - while only 8.2% of Toronto's population under the age of 18 is black, black children and youth comprise 41% of kids in the care of CAS.
 - By contrast, more than half of the city's population under the age of 18 is white but only 37% of the children in care are white.
 - 31% of children in care in Toronto had black parents and another 9.8% had one black parent.
 - Misunderstanding and cultural divides can often land children in care, especially where young and inexperienced front-line CAS workers are involved.
 - While spanking is more commonly used and more socially acceptable as discipline for children in Africa and the Caribbean, for example, Toronto parents who use it may find themselves charged with assault.
 - Parents who question care intervention by a CAS worker may be branded as uncooperative.
- Toronto CAS has launched a pilot program that teaches parenting skills and anger management, and connects black families to culturally specific community services for mental health and addiction issues. Less than 10% of the 100 families counselled through this program have had a child taken into care.
- Figures obtained by The Star indicate that over-representation of black children in care is province-wide.
 - There are roughly 23,300 Ontario children and youth in care. Those who aren't returned to their parents within a year become Crown wards, of which there were 7,000 in Ontario in 2013-14.⁷⁶⁶
- Although most CASs in the province do not collect race-based data on children in care, the Province is considering it, along with a new CAS exclusively for black children, which community leaders have argued might be the only way to overcome systemic biases.⁷⁶⁷



City leaders across sectors, including the vice-principal from Regent Park’s Nelson Mandela Park Public School, are delivering an initiative aimed at connecting positive black role models with boys who come from areas where there may be few:

- In April 2015, more than 200 Grade 8 boys from across Toronto came together for the 6th annual Young Men’s Stand Up conference. More than 50 “men at the top of their game,” including Toronto’s new police chief, participated in the conference to offer positive influence.⁷⁶⁸



[Canadian Roots Exchange](#) builds bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth by facilitating dialogue and strengthening relationships through leadership programming:

- Piloted in 2012, the Youth Reconciliation Initiative is a youth-led program that engages young leaders (ages 18-30) from across the country, to be trained to lead programming in their own communities, while being supported by Canadian Roots Exchange staff.
- Youth leaders then act as mentors, engaging younger Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth (aged 12-18) in an eight-month leadership program.

How can we turn the tide of voter apathy, especially among our youth, immigrants, and visible minorities?

Recent federal elections have seen dismal voter turnout rates, particularly among first-time voters and 18- to 24-year-olds:

- Voter turnout in the 2011 federal election was a near-record low of 61.1% (and turnout from Toronto’s voters, at 60.3%, was even lower than the national average and the provincial average of 61.5%).⁷⁶⁹
- The most common reason Canadians gave for not voting in the election was that they were not interested (27.7%). Another 22.9% said that they were too busy. 3.8% said they forgot.
- Only one-third of first-time eligible voters in Canada actually voted—half as many as a generation ago.⁷⁷⁰
 - A 2011 study for Elections Canada found that each new cohort of first-time voters participates in fewer numbers than the one before.⁷⁷¹
- Only 39% of 18- to 24-year-olds voted in the 2011 federal election,⁷⁷² a startling contrast to the trends from the 1970s and 80s when the vast majority (70-80% and higher) of young people that same age voted.⁷⁷³
 - A [People for Education report](#) posits that one of the reasons for the dismal state of civic engagement and our lacklustre political representativeness in terms of diversity is the “weak and fragmented” state of citizenship education in our schools.
 - Citizenship education matters if we are going to turn around growing youth disengagement. Developing clearer goals and success measures for citizenship education would help, the report argues.⁷⁷⁴

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%.⁷⁷⁵

- While some other provinces' voter turnout rates are falling, many are still higher than those of Ontario:
 - 71.4% in Québec in April 2014,
 - 59% in Nova Scotia in 2013, and
 - 57% in Alberta in 2012.⁷⁷⁶
- In Prince Edward Island, 76.2% of eligible voters cast a ballot in the 2011 election, and a whopping 85.9% did in 2015.⁷⁷⁷
- Voter turnout in Ontario elections has gone down steadily since 1990, when 64% of voters went to the polls.⁷⁷⁸
- 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 1,245%.⁷⁷⁹

Toronto's municipal voter turnout has been slowly improving over the past several years, and the 2014 municipal election attracted a record turnout:

- 54.7% of eligible voters (991,754 of 1,813,915) cast a ballot in the 2014 municipal election—a record since amalgamation.
- This marks a big improvement (59.2%) over the approximately 36% who voted in the 2000 election. In 2003, voter turnout was 38.3%, in 2006 39.3%, and in 2010, it jumped to 50.55% of eligible voters.⁷⁸⁰



[The Ranked Ballot Initiative \(or RaBit\)](#) is a Toronto-based, non-partisan advocacy project seeking to transform local elections into a more relevant and inclusive experience for voters:

- Ranked ballot or runoff voting is a small and simple change that would require no amendments to the current ward boundaries or structures of City Council. Using this method, voters mark their choices on the ballot, ranking the candidates in order of preference.
- This voting system ensures that no one can win with less than a majority of the vote and, as a result, eliminates the risk of “vote splitting,” where two or more candidates “split” the votes of a certain group. It also means that candidates are not pressured to drop out of a race to prevent vote splitting, and encourages more potential candidates to run.
- In June 2013, Toronto City Council passed a motion to ask the Province for permission to use ranked ballots for local elections. In spring 2014, a bill to introduce ranked ballots in Ontario passed second reading. The bill died when the fall 2014 provincial election was called, but the Province has pledged to put ranked ballots into place across Ontario.⁷⁸¹



A local barber in Philadelphia is working with media partners and 50 other local barbers to create an initiative that uses the hours black men spend in their local barbershops to increase voter turnout among the city's black community, particularly among young men.

- The plan calls for barbers to be trained through Philadelphia's [Youth Outreach Adolescent Community Awareness Program \(YOACAP\)](#), which will provide information and training about how to answer questions about who is eligible to vote, as well as to provide facts about upcoming elections.
- Barbers are considered leaders in many communities, and their barber chairs are frequently the location of many long discussions among local residents about social issues.

- The program’s goal is help build trust and understanding of the system, and increase voter participation.⁷⁸²



[100In1Day](#), co-presented by [Evergreen](#) and [United Way Toronto and York Region](#), is a festival of civic engagement that encourages community groups, organizations and individuals to share their vision for a better city. The annual event unites people across the city to make Toronto a better place by creating acts of urban change. Residents lead “interventions” that help raise awareness of urban and social issues, motivate new approaches to old problems, and inspire leaders and their fellow citizens.

- In 2015, Toronto Foundation provided funding to Evergreen for three Vital Innovation awards of \$10,000 each to support organizations in scaling up their interventions:
 - [The Bowery Project](#): Milk Crate Farms creates mobile urban farms in downtown Toronto through the temporary use of vacant lots;
 - [Homegrown National Park Project](#): Rain Gardens of Danforth East Village beautifies front yards throughout the neighbourhood while helping to build local resilience to better cope with the effects of climate change; and
 - [Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre](#): Positive Messaging combats social isolation and the need for more neighbourliness by engaging the community in writing and delivering handwritten notes to neighbours, installing positive messages in public spaces, and building community programming.



[Samara Canada](#)’s [Everyday Political Citizen](#) project celebrates positive political role models and is building a culture of positive politics in Canada.

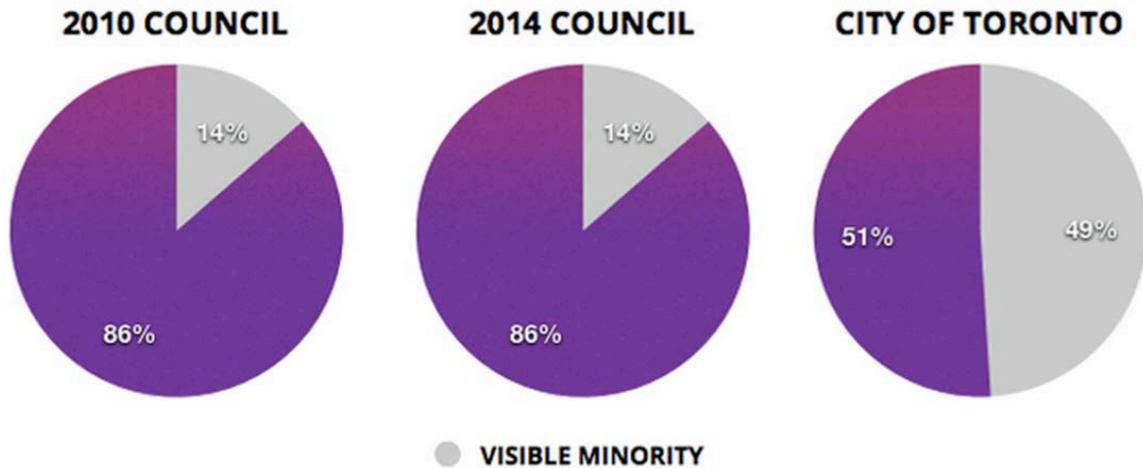
- Conducted coast to coast to coast, the project aims to recognize the diversity of politics and democracy in Canada, crowdsourcing hundreds of nominations for political citizens and celebrating some of the many thousands of ordinary people engaging in big and small ways in this country’s rich political culture.
- Each year, adult and youth winners and finalists are chosen by a diverse jury of prominent Canadians.

How representative are our political leaders of our communities?

Representation on City Council still does not reflect the population:

- Visible minorities make up 49% of Toronto’s population, but they are not adequately represented in our city’s municipal government.
- In both the 2010 and 2014 elections, visible minorities were elected to six of the 45 City Councillor and Mayoral positions, comprising only 14% of Toronto’s elected officials.⁷⁸³
- Recent research has shown that if people do not see themselves in the candidates, they are less likely to vote. One study reports that the strongest predictor of low voter turnout in Toronto’s ridings is a high concentration of immigrants and visible minorities.⁷⁸⁴

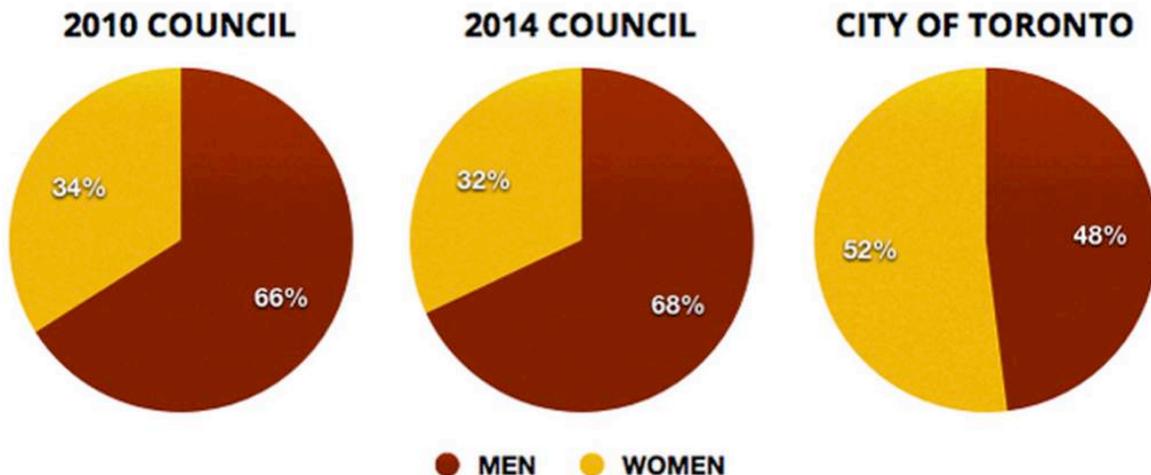
Visible Minorities as a Percentage of the Population and in City Hall:⁷⁸⁵



- 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, and 26% of MPPs, but only 7% of municipal councillors at the time.
- 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.⁷⁸⁶
- Proponents of [ranked ballots](#) (currently being examined by the Province for municipalities' use in 2018 elections) argue that they will allow for governments more representative of ethnic and gender diversity.⁷⁸⁷

While they make up 52% of Toronto's population, women comprise only one in three elected city councillors, although progress has been made in their representation on Council's executive committee.

Women as a Percentage of the Population and in City Hall:⁷⁸⁸



- In 2014, women were elected in 14 of 44 wards,⁷⁸⁹ and as of June 2015 their proportion of Council (32%) was mirrored on the executive committee, with four of its 13 members (31%) female.⁷⁹⁰

How strong is Toronto's charitable sector?

The percentage of Torontonians claiming a charitable donation on their income tax return decreased in 2013, but the median donation increased:

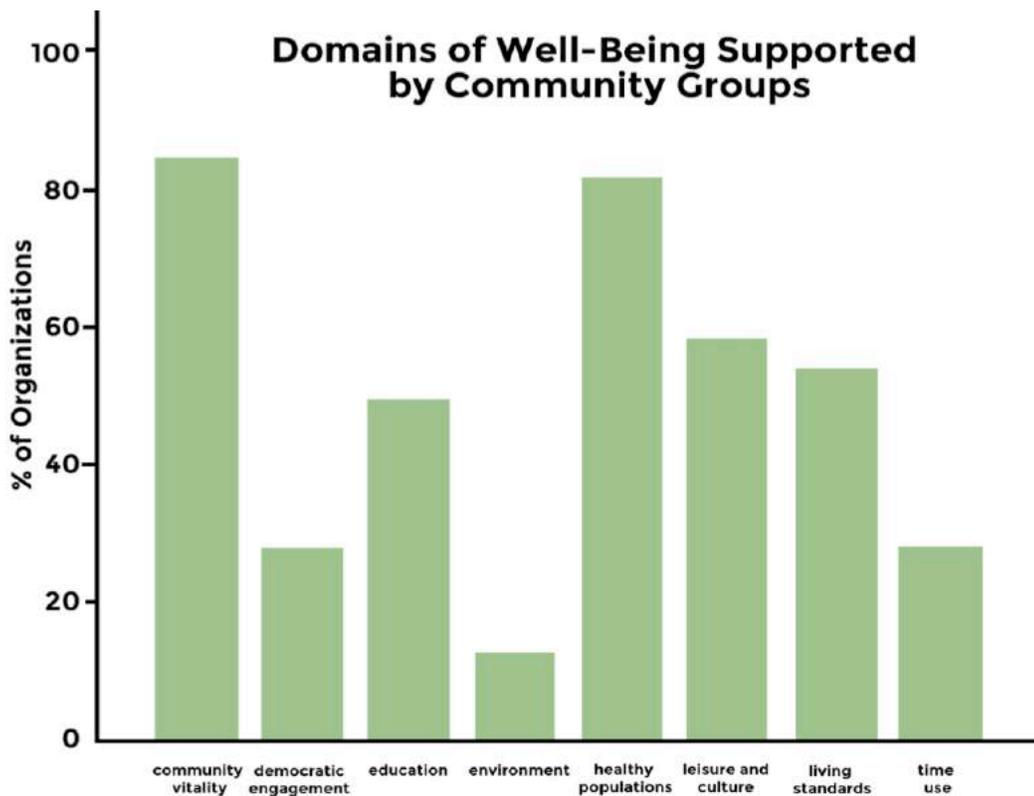
- 21.6% of Torontonian taxfilers declared a donation, a decrease of 0.8% from 2012 and placing us 24th of 33 CMAs.⁷⁹¹ The percentage of charitable givers in the Region has remained relatively stable since 2009, although between 2010 and 2013 the rate declined marginally year over year.⁷⁹²
- Winnipeg (26.6%), Guelph (26.5%), and Regina (25.1%) saw higher percentages of donors.
- While donors were fewer, the median charitable donation was up 3.7% nationally, to \$280 (from \$270 in 2012 and \$260 in 2011), and total donations increased 3.5% to \$8.6B. Some provinces—Nunavut (\$500), Alberta (\$420), and BC and PEI (\$400 each)—were well above the median.
 - Ontario had the fourth-lowest median donation of \$340 (up 2.0% over 2012). Only Nova Scotia (\$320), New Brunswick (\$310), and Quebec (\$130) were lower.
 - The Toronto Region had the ninth-highest median donation of \$370, \$90 more than the national average and \$30 more than the provincial average (and up 3.4% over 2012). Abbotsford-Mission (\$740, down 11.6% from 2012 but still impressive), Vancouver (\$420), Calgary (\$420), and Saskatoon (\$410) had the highest median donations.⁷⁹³
 - Since 1997, median charitable donations in the Region have risen 85%, from \$200.⁷⁹⁴
- Donations by Region tax filers totalled \$1,956,695,000 (and \$3,763,040,000 for all of Ontario and \$8,600,755,000 for all of Canada).⁷⁹⁵

The City's investments in the community services delivered by hundreds of non-profit organizations across Toronto support the non-profit sector in building the city and improving communities:

- A [Social Planning Toronto report](#) documents the City's investment in non-profit community services, with impacts including improved resident health and wellbeing and safer communities.
- Through its Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP), the City invests almost \$50M annually in non-profit community services and arts and cultural programs. Organizations use the City's investments to transform communities. For example:
 - Toronto has a network of at least 49 drop-in centres across the city working with people who are homeless, precariously housed, and socially isolated. As non-government agencies, they are able to apply a less bureaucratic approach.
 - Centres are able to build community by engaging those who access services in helping out in daily operations and structured activities, improving their health and wellbeing and helping the centres leverage scarce resources.

- A 2010 cost-benefit analysis for the [John Howard Society of Toronto](#) on transitional housing and supports (THS) for two groups of ex-prisoners showed that THS have a dramatic impact on public safety and save public money.
 - 42.5% of sexual offenders with release conditions under Section 810 peace bonds who did not receive THS re-offended, often violently, compared to only 2.2% who received THS.
 - THS are also far cheaper than incarceration—\$350,000 per homeless ex-prisoner and \$109,000 per Section 810.
- The City invests in other vital, and often unrecognized, ways that allow organizations to direct more of their resources to critical services.
 - For decades the City has rented its municipal-owned properties to non-profit community organizations at below-market rates.
 - It has provided free solid waste collection for many years to approximately 1,000 charities and non-profit organizations.
 - It has a 40% property tax rebate policy for registered charities. In each year's budget process, Council sets aside enough money to cover the estimated value of the rebate. In the 2014 budget, it was over \$6.5M for charities in the commercial and industrial property classes.
 - As the lead partner in Toronto's local data consortium, the City is the local administrator and capacity builder for the [Canadian Council on Social Development](#)'s Community Data Program, which supports decision-making around social development programs by providing access to socio-economic data to both municipalities and community sector organizations.⁷⁹⁶

Domains of Wellbeing Supported by Community Groups, Toronto, 2013:⁷⁹⁷





In late 2014, Copenhagen's city council approved funding for Denmark's first LGBTQ* home for the elderly:

- LGBTQ* seniors will be provided the opportunity to move into the "regnbueplejehjem" ("rainbow elderly home") as vacancies become available (as opposed to providing a separate section of the home).⁷⁹⁸

The following groups are addressing issues relating to leadership, civic engagement and belonging 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.

[ACCES Employment](#) – Assisting job seekers from diverse background to integrate into the Canadian job market

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

[ACCESS Community Capital Fund](#) - Enabling 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](#) –Fostering community through neighbourhood partnerships

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

[ArtReach Toronto](#) – Giving young artists access to resources, mentorship and skill building opportunities

[Artscape](#) – Creating shared space for non-profit and arts based orgs through urban development

[Alliance for South Asian Aids Prevention \(ASAAP\)](#) – Providing HIV/Aids sexual health and support services

[Ashoka Canada](#) – Fostering powerful emergent ideas led by social entrepreneurs

[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](#) – Increasing 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](#) - Championing 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](#) - Generating constructive conversations on Toronto's architecture and planning

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

[Charlie's FreeWheels](#) - Teaching bicycle mechanics, safety and leadership skills to youth

[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](#) - Bringing neighbourhoods together by producing community-driven plays, pageants and parades in public spaces

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

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

[Community Matters Toronto](#) - Supporting newcomers living in St. James Town

[Community MicroSkills Development Centre](#) - Assisting the unemployed, with priority to women, racial minorities, immigrants and youth

[Creative Trust](#) - Building 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](#) - Promoting environmental education and conservation

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

[Diaspora Dialogues Charitable Society](#) - Supporting 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

[Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre](#) - Serving a low-income, ethnically and socially diverse community

[East Scarborough Storefront](#) - Building community through collaborations and shared spaces

[Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth](#) - Working 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](#) - Delivering high-quality volunteer engagement events (Timeraiser)

[Frontier College](#) - Elevating literacy through a wide range of 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

[The Good Neighbours' Club](#) – Welcoming homeless men into a safe space through a drop-in centre

[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

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

[Harbourfront Centre](#) - Nurturing the growth of new cultural expression and artistic cultural exchange.

[Harmony Movement / Harmony Education Foundation](#) - Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in Canada

[High Park Nature Centre](#) – Promoting awareness and respect for nature through outdoor education

[Hospice Toronto - Facilitating access to compassionate care](#)

[imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#) – Celebrating the latest works by Indigenous peoples

[Inner City Angels](#) - Bringing imaginative interdisciplinary arts programs to children in Toronto

[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - Gathering community together in a place focused on social justice

[Jane's Walk](#) – Creating walkable neighbourhoods and cities planned for and by people

[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

[LEAF \(Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests\)](#) - Protecting and enhances our urban forest

[Learning for a Sustainable Future \(LSF\)](#) - Promoting, through education, the practices essential to sustainability

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

[LGBT Youth Line](#) - Providing anonymous peer support for youth in a queer-positive context

[Licensed to Learn Inc.](#) - Empowering children to reach their potential through peer-led tutoring

[Lost Lyrics](#) – Providing alternative education through arts to racialized youth in 'priority neighbourhoods'

[Lumacare](#) – Providing essential programs and services for the support of seniors

[Luminato Festival](#) - Reflecting the diverse character of Toronto through an annual, multi-disciplinary arts festival

[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](#) - Uniting and empowering 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](#) - Focusing on education and prevention to build safety, justice and equity

[Moorelands Community Services](#) - Providing youth affected by poverty fun experiences to strengthen their confidence

[Mosaic Institute](#) – Harnessing the diversity of Canada’s people to build a stronger, more inclusive nation

[Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto](#) – Building the collective capacity of Aboriginal women

[New Leaf Yoga](#) - Supporting the well-being of youth by making mindfulness and yoga accessible

[New Visions Toronto](#) - Providing 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](#) - Using 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](#) – Helping to integrate 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

[Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre \(PARC\)](#) - Working with members of the Parkdale community on issues of poverty and mental health

[Pathways to Education Canada](#) - Helping underserved youth graduate from high school and transition to further education

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

[Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario](#) - Championing 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

[Project Canoe](#) - Using the outdoors and wilderness canoe trips to help youth develop life skills

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

[Ralph Thornton Centre](#) - Building the potential of the Riverdale community

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

[Regent Park Focus](#) - Bringing best practices in training and mentorship of youth to broadcasting and digital arts

[Right To Play](#) - Using the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing adversity

[Roots of Empathy](#) - Reducing bullying among school children while raising emotional competence

[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](#) - 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

[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

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

[Sistema Toronto](#) - Inspiring children to realize their full potential through free, ensemble-based music lessons

[SKETCH Working Arts](#) - Creating a safe space for arts and creativity for young, marginalized people

[Skills for Change of Metro Toronto](#) - Creating 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 - Programming for newcomer and low-income residents](#)

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

[Story Planet](#) - Encouraging young people to tell their stories through workshops at a story making centre

[Sustainability Network](#) - Enriching Canadian environmental leaders and organizations by supporting them to increase capacity

[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](#) - Catalyzing 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
[Toronto Youth Development](#) - Assisting and fostering underprivileged youth in Toronto
[Trails Youth Initiatives Inc.](#) - Challenging and equipping youth from the inner city of Toronto
[UforChange](#) - Inspiring newcomer and Canadian youth through arts-based community-building
[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
[White Ribbon](#) - Working to end violence against women and girls by engaging men and boys
[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
[YMCA of Greater Toronto](#) - Offering opportunities for community involvement and leadership
[Youth Empowering Parents \(YEP\)](#) - Empowering youth to become leaders within their own community

Glossary

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA): The AODA is the Province’s legislation, enacted in 2005, with a goal of making Ontario accessible by 2025. To ensure that Ontario’s 1.8 million people with disabilities can participate fully in their communities, it set mandatory, province-wide accessibility standards in five areas of daily life: [customer service](#), [employment](#), [information and communications](#), [transportation](#), and [design of public spaces](#).

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.

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
 - Painters, sculptors, and other visual artists

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 nine earn \$30,000, the average income would be \$127,000, whereas the [median](#) income in the sample would be \$30,000.

Also see: [Median](#).

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.

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 as 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).

Also see: [Economic family](#).

Census metropolitan area (CMA): Statistics Canada defines a CMA as an area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, 50,000 or more of whom live in the core. The Toronto CMA (also known as the “Toronto Region” or “Region”) is the largest metropolitan area in Canada, stretching from Ajax and Pickering in the east, to Milton in the west and Tecumseth and Georgina in the north. Almost half the population of the Toronto Region resides in the city of Toronto.

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](#).

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. 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.

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](#).

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 Street, on the west by Spadina Avenue, on the east by Jarvis Street, and on the south by Queen's Quay.

Established immigrant: Established immigrants refer to those who have resided in Canada 10 years or more.

Also see: [Recent immigrant](#).

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; or
- 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 ([Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs](#) definition).

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 complete equality (all people have the same income), and a coefficient of 1 represents complete 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](#).

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).⁷⁹⁹ It should be noted, however, that GDP is seen by some as a deeply flawed measure, as it excludes the value of work that is not performed *for money*, nor does it consider the costs associated with the economic output, such as future economic costs or environmental costs.⁸⁰⁰

Hidden homelessness: The [Canadian Observatory on Homelessness](#) (formerly the Canadian Homelessness Research Network) defines the "hidden homeless," often referred to as "couch surfers," as those left with little choice other than to temporarily stay (whether in their current hometown or a new community) with friends, family, or even strangers. They do so because they do not immediately have the means to secure their own permanent housing; typically, they are not paying rent. The hidden homeless differ from those who choose to stay with others while waiting for pre-arranged accommodation. People accessing short-term, temporary rental accommodations (in motels, hostels, rooming houses, etc.) that do not offer the possibility of permanency are also often considered among the hidden homeless population.⁸⁰¹

Homelessness: The [Canadian Definition of Homelessness](#), by the [Canadian Observatory on Homelessness](#) (formerly the Canadian Homelessness Research Network), describes a range of housing and shelter circumstances, with people without any shelter at one end, and those insecurely housed at the other. Homelessness encompasses a range of physical living situations, organized here in a typology that includes:

- Unsheltered, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
- Emergency Sheltered, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence;
- Provisionally Accommodated, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure; and
- 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 change. 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.⁸⁰²

Human trafficking: In Canada and elsewhere, there is no overall consensus on the definition of human trafficking. Law enforcement bodies 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.”⁸⁰³

Intimate partner violence (IPV): IPV is the systematic use of tactics—such as intimidation, isolation, and threats, as well as emotional, financial, physical, and sexual abuse—to induce fear and/or dependency in order to gain power and control over another’s thoughts, beliefs, and conduct ([Registered Nurses Association of Ontario definition](#)).

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.

LGBTQ*: LGBTQ is an acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer or Questioning and is used to designate a marginalized community of people who self-identify within a spectrum/kaleidoscope of gender identity and sexual orientations.

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) ⁸⁰⁴
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. The 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): The 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. The 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 nine earn \$30,000, the median income in the sample would be \$30,000, whereas the average income would be \$127,000.

Also see: [Average](#).

Mode share: Mode share is an indicator that measures the share of various modes of transportation, most often walking, bicycling, public transit, and driving. Municipalities are increasingly encouraging the more healthy and sustainable active transportation (walking and cycling) and public transit modes as a shift away from motorized transport.

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; and
- associations.

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.

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, city roads, garbage collection, delivery of safe drinking water, and 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](#).

Police Reported Crime Rate (PRCR): The PRCR is a rate per 100,000 population measuring changes in the volume of reported 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](#).

Precarious employment (or employment precarity): Precarious employment 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:

- [Jamestown](#)
- [Jane-Finch](#)
- [Malvern](#)
- [Kingston-Galloway](#)
- [Lawrence Heights](#)
- [Steeles-L'Amoreaux](#)
- [Eglinton East-Kennedy Park](#)
- [Crescent Town](#)
- [Weston-Mt. Dennis](#)
- [Dorset Park](#)
- [Scarborough Village](#)
- [Flemingdon Park-Victoria Village](#)
- [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 being 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 occupations in art and culture include:

- librarians, archivists, conservators, and curators;
- writing, translating and related communications professionals; and
- 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 construct imposed upon people and used to discriminate against those people on the basis of generalizations and stereotypes that are perceived to be associated with particular physical and cultural characteristics.

Also see: [Visible minority](#).

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.

Also see: [Established immigrant](#).

Refugee claimant: A refugee “claimant” (the term used in Canadian law) is a person who has fled their country in fear for their life and is asking for protection in another country—unlike an immigrant, who chooses to move to another country. We don’t know whether a claimant is a “refugee” or not until their case has been decided ([Canadian Council for Refugees](#) definition). Refugee claimants have temporary resident status but have no access to federal programs or provincial programs such as Ontario Works and OHIP.

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 ([Rockefeller Foundation](#) definition).

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.

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*).

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 by many to be problematic for a number of reasons. It 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 comprise multiple ethnic and racial groups.⁸⁰⁵

Throughout this Report, the term is used when original source material uses the term.

Also see: [Racialized](#).

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) ([Metcalf Foundation](#) definition).

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Endnotes

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- ⁶⁷ NVS Table III-5: Smoking Rates (Percent) for Current Smokers (Population 12 and over) for Vital Signs Communities by CMA and Health Regions, 2003, 2005 and 2007-2014.
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- ⁷³ NVS Table III-13: Self-Reported Overweight and Obesity Rate (Percent) for Youth (12 to 17 years), 2005 and 2007-2014.
- ⁷⁴ NVS Table III-14: Diabetes Rate (Percent of Population 12 and over), 2003, 2005 and 2007-2014.
- ⁷⁵ NVS Table III-2-ii: Family Physicians per 100,000 Population for Vital Sign Communities by Health Regions, 1997, 2000-2013.
- ⁷⁶ NVS Table III-2-iii: Specialist Physicians per 100,000 Population for Vital Sign Communities by Health Regions, 1997, 2000-2013.
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