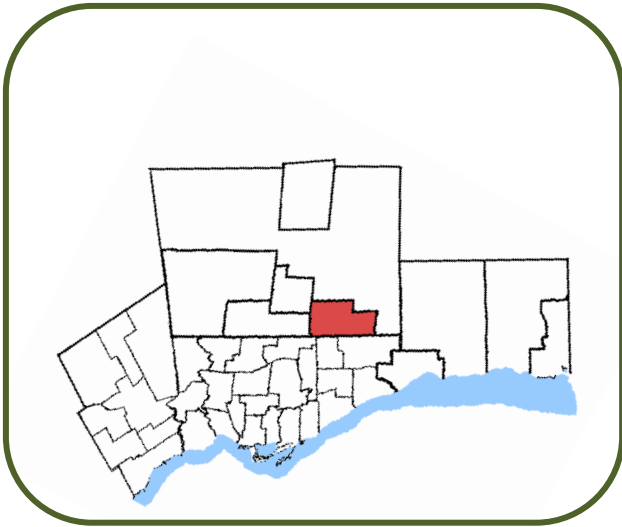


# Markham-Unionville

## Action on Poverty Profile



### Story Behind the Stats

The Markham-Unionville riding lies along the southern border of York Region and includes part of the Town of Markham. It is bordered by Highway 404, 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Line and Steeles Avenue East.

Residents in this riding face a poverty rate above that of York Region. This area is home to a large number of south Asian newcomers who face higher levels of poverty than those from non-racialized communities due to an inability to access the Canadian job market. Accompanying financial insecurity is health insecurity, as this population also faces higher risk of heart attacks, obesity, death from cardiovascular disease and diabetes than other Canadians.

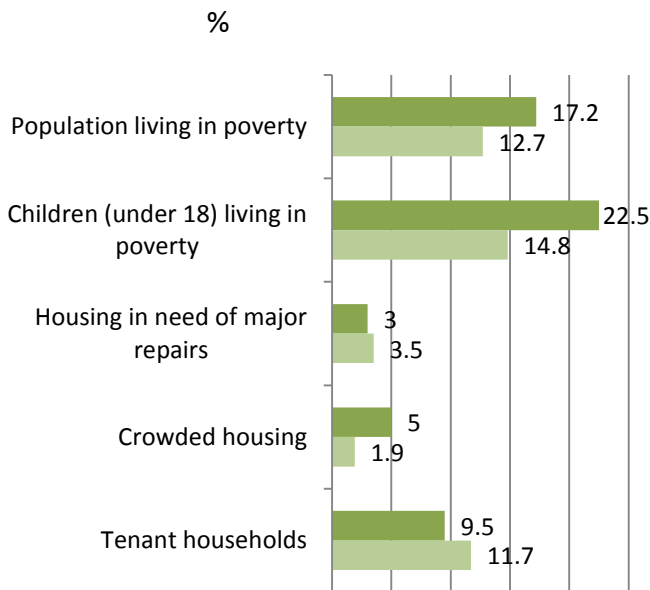
**127,190 people live in Markham-Unionville**

**21,791 live in poverty – 17.2%\***

**“Markham’s poverty rate is higher than the provincial average (14.7%) and newcomers comprise more than 1/3 of individuals living below the poverty line here. Our newcomers experience higher rates of unemployment, in spite of their skills or experience. And when they do secure work, it is largely part-time, low wage jobs – making it necessary to hold two or three jobs just to make ends meet. It’s difficult to know where to start to address such pressing needs and all-encompassing poverty.”**

**Dr. Naila Butt**  
**Executive Director**  
**Social Service Network of York Region**

### Key Figures



Markham-Unionville York Region

The Action on Poverty profiles for the ridings in York Region were created with information from Social Planning Toronto, the Social Planning Council of York Region, the York Region Do the Math Working Group and the York Region ISARC Social Audit 2010. Statistics were drawn from 2006 Census Data.

\*For details on calculations and definitions, go to [www.spcyr.ca](http://www.spcyr.ca)



# Taking Action in Markham-Unionville

Social Service Network was established in 2002 to address the unique linguistic and cultural needs of York Region's South Asian community. It has developed partnerships with diverse community groups, community centres and mainstream agencies to deliver culturally and linguistically sensitive programs.

SSN offers programs and services that strengthen communication, social and learning skills, enhance adaptation and involvement in social activities, and improve family relationships through family educational programs. Programs and services are for women, men, children and youth, and are delivered in the client's mother tongue.

SSN has developed a unique service delivery model whereby services are delivered directly to the community at their places of worship and/or community meeting places. This distinctive approach has had a significant cost-effective outcome resulting in increased community awareness of programs and services available.

As poverty has a profound impact on the health of individuals and the community, it is an important goal of SSN to reduce the health impacts of poverty by taking preventive approaches. For example, because of the population's above-average risk of heart attack and diabetes, SSN offers screening clinics for diabetes and blood pressure along with prevention programs. It also offers activities such as Zumba dance and yoga and meditation to promote physical and mental well-being.

[www.socialservicenetwork.org/Home.aspx](http://www.socialservicenetwork.org/Home.aspx)

## Social Planning Council of York Region

SPCYR is an independent, non-profit, community-based organization. We are committed to advancing social and economic justice and resident engagement in all aspects of community life in York Region. We do this through community-based research, social planning and community action, with particular emphasis on the conditions facing those from marginalized or equity-seeking communities.

Want to get involved?

Contact us at [info@spcyr.com](mailto:info@spcyr.com)

[www.spcyr.com](http://www.spcyr.com)

## How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Hon. Michael Chan*, 905-305-1935,  
[mchan.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mchan.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

Member of Parliament (MP): *Hon. John McCallum*, 905-479-8100, [john.mccallum@parl.gc.ca](mailto:john.mccallum@parl.gc.ca)

Mayor: *Frank Scarpitti*, 905-475-4872, [fscarpitti@markham.ca](mailto:fscarpitti@markham.ca)

Public School Board: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

Catholic School Board: [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca)

*For a complete listing of all elected representatives for the Riding of Markham-Unionville, a map of the riding & a description of its boundaries, see the York Region overview sheets.*