

Oak Ridges-Markham

Action on Poverty Profile



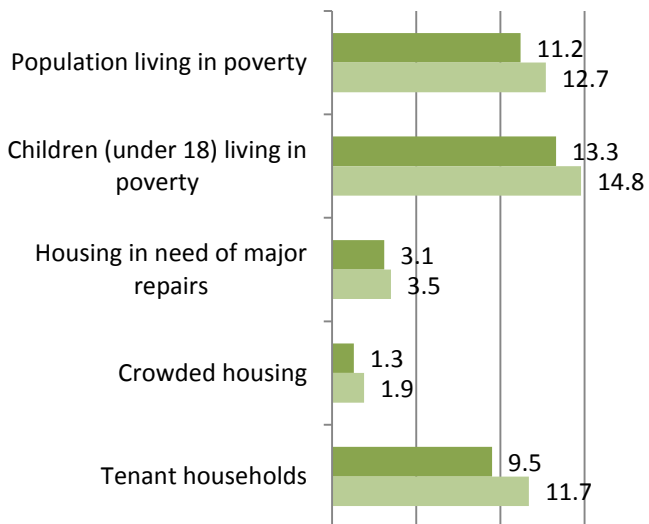
Story Behind the Stats

The Oak Ridges-Markham riding spans parts of Markham, most of King Township, and all of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Oak Ridges (north Richmond Hill).

It is a very diverse area and has seen rapid change marked by the proliferation of large building developments and the absence of affordable homes or rental accommodation. Increasing numbers of families are often mortgage-poor, leaving very little income to meet other needs, or at risk of eviction or homelessness. Due to insufficient family incomes, children and youth are often left with few to no options for recreation outside of school activities, face few options for employment and cannot find affordable housing when (and if) they eventually leave home. There is an estimated 300 homeless youth in York Region with only 27 shelter beds available.

Key Figures

%



Oak Ridges-Markham

York Region

169,645 people live in Oak Ridges-Markham
18,816 live in poverty – 11.2%*

“Operation Sparrow (Poverty Action for Change Coalition) provides free recreation programs for children living in poverty. If it wasn’t for them my kid wouldn’t be doing anything”.

Young mother, Social Audit Participant, 2010

“All it takes is one bad decision for youth to get on the wrong path in life. Pathways staff and volunteers are here for the youth when those decisions happen, to provide them with the supports they need to get back on the path of success.”

Michael Braithwaite
 Executive Director
 Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region Inc.

The Action on Poverty profile series 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.socialplanningtoronto.org



Taking Action in Oak Ridges-Markham

Pathways Children, Youth and Families of York Region Inc. was established over 20 years ago to empower children, youth and families through prevention, education and advocacy. Due to the area's diverse communities, Pathways offers services in seven languages and staff represent many diverse cultures and experiences.

Located in Oak Ridges, Pathways' Home Base Youth Drop-In Centre offers youth a safe place to get answers and support. Home Base is a one-stop-shop, helping youth to address the issues that have led to their present situation. Every month, Home Base serves more than 100 homeless or at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 24. The Centre's primary goal is to help youth build the necessary skills they need to promote independence. Last year, the Centre saw more than 4,500 youth and served 7,900 meals. Youth come with many different needs and Home Base provides a range of services to address them, including:

- Food (along with information on nutrition, shopping and cooking) and clothing
- Shelter and Housing support
- Recreation and Life Skills Training
- Budgeting, Job search training or help returning to school
- Relationship Building and Anger Management
- Supportive Counselling
- Access to other helpful resources in the community

www.pathwaysyorkregion.com

The Poverty Action for Change Coalition (PACC) is a grassroots organization that advocates on behalf of people living in poverty. It also arranges with clubs and sports organizations to provide free and/or subsidized spaces for children and youth living in poverty wherever possible. It is an important voice and support network for those living in poverty across York Region.

www.povertyacc.com

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
www.spcyr.com

How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Helena Jaczek* 905-294-4931, hjaczek.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Member of Parliament (MP): *Paul Calandra* 905-640-1125, paul.calandra@parl.gc.ca

Mayor of King Township: *Steve Pellegrini*, 905-833-5321, spellegrini@king.ca

Mayor of Markham: *Frank Scarpitti*, 905-475-4872 fscarpitti@markham.ca

Mayor of Richmond Hill: *David Barrow*, 905-771-8800 ext. 3123, officemayor@richmondhill.ca

Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville: *Wayne Emmerson*, 905-640-1910 ext. 2227, mayor.emmerson@townofws.ca

Public School Board: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/

Catholic School Board: www.ycdsb.ca/

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