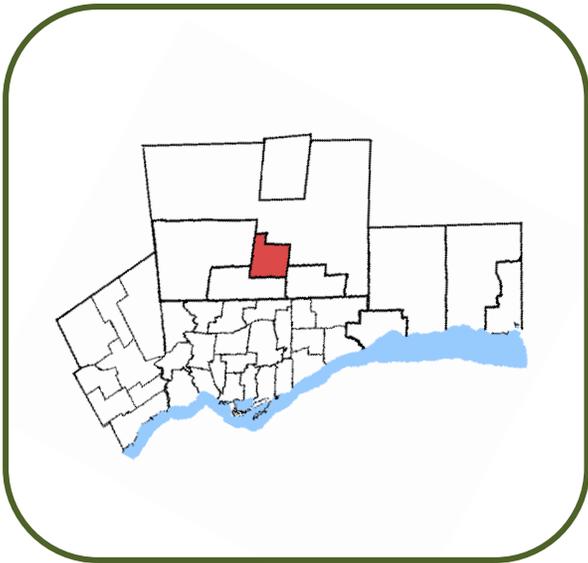


Richmond Hill

Action on Poverty Profile

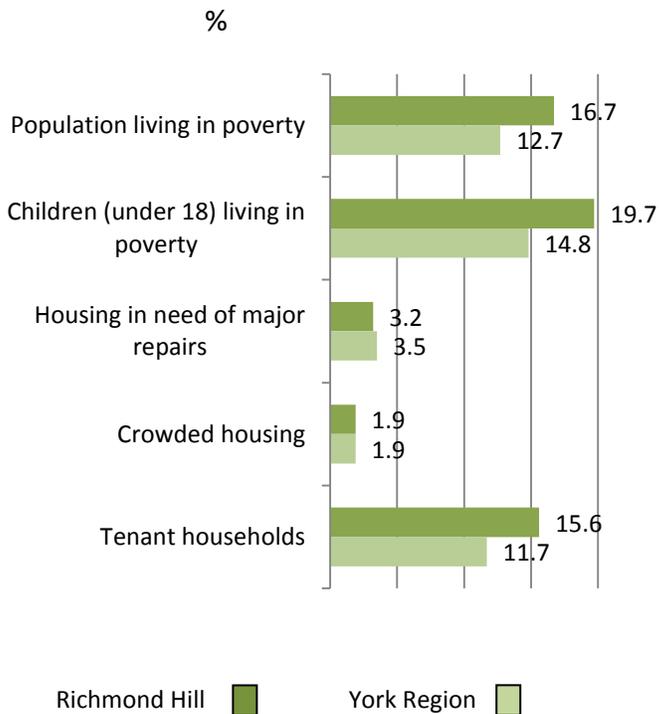


Story Behind the Stats

The Richmond Hill riding covers most of the Town of Richmond Hill with the exception of the Oak Ridges area in the north. The boundary between Richmond Hill and Oakridges is at Elgin Mills Road East.

Richmond Hill has the second highest percentage of residents living in poverty in the region. 19.7% of children under 18 live in poverty. Low wage jobs and inadequate rates of social assistance are two main reasons for inadequate income levels. The situation is getting worse as the cost of living is increasing while wages and social assistance rates are not keeping pace proportionately. Adding to these challenges is the lack of affordable housing in Richmond Hill.

Key Figures



122,615 people live in Richmond Hill

20,386 live in poverty – 16.7%*

“I have been treated like a third class citizen especially when it comes to the landlord and tenant act. And for someone like me I need connections to help deal with the stuff.”

Single male with mental health issues
Social Audit Participant in Richmond Hill, 2010

“At the Legal Clinic we support the rights of workers, tenants and individuals on social assistance. We witness on a daily basis the impossible challenges and vulnerability of surviving on a very modest income.”

Dennis Bailey
Executive Director
Community Legal Clinic of York Region

Taking Action in Richmond Hill

The Community Legal Clinic of York Region serves residents across the Region but is located in the downtown core of Richmond Hill. The Clinic provides legal support for low income residents at no charge. Residents who require assistance in the following areas can call the Clinic and inquire about its services: tenant protection; social assistance, Employment Insurance and wages/hours of work.

At 15.6%, Richmond Hill has the second highest percentage of tenants in York Region, so the tenant protection work of the Clinic supports a significant number of residents. Individuals who rely on social assistance to get by receive incomes that are inadequate for life in Ontario. They are also at the mercy of a system that continues to make cuts to essential benefits such as the Special Diet Allowance and the Community Start up and Maintenance Benefit. As a result, the Clinic staff keep busy supporting clients trying to navigate and challenge this system to ensure that their rights are not denied

Given the ongoing erosion of workers' rights, the stagnation of salaries for low and middle income earners and the competition for a dwindling number of good jobs, the Clinic focuses on assisting workers with their understanding of employment rights, which is a first step to ensuring that they will be treated respectfully and fairly in the workplace.

www.clcyr.on.ca

The Toronto and York Region Labour Council has a mandate to organize and advocate on issues that are vital to working people throughout the region. It speaks out on issues of social justice and equity time and again. It offers many seminars and conferences throughout the year to focus on specific issues facing workers in Toronto and York Region.

www.tylabourcouncil.weebly.com

Social Planning Council of York Region

We are working with other Social Planning Councils across Ontario to promote a comprehensive understanding of the root causes and prevalence of poverty and how we can work together to eliminate poverty in all of our 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): *Reza Moridi*, 905-884-8080, rmoridi.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Member of Parliament (MP): *Costas Menegakis*, 905-770-4440, costas.menegakis@parl.gc.ca

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